

Leipzig, 9th of October 2017

Support from Brussels for Digital Radio: The European Parliament calls for a European Interoperability Standard for Digital Radio

By ending its consultations at the level of the committee regarding an European code for electronic communications networks and services, the European Parliament called for a European standard for the promotion of digital radio in the EU- this was shared by the ARD and the ZVEI - German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association in a joint press release. In this way the parliament acknowledges that without this support digital radio would fall behind its potential for the development of the European Single Market and its potential to be an important complementary daily medium for EU citizens. This required regulation provides that, after a certain time new high-quality radio sets in addition to FM reception must also allow t the reception of digital radio programs.

The chairman of the ARD and MDR director Karola Wille said: "Even though the legislative process has not yet been finalized, this resolution of the European Parliament is an important political signal to the EU Member States to search for a uniform solution in their national markets and at European level and not to allow a patchwork-like development with a view to European radio."

The digitization of the media is in full swing. DAB+ is rising all over Europe. Some countries have already set dates for the FM shutdown, others will follow. Nevertheless: although more than 50 million DAB+ radios have been already sold worldwide, 79 percent of radios sold in Germany and almost four out of five cars still have only FM reception. Especially in the case of durable goods, costumers have the risk of not being able to receive at all or can only receive very few FM radio stations. At the same time they can't use digital services.

"The Consumer-Electronics-Industry supports the digitization of radio" emphasizes Dr. Klaus Mittelbach, Chairman of the ZVEI management board. "A European coordinated strategy for digitization is indispensable. Industry and consumers benefit equally from a European-wide standard. The regulation must remain proportionate."

The ARD Chairman Ms. Wille added: "We can no longer act as radio small states. With a view to an increasingly mobile world DAB+ enables a border crossing traffic information, new radio programs and new services. Added to this is the fact that DAB+ is a European development which is now also increasing outside the EU, such as in Asia and Australia. This is also good and should be supported as much as possible. "

For the German and European car industries a regulation, as now required by the European Parliament, would have the advantage of improved equipment and more services. In the field of traffic information could DAB+, according to the supporters, contribute to greater traffic safety and improved traffic flow.

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