



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Ministerial Conference "Perspectives for the development of the electronic communications market in the EU" (Warszawa 19-20 October 2011)
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find, in annex, a note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned topic.

Ministerial Conference "Perspectives for the development of the electronic communications market in the EU" (Warszawa, 19-20 October 2011)

The main aim of the meeting was to discuss electronic communications services in the context of the development of the next generation access networks (NGA), as well as the process of harmonisation and coordination of the use of radio spectrum between the Member States and third countries.

The meeting was attended by EU Commissioner for Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes, ministers for telecommunications and delegations from 20 EU and non-EU countries, as well as heads of regulatory authorities. Senior representatives of the European Commission the European Parliament, international telecommunications organizations, industry and academia experts also came to the meeting.

During day one of the conference the main discussions centered around new technologies in telecommunications and their influence on the development of services, best solutions for raising funds for the deployment of NGA and ways through which projects creating the information society can be funded by banking sector. Moreover the Commission's legislative proposal on the 'Connecting Europe Facility' was announced at the conference on its telecommunications networks roll-out part. A number of sector representatives offered their views on business models in the constantly developing NGA environment. A panel discussion was also held on Commission's policies and specific experience of European countries in the field of market regulations.

Day two of the conference was devoted entirely to spectrum management for electronic communications services. Speakers gave their insight into current EU's approach, frequency resources, optimal business models and opportunities for digital dividend. Preparations for the World Radiocommunications Conference WRC-2012 were also touched upon. Detailed information on the conference including the final agenda, list of speakers and all contributions is available on-line at: <http://www.en.mi.gov.pl/>

Delegations adopted a joint ministerial declaration on better use of radio spectrum. It was supported by 35 both EU and third countries and is free to join by other countries at any time. Please see below the full text of the declaration:

Ministerial Declaration on better use of radio spectrum

We, the Ministers of the European countries and other heads of delegations, supporting the outcomes of the Conference on „Perspectives for the development of the electronic communications market in the EU” on 19-20 October 2011 in Warsaw:

- Taking into account the fact, that radio spectrum is a key resource for many essential services in society, including wireless and satellite communications, radio and television broadcasting, transportation, radiolocation, and many other applications,
- Recognizing that radio spectrum is a scarce resource and therefore appropriate spectrum management is a key factor for ensuring the continuous development of radio services,
- Recognizing that appropriate and coordinated use of radio spectrum in certain bands can significantly contribute to the development of the European economy and can have a strong impact on social development,
- Recognizing the importance of radio spectrum for the purpose of providing and assuring public security and national defense,
- Recognizing that development of new communication technologies should not have harmful impact on services that ensure safety of life,
- Recognizing the borderless nature of the radio spectrum and taking into consideration, that efficient coordination between neighboring countries, as well as the resolving of other regional or local frequency coordination issues is crucial for ensuring the efficient use of spectrum,
- Noting that the usage of radio spectrum for wireless broadband communication services can contribute to development of entire Europe,
- Aware of the rapid development of the technologies in order to ensure wireless communication among European citizens,
- Emphasizing that the future management of radio spectrum in certain bands in a coordinated manner across Europe can add value to this scarce resource.

Taking into account the abovementioned, we call upon ourselves to:

1. Make efforts aimed to ensure the best possible cooperation in resolving cross-border and other local or regional frequency coordination of radio spectrum, in particular, but not limited to the use of frequencies from the so-called digital dividend.
2. Strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in international telecommunications organizations, such as ITU and in regional telecommunication organizations, such as CEPT and RCC.
3. Make efforts to reach cross border coordination agreements in order to ensure that use of radio spectrum for defense and national security purposes is neither suffering nor affecting the development of radio services in neighboring countries.
4. Provide appropriate radio spectrum resources for the continuous development of radio services, including wireless and satellite services, radio and television broadcasting, transportation, radiolocation and other applications which can significantly contribute to the development of the European countries' economies and to strengthening both Europe's and the European countries' position as a world leader in Information and Communications Technologies.
5. Take actions, particularly within the ITU, as well as within regional telecommunications organizations such as CEPT and the RCC, in order to endeavor that the results of WRC-12 will to the greatest extent reflect findings of this Declaration.
6. Promote wireless broadband services across the Europe in order to ensure substantial benefits for all the Europeans citizens.

This declaration is supported by:

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UK, Ukraine.