

WorldDAB EBU and EDRA call for EU receiver legislation

26 January 2018, London, United Kingdom:

WorldDAB has joined with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the European Digital Radio Alliance (EDRA) to call upon EU decision makers to introduce measures to encourage the interoperability of radio receivers across the EU. Such an initiative would require new radio receivers (consumer and automotive) to be capable of receiving both analogue and digital transmissions.

Whilst a growing number of European markets are adopting digital terrestrial radio, progress is fragmented, and the speed of adoption is hindered by the fact that a majority of radios sold across the EU are still analogue-only.

The introduction of interoperability requirements would accelerate the adoption of digital radio across the EU - bringing benefits to listeners, broadcasters and society. It would help deliver economies of scale and ensure cross-border portability of devices. The European Institutions are about to enter the triologue discussions for the broadcast aspects of the European Electronic Communications Code. These discussions provide the opportunity to introduce these measures.

Patrick Hannon, President, WorldDAB, said:

“In a world increasingly dominated by technology giants, radio needs a digital pathway which allows the medium to remain free-to air, compelling to listeners and reliable in times of emergencies. A requirement for radio devices to be capable of receiving both analogue and digital transmissions is critical to achieving this goal.”

Support for radio receiver regulation in Europe is growing:

- In October 2017, the European Parliament published an amendment in favour of radio receiver regulation¹
- In December, Italy passed a law requiring all new radio receivers on the market from 1 Jan 2020 to have digital capability²
- In January, the French regulator (CSA) confirmed DAB+ coverage is expected to exceed 20% of the population - triggering a legal requirement for new receivers to have digital capability³

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2017-0318+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN> (Annex X, para 2a.)

² <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2017/12/29/17G00222/sg> (item 1044)

³ <http://www.csa.fr/Espace-juridique/Decisions-du-CSA/Radio-feuille-de-route-2018-2020-pour-le-deploiement-du-DAB> (section 3)

- In Germany, the Bundesrat (for the Länder) has called on the EU to extend the scope of Article 105 and Annex X of the directive to include the interoperability of radio receivers⁴

National DAB / DAB+ services are available in the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark and Slovenia. Services are also available in France (with a rapid roll-out planned for the next three years) and Poland; and trials are currently taking place in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Latvia. As a result, over 50% of EU citizens are now covered by digital terrestrial radio broadcasts – with the number growing steadily year by year. Progress in some neighbouring countries outside the EU is even stronger – with Norway switching off FM signals this year (2017) and Switzerland set to follow in 2020-24.

-ENDS-

About WorldDAB

WorldDAB is the global industry forum responsible for defining and promoting DAB digital radio. By bringing together radio industry professionals, WorldDAB provides knowledge and expertise that helps countries successfully adopt and implement broadcast digital radio.

Our 1200+ experts from over 100 member organisations cover 27 countries across the globe and include public and commercial broadcasters, regulators, network providers and manufacturers of receivers, chips, professional equipment and automobiles.

About European Broadcast Union (EBU)

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the world's leading alliance of public service media (PSM). We have 73 Members in 56 countries in Europe, and an additional 33 Associates in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Our Members operate almost 2,000 television, radio and online channels and services, and offer a wealth of content across other platforms. Together they reach an audience of more than one billion people around the world, broadcasting in more than 120 languages. The EBU operates Eurovision and Euroradio services.

About European Digital Radio Alliance (EDRA)

EDRA is an alliance of European broadcasters, representing many hundreds of stations, who are committed to make digital radio the norm and the preferred choice for listeners. It includes both public service broadcasters and private broadcasters, both commercial and in the community sector.

⁴ [https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2017/0701-0800/727-17\(B\).pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1](https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2017/0701-0800/727-17(B).pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1)
(paragraphs 13-16)

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