



Brussels, 30 July 2008
DG INFSO/B2

COCOM08-27 REV1

LIMITED

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Working Document

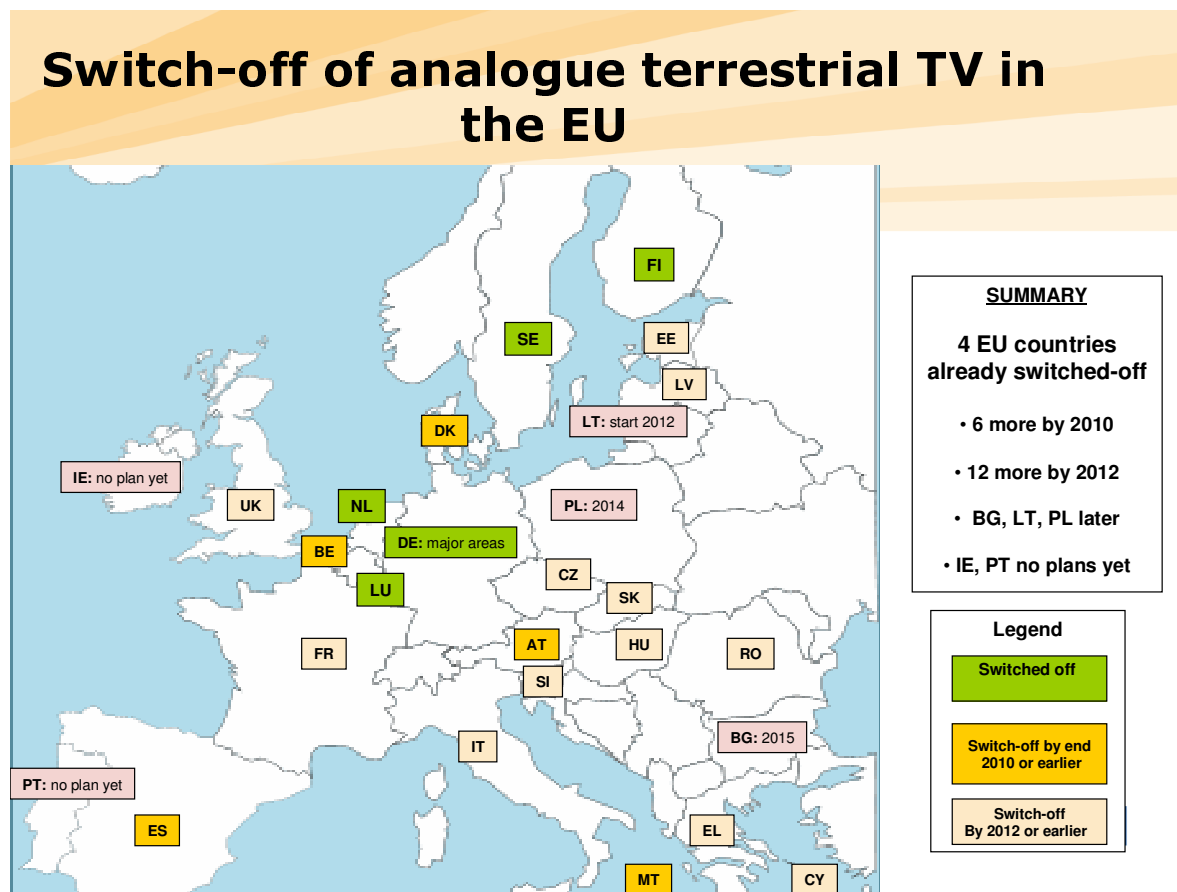
Subject: Information from Member States on switchover to digital TV

