



Wider Spectrum Group

Frequencies for a creative Europe



«Frequencies for the creative sector gain future regulatory certainty after World Radio Conference» welcomes the Wider Spectrum Group

The Wider Spectrum Group¹ welcomes the long term regulatory security for broadcasting spectrum which was achieved at the World Radio Conference (WRC-15) in Geneva.

The UHF frequency bands are used for terrestrial broadcasting and symbiotically for content creation and live performances, but are also subject to competing demands from other industries. These demands have to be reconciled at the international level in World Radio Conferences organized by the ITU.

During the WRC-15 discussions which ended on 27 November, an overwhelming majority of 125 nations expressed their support to maintain the present UHF allocation to broadcasting and audio PMSE², recognizing their vital role in creating and distributing public service and commercial contents to citizens' worldwide, thereby fostering inclusion and pluralism.

This is all the more true in Europe as the creative industries are the third economic sector, strongly contributing to European GDP growth and employment. Almost unanimously, -the EU Member States were supportive of a decision to maintain the lower UHF frequency band for broadcasting and audio PMSE.

Following 4 years of preparation and 4 weeks of negotiations, the decisions taken at WRC-15 now provide long term regulatory certainty for the creative sector at the international level.

This is a major milestone in a long term industrial strategy for the creative sector building on the strengths of the European Audiovisual Model and recognizing frequencies as a critical asset.

The Wider Spectrum Group calls on European policy makers to build on this opportunity and position the creative and cultural industries at the heart of Europe's Digital Single Market objectives, because the sector is Europe's decisive asset in the worldwide digital competition.

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¹ The Wider Spectrum Group brings together several organisations representing civil society as well as employee and employer representatives. Together these organisations represent the interests of listeners and viewers, workers and businesses in the field of audiovisual, radio, live performances, programme-making and special events. WSG members share a common view on the need to ensure European and national policies regarding frequency allocation preserves the potential for European growth, innovation and sustainable employment.

² PMSE (program making and special events): wireless microphones and in-ear monitor systems