



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Information Society and Media Directorate-General  
Electronic Communications Policy  
**Implementation of Regulatory Framework (I)**

Brussels, 14 January 2009  
DG INFSO/B2

**COCOM09-01**

## **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.*

**European Commission**  
Information Society and Media



## 1. 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 broadcasting<sup>1</sup>. Part 2 of the current document provides a synthesis of updated information from Member States regarding roll out of digital terrestrial TV<sup>2</sup>. Updated information on switch off of analogue terrestrial TV is displayed in Part 3.

All Member States have updated their information in summer/autumn 2008.

This document will be published on the Commission's website at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecom/current/broadcasting/switchover/national\\_plans/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecom/current/broadcasting/switchover/national_plans/index_en.htm)

The Commission has asked the Member States to report on switchover and has provided a checklist of items that could be included in published national switchover plans<sup>3</sup>. These plans have also been published on the Commission's website at the same address (see Part 4).

## 2. ROLL OUT OF DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TV IN MEMBER STATES

Country	Date	Other details
<b>AT</b>	Started 26.10.2006	MUX A: 87% coverage of population by the end of 2007; 91% by the end of 2008; 95% by 2010  MUX B: 81 % by the end of 2007 (unchanged since)  MUX C (regional): 16 licenses issued in November and December 2008; services to be launched soon.  MUX D ( DVB-H): four main cities covered since June 2008; 50% coverage of the population at the end of 2008
<b>BE</b>	Flanders: fully rolled out since mid 2004	90% coverage of BE by end 2006

<sup>1</sup> 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 }

<sup>2</sup> This document covers only regular permanent broadcasts. It does not cover information about transitory and pilot test broadcasts.

<sup>3</sup> 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 }

	Wallonia and Brussels capital area: fully rolled out since end 2006	80% coverage of Wallonia and Brussels capital area
<b>BG</b>	Digital TV broadcasting started on 26.05.2003 in Sofia – one multiplex, maximum six programs	2 single frequency transmitters operating in TV channel 64, 6 TV programs; covering the Sofia region.
<b>CY</b>	2010	The Republic of Cyprus has decided to grant two nationwide licenses for DTTV network/multiplex operators. One license will be granted to the public broadcaster in order to use 1 MUX to transmit its programs. The second license will be auctioned. It will include two MUXes during the switchover period and five MUXes after the switch off. These processes are currently underway and it is expected that both licenses will be granted by 2009. The roll out of DTTV and availability of services will commence as soon as possible and no later than 2010.
<b>CZ</b>	Launch of DTT services started in October 2005.	<p>Started (21 October 2005) in Prague and Brno and their near surrounding areas.</p> <p>Two networks have been gradually put into operation on temporary basis prior to preparation and approval of a national switchover plan. One of them has reached approximately 40% penetration of population covering Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Plzen, Domazlice, Usti nad Labem and their surroundings.</p> <p>Since May 2008 switchover development in the Czech republic has been based on the national switchover plan approved by the government.</p>
<b>DK</b>	Launch of service April 2006	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MUX 6 will be used for testing and research 1 November 2009 until 31 October 2010.</p>

<b>DE</b>	DVB-T: <b>coverage:</b> 95 percent of population with public broadcasting and 60 percent of population with private broadcasting in addition.	May 2008 termination of DMB-services on all sites.
<b>EE</b>	Regular DTT broadcasts started 2004	MUX 1 carries 7 freeview channels (two public - ETV, ETV2 & five commercial – Kanal2, TV3, TV6, K11, Kalev Sport) and covers 99% of territory from August 2008.  MUX 2 & 3 are dedicated for pay services, including the first local digital pay channel Neljas TV, coverage is more than 90% of the territory.
<b>EL</b>	Since January 2006, one MUX of the national broadcasting organisation is operated and offers four programs of DTT <sup>4</sup>	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.
<b>ES</b>	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.
<b>FR</b>	Started on 31	Coverage 50% of population by September 2005, 65 % by

---

<sup>4</sup> 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.

With regard to the current situation, a MUX of the national broadcasting organisation is in operation, which offers four programs of DTT.