This is a Committee working document which does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Commission. No inferences should be drawn from this document as to the precise form or content of future measures to be submitted by the Commission. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to any information or data referred to in this document.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Commission seeks to ensure that European citizens enjoy the benefits of digital television, including a growing range of interactive digital TV services, available on an increasing number of transmission platforms. The Commission indicated 2012 as the deadline for the switch-off of analogue terrestrial TV broadcasting in Europe. This was also endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament. Overall, switchover is well on track. According to information provided by the Member States, already by 2010 the switchover process should be well advanced in the EU as a whole. Switch-off of analogue terrestrial TV is progressing well in Scandinavia and the geographic centre of Europe, whereas in some Member States at the geographical periphery of Europe planning is not sufficiently advanced. According to their current planning, Lithuania and Poland will miss the 2012 deadline. The Commission calls on all Member States to improve and update the information about their switchover planning. This will support better co-ordination and facilitate exchange of experience and know-how between Member States, both with all involved stakeholders and with the general public. The overall aim is to accelerate and improve the switchover process across the European Union.



2. THE EP WEBER REPORT

The Report on the interoperability of digital interactive television services adopted on 12 October 2007 by the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education¹ states that

¹ See <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2007-0390+0+DOC+WORD+V0//EN&language=EN>

the new audiovisual technologies should allow the broadcasting of pluralist information and quality programmes to an ever increasing number of citizens. Parliament maintains that the success of the transition from analogue to digital in as short a time as possible is a prerequisite for this process and therefore a priority. It expresses concern about possible delays in meeting the 2012 deadline. The EP calls on the Member States to speed up the transfer to digital television, taking account of market demand and topographical and regional demographic factors, and calls on those Member States which have not yet drawn up a **national plan for the full switchover to digital television** to do so **by the end of 2008**. The Parliament takes the view that a coordinated development of digital television at Community level is essential if users are to benefit from the advantages of the Internal market and in order to reduce the price of television receiving equipment and to achieve greater penetration by digital interactive television services. Accordingly, it urges the Commission to support Member States in drawing up a common plan of action at Community level. The Commission is asked to submit a report on the results of the exchanges of good practices, forums and working groups of stakeholders, including consumers', users' and viewers' associations.

The Commission will continue to work with the Member States on the switchover from analogue to digital TV and on interoperability of interactive TV. The Commission will also continue to report to the European Parliament and to the public at large about the digital TV market, interactive TV services and stakeholders' co-operation.

3. INFORMATION ON SWITCHOVER TO DIGITAL TV IN EU MEMBER STATES

Information on roll out dates of DTTV and switch-off dates for analogue terrestrial TV was first published in a Commission services working document as an Annex to the 2005 Communication on accelerating the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting². This information was last updated in a 2007 document on digital TV³. Paragraph 2.1 of the Annex to the current document provides a synthesis of information from Member States regarding roll out of digital terrestrial TV⁴. Information on switch off of analogue terrestrial TV is displayed in paragraph 2.2.

AT, BG, CZ, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, MT, PL and **SE** have updated their information in June/July 2008.

The remaining Member States are kindly requested to provide any update to the information displayed and referred to in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the Annex to the Commission by **29 August 2008**.

Subsequently, an updated version of these paragraphs of the Annex will be published on the Commission's website at

² Commission services working document Annex to the 2005 Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on accelerating the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting {COM(2005)204 }

³ COCOM07-06REV1 Digital TV update

⁴ This document covers only regular permanent broadcasts. It does not cover information about transitory and pilot test broadcasts.

The Commission has required the Member States to report on switchover and has provided a checklist of items that could be included in published national switchover plans⁵. These plans have also been published on the Commission's website at the same address. (See paragraph 2.3 of the Annex).

The Commission takes note that **EL**, **IE** and **PT** still have to establish their plans. The Commission requests these Member States to do so as soon as possible.

The Commission considers that for the following Member States switchover plans are missing or not sufficiently detailed: **BE** (for Wallonia and Brussels), **CY**, **EE**, **FR**, **RO**.

For the following Member States, updates of their plans are necessary as the status of the information provided ranges from 2004 to 2006: **BE** (for Flanders), **CZ**, **DE**, **EL**, **ES** (info still refers to the previous 2011 deadline), **IT** (info still refers to the previous 2006 deadline), **HU**, **LT**, **LV**, **MT**, **PL**, **SI**, **SK**.

