

The background of the slide features a large, stylized graphic of concentric circles in shades of blue and cyan, with a vertical line intersecting them on the right side. The EBU logo is positioned in the top left corner.

EBU

OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

THE FUTURE USE OF THE UHF BAND - PUBLIC SERVICE MEDIA'S VIEWS

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RSPG WORKSHOP, 11TH APRIL 2025

THE EBU COMMUNITY

The European Broadcasting Union is the world's leading alliance of Public Service Media



112
MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

IN **56**
COUNTRIES



473
TV CHANNELS



698
RADIO CHANNELS



597
LOCAL WINDOWS



PROVIDING
CONTENT IN

153
LANGUAGES

TO A POTENTIAL
AUDIENCE OF

1.07
BILLION PEOPLE



1314
ONLINE SIMULCAST
CHANNELS AND
STATIONS



284
EXCLUSIVE ONLINE
LINEAR SERVICES

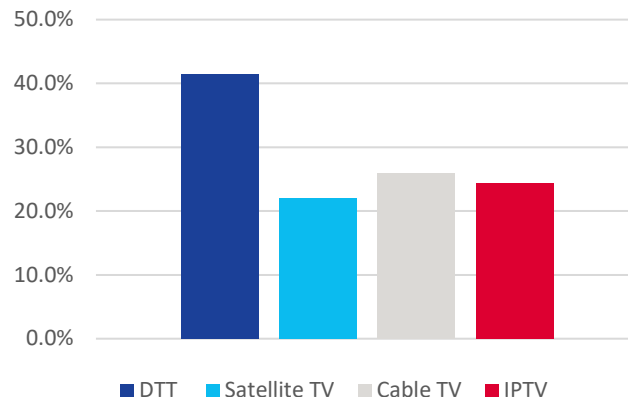
THE UHF BAND IS CRUCIAL FOR PSM TO FULFIL THEIR PUBLIC MISSION

PSM's public remits come directly from national and regional governments:

- › Democracy, cultural diversity, social inclusion, education and entertainment for all citizens.
- › It requires:
 - ✓ Universality
 - ✓ Free to view / listen
 - ✓ Resilience

The Sub-700 MHz band is the only harmonised UHF spectrum for DTT and PMSE audio services. No alternative spectrum has been identified.

TV penetration in % of TVHH whether as the sole means of reception or alongside other platforms (27 EU countries)



Source: BNE-EBU DPM data base 2024 and EBU 2024

DTT is crucial for content distribution because of the high penetration and use.

A HEALTHY PSM SYSTEM IS KEY TO GUARANTEEING EUROPEAN RESILIENCE IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD



- › In Europe, PSMs are the most trusted media; see [Eurobarometer survey](#)) and EBU Report '[PSM 360° value](#)':



- › European Media Freedom Act just adopted establishing conditions to safeguard the funding and independence of PSM

A HEALTHY PSM SYSTEM IS KEY TO GUARANTEEING EUROPEAN RESILIENCE IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD



- › Broadcasting networks are highly resilient by design
- › IP networks are not resilient enough and are vulnerable to a number of natural and man-made disasters
- › increasing resilience of infrastructure requires a multi-network approach

