

## Digital radio in cars – three months for EU Member States to implement EECC

**21 September 2020, London, UK:** The European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), which entered into force on 20 December 2018, must be transposed into national legislation by EU Member States by 21 December 2020.

Article 113, Annex XI in the EECC states that “Any car radio receiver integrated in a new vehicle of category M<sup>1</sup> which is made available on the market for sale or rent in the Union from 21 December 2020 shall comprise a receiver capable of receiving and reproducing at least radio services provided via digital terrestrial radio broadcasting.”

The regulation, which applies to all EU member states – regardless of the status of DAB in each country – also gives countries the opportunity to introduce new legislation regarding consumer receivers.

Several EU countries, including Germany, the UK and Italy have already introduced regulations to implement the EECC directive into national legislation.

- In Germany, all radio receivers in new cars will be required to include digital radio capabilities from 21 December 2020.
- In the UK, all radios fitted in new passenger cars will come with digital radio as standard from 2021 following new regulations passed through Parliament.
- In Italy, all new (consumer and automotive) radio receivers sold from January 2020 onwards are required to include DAB+.

In France, a proposal requiring all new car radios to include digital radio capabilities – in line with the EECC deadline – is being reviewed by parliament this month. Last week, Spain published a draft of its Telecoms Regulation, which also complies with the EECC. Other countries including The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Greece, Czech Republic, Poland and Malta have all initiated procedures to implement the EECC into national legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> Motor vehicles with at least four wheels designed and constructed for the carriage of passengers

**Patrick Hannon, President of WorldDAB**, said: “The EU decision to mandate that all new car radios should be able to receive digital terrestrial broadcasts has transformed the prospects for DAB+ radio in Europe. A growing number of countries are transposing the directive into national law. We urge countries that have yet to implement the EECC to act imminently and help ensure that motorists in all EU Member States benefit from the advantages of digital radio – greater choice, clearer audio and enhanced data services”.

More information and regular updates on the EECC directive and its implementation across Europe is available on the [WorldDAB EECC factsheet](#).

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#### **About WorldDAB**

WorldDAB is the global industry association 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 1250+ experts from over 100 member organisations cover 30 countries across the globe and include public and commercial broadcasters, regulators, network providers and manufacturers of receivers, chips, professional equipment and automobiles.

The WorldDAB Automotive Working Group works with automotive manufacturers and broadcasters to encourage the growth of digital radio penetration in automobiles. Working groups focus on the user experience, antenna/receiver performance, TPEG and after-market products.

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