For **LU** and **NL** it would be desirable to receive final reports about their successful switchover processes.

All Member States are kindly requested to provide their established, sufficiently detailed and duly updated plans as set out above **before the end of 2008** for publication on the Commission's website.

All Member States are kindly requested to include information on **interactive TV** services and stakeholders' co-operation on establishing such services in their country.

⁵ See Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting (from digital 'switchover' to analogue 'switch-off'){COM(2003)541}

1. STATE OF PLAY OF THE SWITCHOVER PROCESS IN THE EU

In the vast majority of Member States (i.e. in 19 Member States) digital terrestrial TV transmissions have already been introduced which cover at least parts of the national territory. In 6 others such services will be provided by 2010 the latest. Only two Member States (Ireland, Romania) have not yet established their plans.

Switch off of analogue terrestrial TV has already taken place in **Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden** and in major areas in **Austria** and **Germany**. It will take place by end 2010 or earlier in **Austria, Belgium⁶, Germany, Denmark, Spain** and **Malta**. Analogue terrestrial TV will be switched off between end 2010 and end 2012 in **Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia** and **United Kingdom**.

Lithuania will begin regional switch-off in 2012. In **Poland** a switch-off date of 2014 is proposed. **Greece, Ireland** and **Portugal** have not yet established their plans.

On this basis, the Commission expects that **by end 2010 the switchover process should be well advanced in the EU as a whole. The Commission recalls the deadline of 2012 for the switch-off of analogue terrestrial TV broadcasting which has been endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament.**

In the vast majority of Member States (i.e. in 19 Member States) digital terrestrial TV transmissions have already been introduced which cover at least parts of the national territory. In 6 others such services will be provided by 2010 the latest. Only two Member States (Ireland, Romania) have not yet established their plans.

2. SWITCHOVER INFORMATION ON MEMBER STATES

2.1 Roll out of Digital Terrestrial TV in Member States

Country	Date	Other details
AT	Started 26.10.2006	<p>MUX A: 87% coverage of population by the end of 2007; 90% by 03/2009; 95% by 2010</p> <p>MUX B: 81 % by the end of 2007</p> <p>MUX C: licenses envisaged 3Q -4Q/2008</p> <p>MUX D (DVB-H): four main cities covered since June</p>

⁶ In Flanders

		2008; 50% coverage of the population at the end of 2008
BE	Flanders: 2003-2004 (full roll out), French community: 2 transmitters operational in Brussels (2005), full roll out planned (early 2006)	90% coverage of BE by end 2006
BG	Digital TV broadcasting started on 26.05.2003 in Sofia – one multiplex, maximum 6 programmes	2 single frequency transmitters operating in TV channel 64, 6 TV programmes; cover Sofia region.
CY	2010	It is expected that the first licence for digital terrestrial TV will be granted by the end of 2007 and the roll out of DTTV and availability of services will commence as soon as possible and no later than 2010
CZ	DTT launch of service started in October 2005 Switch-off experiment in the first area 31. August 2007. Switch over process will start in summer 2008.	Started (21st October 2005) in Prague and Brno and their near surrounding areas. This time two DTT networks are being launched PSB and commercial. Networks cover more than 30% of population in the Czech Republic. Covered areas are Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Domažlice* and Ústí nad Labem*. * - only PSB DTT network.
DK	Launch of service April 2006	Public Service: MUX 1 launched in 2006 with outdoor coverage in the whole country and partial indoor coverage. MUX 2 to be launched by 1 November 2009. A commercial gatekeeper has been appointed to launch MUX 3-5 at the latest by 1 November 2009 and MUX 6, including DVB-H, by 1. November 2010. MUX 6 will be used for testing and research 1 November 2009 until 31. October 2010.

