OIV

Digital signals and networks

Zagreb, August 12, 2022

OIV's feedback on the RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP DRAFT Opinion on the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference 2023

OIV welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the RSPG's draft opinion on the ITU-R WRC-23 (RSPG22-014 FINAL, Brussels, 07 June 2022) regarding the Agenda Item 1.5 (UHF Review).

OIV (https://oiv.hr/en/home/) is a Croatian broadcast network operator for digital terrestrial television (DTT) operating four national, one regional and one local SFN multiplex, in Sub-700 MHz band (470-694 MHz) using the latest technologies (DVB-T2 with HEVC or MPEG-4) for maximum spectrum efficiency. Two and a half national multiplexes are used for PayTV on subscription basis offering more than 60 channels. The rest of multiplexes is used for free-to-air broadcast with more than 30 channels. The main national free-to-air multiplex broadcasts eight main national channels (four commercial and four PSB channels), covering more than 99 % of population, while the rest of national multiplexes cover more than 94 % of population. Digital terrestrial television is the strongest and the most important platform for audio-visual content distribution in Croatia. It is the only way of TV reception for 45 % of Croatian households for primary TV sets (HAKOM - Market share by reception type Q1/2022) and it is used by more than 70 % of households including reception on secondary TV sets. Attractive, affordable, and easily accessible free-to-air terrestrial television platform providing universal, strong, and trustworthy public service and commercial media is the key to the audio-visual sovereignty and systemic resilience. It will remain important in the future as it is important now, at a time of growing global and regional uncertainties and natural disasters, especially those caused by climate changes.

To continue with our mission, providing digital terrestrial television services to our citizens, and to be able to grow and innovate (UHD, hybrid solutions and new mobility solutions such as 5G Broadcast - an European standard that would provide broadcast access to smartphones and cars), with sufficient investment certainties, **we need a long-term access to the entire Sub-700 MHz band (470-694 MHz)**. It is the only spectrum for terrestrial television broadcast available.

Considering the above, OIV proposes to preserve the current use of the 470-694 MHz band by adopting a "NO CHANGE" as a common EU position at WRC-23 regarding UHF band and the Agenda Item 1.5.

OIV, as a member of Broadcast Networks Europe (BNE), fully support BNE's response on this topic and BNE's view regarding WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5.