	March 2005	October 2006, 85% by 2007, 95% by 2011						
<b>HU</b>	From 2008	Government accepted the National Digital Switchover Strategy in March 2007.						
		<a href="http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_kormhat.pdf">http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_kormhat.pdf</a>						
		<a href="http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_DAS.pdf">http://misc.meh.hu/letoltheto/english_DAS.pdf</a>						
		Parliament accepted the act on the rules of broadcasting and digital switchover in June 2007.						
		<a href="http://www.meh.hu/misc/letoltheto/eng_2007_74_tv_das.pdf">http://www.meh.hu/misc/letoltheto/eng_2007_74_tv_das.pdf</a>						
		The national Communications Authority entered into a contract with Antenna Hungaria Zrt. on 5 September 2008. The contract includes the following conditions for coverage:						
		year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		Multiplex coverage %						
A	59	88	95	96				
B (in that case DVB-T)	20	45	65	85	94			
B (in that case DVB-H)	16	30			50			
C	59	88	95	96				
D					96	97		
E					95	96		

<b>IE</b>	DTT services launch in Q3 2009.	The Broadcasting (Amendment) Act 2007 has provided for the development of DTT services in Ireland.
<b>IT</b>	Since second quarter 2008.	2 Public Services Coverage >70% of population (DVB_T) 3 Private Services Coverage >70% of population (DVB_T) 4 Private Services Coverage >50% of population (DVB_T) 2 Private Services Coverage >70% of population (DVB_H)
<b>LT</b>	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. At the beginning of 2008, four digital TV networks were in operation. The completion of networks is scheduled for the end of 2010.
<b>LU</b>	DTTV start on 31 August 2006  Complete switch-off of analogue TV on 31 August 2006	Currently one VHF TV channel has been converted as well as two UHF TV channels.
<b>LV</b>	Since 2007 digital terrestrial broadcasting started in test mode.	Planned to introduce digital terrestrial TV in steps by regions
<b>MT</b>	Commercial operations started 2005. Nationwide coverage achieved.	The process leading to award of spectrum for the purposes of general interest objectives is currently underway.
<b>NL</b>	Available since 2003 in the western parts of NL. From 11 December 2006 PSB available in the whole country.	KPN provides mobile TV over DVB-H since 05 June 2008.
<b>PL</b>	Launch of service is expected in 2009. Tender will be announced in the near future.	The National Switchover Strategy is currently under review process.

<b>PT</b>	Launch of service until the end of August 2009	MUX A (FTA) Licence granted in December 2008.
<b>RO</b>	Not yet started	Pilot transmissions in Bucharest (started March 2006) and in Sibiu (since November 2006). Implementation strategy to be finalised by the end of 2008.
<b>FI</b>	Available since 2001/2002; full network rollout autumn 2004 to autumn 2005	Coverage 99,9% (Aug 2005)
<b>SE</b>	since 1999/2000;	Multiplex 1 carrying the PSB channels covers 99,8% of permanent households. Multiplexes 2-4 cover 98% of households. A fifth multiplex covers approximately 70 %, but is planned to be extended. A sixth multiplex is planned to start transmitting by the end of 2008. Licenses have been issued for the sixth multiplex requiring transmissions with MPEG 4.
<b>SI</b>	Roll out 2006-2010	MUX A: 80% coverage of population by the end of 2008; 95% by 2010  MUX B: 70% coverage of population by 06/2010  MUX C: used for HDTV only; a public tender planed for 2009
<b>SK</b>	Full switch-off: end of 2012	The selection procedure is still running in Slovak Republic. The invitation for tender was published on 20 August 2008 together with the deadline for submission offers which is 20 November 2008. This is common selection procedure for MUX1 and MUX2. It is expected to issue the licenses after evaluating all submitted offers not later then in 1 <sup>st</sup> Q of 2009.  Expected coverage of the all citizens of the Slovak Republic is 45% as minimum after one year after issuing of the license for MUX1 (channels above 60).  Switch-off of analogue transmitters using frequencies for digital MUX2: on 31 December 2011 at the latest  Switch-off of analogue transmitters using frequencies for digital public multiplex (MUX3): on 31 December 2011 at

		the latest  Switch-off of remaining analogue transmitters: on 31 December 2012 at the latest
<b>UK</b>	Since 1998	87% of households have digital TV [March 2008]