DE	2002-2008; coverage 90 percent of population with public broadcasting	Mid 2006 Launch of regular DMB services in conurbations; DVB-H planned End 2007
EE	Regular DTTV broadcasts in Tallinn since 2004	
EL	One mux of the national broadcasting organisation, which offers four programs of DTT ⁷	The national level coverage is roughly 50% of the population and 30% of the geographic cover. Up to end of the current year, it is forecast that the above percentages will be increased up to 60% and 40% respectively.
ES	Since 2000	Coverage 85% of population currently, 88% by July 2008, 90% by December 2008, 93% by July 2009 and 98% for PSB(RTVE) before 3 April 2010.
FR	Started on 31 March 2005	Coverage 50% of population by September 2005, 65 % by October 2006, 85% by 2007, 95% by 2011

⁷ The Greek Administration, has issued the new Broadcasting Law (3592/19-07-07 OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC 161), and therefore it has been harmonised with the Directives 2002/21/[EC], 2002/22/[EC] and 2002/77/[EC], at the part that they concern the provision of radio-television services. The aim was the plurality and objectiveness of the information, and the equality of the transmission of the information and news to be guaranteed.

Based on the above mentioned Law, the Administration has the appropriate vehicle to proceed in licensing of DTT and digital Radio. Besides, the Administration has determined the process and the terms to proceed from analogue to digital broadcasting.

It is foreseen also, that by the end of 2008, a nation wide digital frequency plan will be available and it will be the appropriate tool for the DTT realization.

In regard to the current situation, it is in operation a mux of the national broadcasting organization, which offers four programs of DTT.

HU

From 2008

Government accepted the National Digital Switchover Strategy in March 2007.

http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_kormhat.pdf

http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_DAS.pdf

Parliament accepted act on the rules of broadcasting and digital switchover in June 2007.

http://www.meh.hu/misc/letoltheto/eng_2007_74_tv_das.pdf

National Communications Authority published the tender for DVB-T networks. The applications are currently under evaluation. The call for tenders includes the following minimal conditions:

year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Multiple x coverage %						
A	30	70	85	94		
B (in that case DVB-T)	20	45	65	85	94	
B (in that case DVB-H)		start			50	
C	30	70	85	94		
D					85	94
E					85	94

IE	DTT services launch in Q3 2009.	The Broadcasting (Amendment) Act 2007 has provided for the development of DTT services in Ireland.
IT	Since end 2003	Coverage 70% of population since 2005
LT	30 June 2006	Start in Vilnius, by end 2007 in the five biggest cities, by beginning of 2009 one network should cover 95% of the territory
LU	DTTV start on August 31, 2006 Complete switch-off of analogue TV on August 31, 2006.	Currently 1 VHF TV channel has been converted as well as 2UHF TV channels.
LV	Start in 2007 expected	Planned to introduce digital terrestrial TV in steps by regions
MT	Commercial operations started 2005. Nationwide coverage achieved.	The process leading to award of spectrum for the purposes of general interest objectives is currently underway.
NL	Available since 2003 in the western parts of NL. From 11th December 2006 PSB available in the whole country.	In the months following the switchover, roll out of commercial DTT nationwide will follow. KPN is interested in DVB-H and started test-projects.
PL	Launch of service is expected in 2009. Tender will be announced in the near future.	The National Switchover Strategy is currently under review process.
PT	DTT tender preparations are under way	
RO	Not yet started	Pilot transmissions in Bucharest (started March 2006) and in Sibiu (since November 2006)

FI	Available since 2001/2002; full network rollout autumn 2004 to autumn 2005	Coverage 99,9% (Aug 2005)
SE	since 1999/2000;	98% of population currently covered by four multiplexes a fifth network covers approximately 70 % PSB coverage will be 99,8% by December 2007 when switch-over will be completed.
SI	Roll out 2006-2012	Introduction of digital terrestrial TV, starting in West Region and followed by Central and East Region
SK	Start in 2007-2008 expected Provisional operation has started in 2006. Tender for choosing regular operator is being prepared these days. After successful finishing this process we start of regular operations is expected in the fourth quarter of 2008 but not later than first half of 2009.	By islands, step by step
UK	Since 1998	86% of households have digital TV