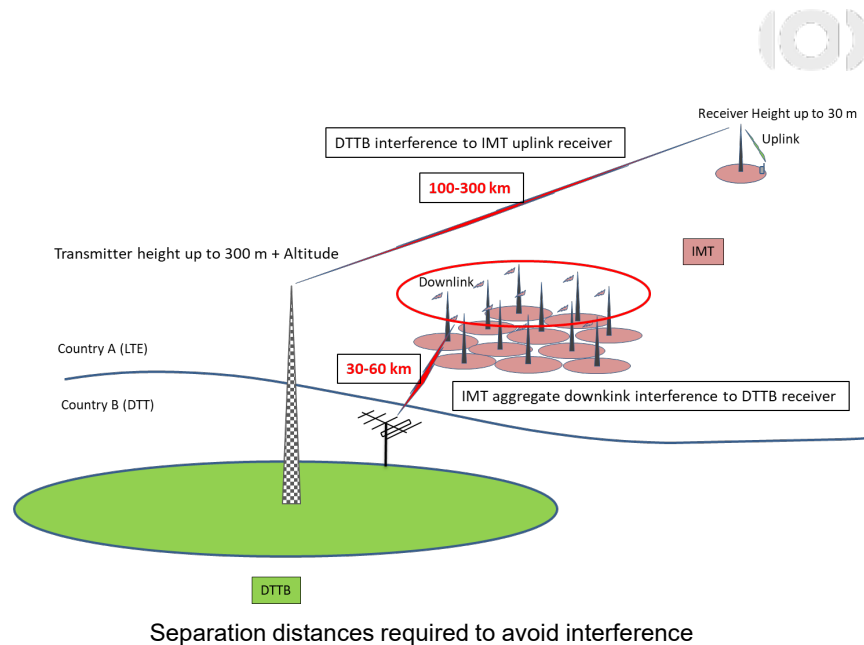
([EBU WHITE PAPER 2024-10-16](#), Mission to M.A.R.S. – Strategy for the Communication Infrastructure for Essential Services)

Broadcasting networks like DTT & 5G Broadcast are key:

- › To retain national sovereignty over trusted content
- › To reach citizens in case of emergency and crisis

SHARING IN THE UHF BAND IS SUBJECT TO STRONG CONSTRAINTS

- › DTT currently shares the spectrum with PMSE services, radioastronomy and wind profile radars
- › WRC-23 secondary allocation to Mobile Services (MS):
 - ✓ DTT vs IMT - mixed used is not practical as it requires large separation distances (e.g. 700 & 800 MHz cases)
- › Sharing with DTT is possible under the condition that MS
 - ✓ accept or manage interference from DTT and
 - ✓ operate in the frequency channels that are locally available



- › Under the secondary allocation to MS:
 - ✓ broadcasting services, both DTT and PMSE, need to be protected and maintained and
 - ✓ their future development not to be constrained

PSM NEED ACCESS TO THE UHF BAND, 470-694 MHZ, AFTER 2030

- › DTT in the UHF band does not depend on Big Tech and is designed for resilience. DTT is already there, affordable and easy to use and innovating:
 - › Introducing DVB-T2 (Italy, France and Spain) and UHDTV (Spain, France)
 - › DVB-I and HbbTV combining broadcast and broadband
 - › 5G Broadcast complementing DTT to address reception by mobile UEs. Launch with a market target of 127 million citizens by 2027 (source: <https://www.advanced-television.com/2025/03/18/5bstf-expects-5g-broadcast-commercial-services-in-2027/>)
- › The UHF band is used for audio PMSE in all European countries and the use is increasing. This also makes possible international productions

OLYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS'24 -



An accelerator of audiovisual innovation:

- › UHDTV and Dolby Atmos in DVB-T2
- › Live 5G Broadcast emissions



And a challenge in terms of frequency coordination:

- › Around 15 000 frequency licenses in total were given, 14 000 for audio and 1 000 for video
- › The French regulator ANFR requested to all to do as much as possible with wires...

Source: Paris 2024 - Spectrum Management Plan Version 2 - March 2023

PSM BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND REGULATORY CERTAINTY IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

- › Today, DTT enables PSM to fulfil their public service remit: universality, free-to-air, prominence, access/no gatekeepers, integrity of content. No other platform provides the same possibilities.
- › Europe needs to reduce dependency on Big Tech and increase resilience:
 - ✓ DTT and 5G Broadcast are important means to retain national sovereignty over media content distribution and play a significant role in emergency situations for their coverage and resilience.
 - ✓ A single platform cannot guarantee full resilience and a multi network approach is required. Therefore, DTT in the UHF band is necessary.
- › The secondary allocation to Mobile Services agreed at WRC-23 might be used taking into account the different use of the UHF band by DTT in European countries.
 - ✓ Under the condition that DTT platforms, including the ongoing innovation, and the provision of adequate spectrum to PMSE are maintained.
- › Broadcasters need to retain access to the UHF band beyond 2030.
 - ✓ The EU Decision 2017/899 on the use of the 470-790 MHz band guarantees this.

MANY THANKS
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