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Μελέτες Τηλεπικοινωνιών

Public consultation on the draft RSPG Opinion on "Aspects of a European Approach to Collective Use of Spectrum"

Definition of some terms, concerning UHF spectrum, relative to CUS

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Commission's document Com 2007/700 final 13.11.2007: "In addition, several Member States have identified the so-called "interleaved spectrum" (or "white space" between two TV coverage areas) as a potentially important complement to the digital dividend."

The interleaved spectrum exists, 50 years ago, from the beginning of the Analogue Television era. It is not something new to be "identified" in 21st century. It is the result, the consequence, the "sub-product", of any National Coverage Implementation (analogue or digital). It is not a result of the DSO, neither "important complement to the spectrum dividend": it is the opposite. As far as the number of interleaved channels is high the spectrum dividend is low: using, for example, all the available uhf channels, 49, in order to obtain the national coverage for the maximum number of TV bouquets we "transform" all 49 channels into interleaved channels, without any digital dividend. The interleaved spectrum results from the strict obligation of any National Broadcaster (analogue era of public television or national coverage bouquets nowadays) to supply all citizens of the country with the same content, the same TV programmes.

The proposition to use the interleaved spectrum as free access for broadband access to internet was formulated - using the term “white space between TV coverage areas” - in USA by the **“White Space Coalition”** and the strategic target was announced as follows:

«Since 2001, the U.S. has fallen from 3rd to 16th in worldwide broadband adoption, an alarming trend that seriously threatens American competitiveness in the digital age. Wireless broadband is the most promising way to extend affordable, ubiquitous, high-speed Internet connections to all Americans, particularly in under-served rural and low-income areas. **TV white spaces** hold the promise to help bridge the digital divide in the U.S. by increasing connectivity in all communities, and giving access to a number of broadband networks at a cost they can afford.”

The above Com 2007/700 considers as synonymous/equivalent the technical and scientific term “Interleaved Spectrum”, “Interleaved channels” (expressed in Mhz) with the vague and ambiguous expression “TV white space”. **As a result** any region or large Conurbation around Europe, even broadband networked, every city, every Community with the local exchanger connected to the national optical backbone, **is officially declared as “white space” and this depreciating characterization** results from the only fact that in these conurbations all the available interleaved spectrum is not yet used (by preference for -additional- internet access via dedicated CUS devices/units)

COM 2007/700, by adopting the equivalence between the clear scientific term “interleaved spectrum” (in Mhz) and the Coalition’s term “white space between two TV coverage areas», seems to announce EU as “white land», or equivalently, **“the land of promise” for CUS applications in UHF.**

The use and exploitation of interleaved spectrum (**extremely important in local level and virtually capable to change the notion of regional development for the next years**) must be an important strategic decision at European level, based in some fundamental technical and scientific data at engineering level. It is evident that these data are, now, missing as the Commission is not informed in depth concerning all parameters. It is not yet a matter of administrative decisions but, mainly, a matter of innovative engineering in networking architectures

Metil's suggestion is that: the allocation of this important spectrum to the European Innovation. In this way a new challenge at European level can be announced (by a new FP7 Call) with target the exploitation of the interleaved spectrum via the design, development and implementation of **new wireless infrastructures** serving cities and conurbations (for example wireless IP backbones in uhf)

These completely new infrastructures offering access to new players in the market chain (content creators, innovative businessmen from the networked media sector, active users) will be exploited for services and applications more pertinent than “internet access», already available in such, “white”, European cities and conurbations

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