2.2 Switch off dates of Analogue Terrestrial TV in Member States

Country	Date	Other details
AT	End of 2010 envisaged (full switch-off)	Main high power analogue transmitters already switched off. Low power transposers are in the process of being switched over to

		digital.
BE	2010 in Flanders	n.a. for Wallonia and Brussels capital area
BG	2012	Start of DBV-T – mid 2008, analogue switch-off 2012 according to the Plan of Introduction of DBV-T in the Republic of Bulgaria, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2008.
CY	2012	Common statement of the Minister of Communications and Works and the Minister of Internal Affairs on the Introduction of Digital Terrestrial TV in Cyprus. http://www.mcw.gov.cy/dec
CZ	11.11. 2011	Two transmitters will be switched-off to 30. 6. 2012. To 11. 11. 2011 DTT networks will cover of population the same as Analogue terrestrial television. The first region Domazlice was switched-off 31. 8. 2007. The network for PSB will cover 95% of population to 31. 12. 2010. Switch over plan was approved by government 28. 4. 2008 and is being published in the Czech telecommunication office (http://www.ctu.cz/cs/download/sb051-08.pdf). Switch over plan determines ASO, principles of switch-off analogue TV transmitters, division of

		areas etc.
DE	End of 2008	Commenced in Berlin in 2003; will be continued through specific areas and completed before end of 2008 ⁸
DK	End of October 2009	Nationwide switch off
EE	1 February 2012	
EL	after 2010	2012 may be feasible
ES	3 rd April 2010	First area (Soria) to be switched off in July 2008. Gradual switch off the analogue transmitters from 30 June 2009 in accordance with transition plan. Target PSB (RTVE) coverage: 98%
FI	31 Aug 2007	
FR	30 Nov 2011	Gradual switch off from 2009, regarding coverage of digital TV and rate of equipped households
HU	End of 2011	Gradual switch off of the analogue transmitters. The possibilities for earlier switch off of the analogue systems are investigated.
IE	No decision yet.	
IT	2008, though according to a new law in the process of approval the deadline for the switch off at national level will be postponed to 2012 .	First regions Sardegna and Valle D'Aosta to be switched off respectively in March 2008 and in October 2008.
LT	Beginning in 2012	Gradual switch off, 90% of households receiving analogue terrestrial programs should be capable to receive digital terrestrial programs before an area can be switched off

⁸ See <http://www.ueberallfernsehen.de/>

LU	31 august 2006	1 analogue VHF channel and 2 analogue UHF channels have been switched off on August 31, 2006.
LV	2012	Switch-off by regions, finished by the end of 2012
MT	31 December 2010	Nationwide coverage
NL	11th December 2006	'Big bang' switchover from analogue to digital terrestrial television in one night. Only PSBs concerned, no commercial broadcasters operational in analogue terrestrial TV.
PL	2015 (final date)	Earlier date possible according to the market situation.
PT	No decision yet	2010-2012 (tentative)
RO	31 December 2012 (current assessment)	Implementation strategy to be finalized in 2007
SE	October/December 2007	Switch-off has been carried through in areas containing 42.5 % of the population. Another 26 % will be affected by switch-off in spring 2007. Analogue broadcasts for the remaining 31.5 % of the population will be switched off in the fall of 2007.
SI	2012	Gradual switch off local areas when similar penetration as by analogue terrestrial broadcasting coverage is reached.
SK	end 2012	Gradual switch-off of the transmitters in accordance with the national strategy. There is a plan to switch off all analogue TV transmitters before 31. December 2012. This is in accordance with the Slovak technical plan for transition from analogue to

		digital TV transmission.
UK	2012	Switch-off by region, from 2 nd half 2008 to 2 nd half 2012 ⁹

2.3. Detailed information on Member States' switchover plans

Member States information on their switchover plans is published on the Commission's website at

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/current/broadcasting/switchover/national_plans/index_en.htm.

⁹ For details see <http://www.dtg.org.uk/news/news.php?class=countries&subclass=193&id=1166>