### 3. Switch off dates of Analogue Terrestrial TV in Member States

Country	Date	Other details
<b>AT</b>	End of 2010 envisaged (full switch-off)	Main high power analogue transmitters already switched off.  Low power transponders are in the process of being switched over to digital.
<b>BE</b>	November 2008 in Flanders  November 2011 in Wallonia and Brussels capital area	
<b>BG</b>	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 a decision of the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2008.  For the successful realisation of the transition to digitisation, a package of regulatory measures, amendments of and supplements to the Bulgarian legislation are needed namely the Electronic communications Act and the Radio and television Act. Both are in a discussion process in the Bulgarian Parliament.
<b>CY</b>	1/07/2011	All analogue transmissions will be switched off, nationwide, on the 1 July 2011.
<b>CZ</b>	June 2012	The first region Domazlice was switched-off on 31 August 2007 as an experimental measure prior to approval of a national switchover



		<p>plan.</p> <p>The national switchover plan was approved by the Czech government on 28 April 2008 and came into force on 15 May 2008 (<a href="http://www.ctu.cz/cs/download/sb/051-08.pdf">http://www.ctu.cz/cs/download/sb/051-08.pdf</a>).</p> <p>The switchover plan determines ASO in details, sets 11 geographical areas which will be digitised step by step due to lack of accessible spectrum, conditions for analogue TV transmitters switching off etc. According to the plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the network for PSB will cover 95% of population to 31 December 2010,</li> <li>- by 11 November 2011 the main phase of ASO will be completed i.e. analogue transmitters switched off (except for two regions) and DTT network coverage of population will be the same as previously provided by analogue terrestrial television,</li> </ul> <p>in the final stage four DTT networks in operation, four MUX receivable countrywide (coverage 70-95 % of population), full analogue switch-off in June 2012.</p>
<b>DE</b>	End of 2008	Commenced in Berlin in 2003; will be continued through specific areas and completed before end of 2008 <sup>5</sup>
<b>DK</b>	End of October 2009	Nationwide switch off
<b>EE</b>	1 July 2010	The first region – the island Ruhnu

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.ueberallfernsehen.de/>

		<p>was switched off on 31.03.2008.</p> <p>Nationwide switch off will be held on 01.07.2010</p>
<b>EL</b>	after 2010	2012 may be feasible
<b>ES</b>	3 April 2010	The first area (Soria) to be switched off in July 2008. Gradual switch off the analogue transmitters from 30 June 2009 in accordance with the transition plan. Target PSB (RTVE) coverage: 98%
<b>FI</b>	31 Aug 2007	
<b>FR</b>	30 Nov 2011	Gradual switch off from 2009, depending on the coverage of digital TV and the rate of equipped households
<b>HU</b>	End of 2011	Gradual switch off of the analogue transmitters. The possibilities for earlier switch off of the analogue systems are investigated.
<b>IE</b>	No decision yet.	
<b>IT</b>	According to a new law the switch off at national level is postponed to 31 December 2012.	<p>Switch-off by technical areas, in eight half-year periods.</p> <p>Sardegna is the first region to be totally switched-off, from 15 to 31 October 2008.</p> <p>The second region, Valle D'Aosta, will be switched-off in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009.</p>
<b>LT</b>	29 October 2012.	Resolution No. 970 issued by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on 24 September 2008.
<b>LU</b>	31 August 2006	One analogue VHF channel and two analogue UHF channels have been switched off on 31 August 2006.

<b>LV</b>	1 December 2011	<p>Regulations issued by the Cabinet of Ministers on 2 September 2008.</p> <p>Switch-off by regions, finished 1 December 2011</p> <p>The strategy for the introduction of DTT services in Latvia was approved on 11 October 2006 by the Latvian Cabinet.</p>
<b>MT</b>	31 December 2010	Nationwide coverage
<b>NL</b>	11 December 2006	'Big bang' switchover from analogue to digital terrestrial television in one night. Only PSBs were concerned, no commercial broadcasters were operational in analogue terrestrial TV.
<b>PL</b>	2015 (final date)	Earlier date possible according to the market situation.
<b>PT</b>	No decision yet	2010-2012 (tentative)
<b>RO</b>	31 December 2012 (current assessment)	Implementation strategy to be finalised and adopted by the end of 2008
<b>SE</b>	October/December 2007	The last analogue terrestrial transmissions were switched off in October 2007. The switchover was carried out during a period of two years on a regional basis.
<b>SI</b>	End of 2010 or earlier	Gradual switch off local areas when similar penetration as by analogue terrestrial broadcasting coverage is reached.
<b>SK</b>	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.

<b>UK</b>	2012	Switch-off by region, from 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2008 to 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2012 <sup>6</sup>
-----------	------	--

#### **4. 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](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/current/broadcasting/switchover/national_plans/index_en.htm).

---

<sup>6</sup> For details see <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when>