

Introduction: thankful for this opportunity to ensure that in the Spectrum Roadmap for Europe, the interest of the creative and cultural sector are fully taken into account

- Spectrum allocation is a key pillar to ensure that Free-to-air universally available radio and TV, live performance and PMSE can thrive in the Digital Decade and make available to the general public local, diverse and plural European works and trusted information.
- The current pandemic period demonstrated the key role television and radio play in informing and entertaining citizens and fighting disinformation as evidenced by an increase in viewing and listening time, across all age groups. Usage of PMSE remained essential for content creation and events especially through digital platforms, answering a need for social bonding.
- The Wider Spectrum Group defends such holistic approach which encompasses European economy, jobs and culture.

The Wider Spectrum group: We are partners for a wide choice of quality & diverse programming [slide]

The WSG has been active for 6 years; brings together three key stakeholder groups:

- Employers' associations and companies in audiovisual, radio, live performance, programme making and special events;
- Viewers, listeners and consumer organisations;
- European trade union organisations representing journalists, creators, technicians and other works in the media, entertainment and arts. This is where I come from, as President of the European region of UNI-MEI.

We advocate for a spectrum policy which supports the sustainable growth of these industries for an inclusive & diverse digital economy

- We believe Europe and its citizens deserve and need an inclusive and diverse digital economy, which is characterised by sustainable growth and quality jobs;
- The Audio-visual Media is at the forefront of innovation with new technologies, convergence of services and accessibility of contents over different platforms.
- In view of the challenges, Europe must support its valuable Audio-visual and radio ecosystem, and be careful not to weaken it by creating uncertainty on spectrum access
- Adequate access to spectrum is also vital for upholding democracy and other European values.

We believe the spectrum roadmap for the key frequency band of our sector should respect the long term agreement reached by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission

- The Wider Spectrum Group participated actively in the discussions leading to the UHF Decision in 2017. I spoke in front of you 5 years ago.
- This decision secures, *at least* until 2030, the band 470-694 MHz for Broadcasting and PMSE.

- Europe should take decisions consistent with that roadmap in preparation to WRC-23, otherwise creators, employees, hundreds of millions of consumers and European values may ultimately be impacted.

Spectrum allocation is not about convergence. It's about culture, people and jobs

- What Pascal Lamy had called the European Audio Visual Model is not a conservative vision
- It is on the contrary at the heart of the Digital transformation that will make a better Europe, at the same level as other respectable sectors which are at this roundtable.
- Content drives innovation & growth of digital economy
- The members of the Wider Spectrum Group are dedicated to bringing the best of linear and non linear delivery, while fostering European content production, creation and exposition, and reinforcing European values such as public service, democracy, trusted journalism.
- Our industries drive investment in jobs. They combine flagship European based companies and SMEs employers in the EU. The film and audiovisual sectors employ more than 1 million people and another 1 million through indirect jobs¹. The live performance sector employs more than 1 Million people. This is part of a wider economy of the Content and Cultural Industry which in total represents about 7% of EU GDP. and 14 million direct and indirect jobs.
- Employment is local and deeply rooted local economies and culture.

Conclusion. A forward looking political choice.

- We call for a spectrum roadmap that will provide all actors, including broadcasters and PMSE, the necessary spectrum infrastructure in order to grow sustainable business models and provide quality content and services. And for us, that extends way beyond 2030.

¹ Sources : AVdata4Europe researched by EY; and EY report 'Rebuilding Europe on the cultural and creative economy '2021