

AVMS Consultation

On September 30th, the European Commission closed its public consultation on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)¹. This is part of an assessment of the text, to see if it is still fit for purpose. AER took part in this consultation² based on its renewed position adopted on June 11th, recalling why radio should not be included in the scope of the AVMSD. AER also commented on rules that are not really dealt with in this text: pushing for stronger must carry / findability rules and defending short news reporting / free access to sport events for radio journalists, stressing once more the difference with television-like and video services. On September 17th, AER took part in a meeting organised by the European Commission on this consultation process.

Copyright: Satellite and Cable Consultation

On August 24th, the European Commission launched a public consultation to assess the existing rules in Directive 93/83/EEC³ and see if these could be extended to the internet. This Directive sets the rules for part of the licensing of TV and radio programmes on cable and satellite. AER will therefore take part in the consultation. The consultation runs until November 16th.

Spectrum: Wider Spectrum Group – speaking at EIF

The Wider Spectrum Group (WSG) represents the interests of workers and businesses in the field of AV, radio, programme making and special events and defends access to spectrum of EU creative industries.

This is important for AER as on the one hand, in many countries, radio and TV share the infrastructure used for broadcasting. As most

commercially-funded radios across Europe are SMEs, migrating TV broadcasting from the current infrastructures they are using may have an unsustainable cost for radio. On the other hand, a potential reallocation of the UHF band to other services than those currently using it could have indirect dire effects on radio: TV services may have to migrate to other frequencies and could end up using frequencies planned for radio, in Band III (174-230MHz).

These points were presented by the AER Director Regulatory Affairs at a dinner⁴ with EU institutions and industry representatives organised at the European Parliament by the European Internet Forum on September 29th.

Telecom Package Consultation

On September 11th, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the evaluation and the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Telecom Package)⁵. This consultation looks at key aspects for radio's access to infrastructures: spectrum assignment, must carry radio rules and findability of radio online mainly. Questions touch upon all angles of the EU's involvement in these issues: need for EU coordination, spectrum management techniques (beauty contests / auctions, spectrum trading, etc.) and possibility to set priority services on minimum internet connections. The consultation runs until December 7th. AER will take part in it and base its reply on the position paper on the Future of Radio as revised in June.

Platforms Consultation

On September 25th, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the Regulatory environment for platforms, online intermediaries, data and cloud computing and the collaborative economy (Platforms)⁶. This

consultation aims at evaluating what an online platform (from Google Maps to Deezer) is and if specific rules should be adopted / revised to ensure respect of essential principles, the most important ones for radio being copyright and fair competition. The consultation runs until December 18th. AER will take part in it and base its reply on the position papers on the Future of Radio and Copyright in the Digital Single Market.

Past Events

AER took part in the next **Radiodays Europe⁷ conference committee** meeting in Paris on **September 22nd**. AER Members can still feed in AER with suggestions for speakers by the end of October!

Future Events

On **October 9th**, AER will hold its third 2015 **Executive Committee meeting**, in **Vienna**.

On **October 22nd**, the **Wider Spectrum Group** organises an event⁸ to discuss the future of the UHF band and how spectrum is essential for the **cultural and creative sector**. **Stefan Möller**, AER President, is one of the key speakers, together with Pascal Lamy,

former EU Commissioner and WTO Director General, and Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society Günther Oettinger.

On **October 23rd**, the **European Commission** organises a workshop on **cross-border portability** of legally acquired content.

On **November 3rd and 4th**, **WorldDMB** is organising its **General Assembly⁹** in **London**. The first AER Member to request it can benefit from a free entrance. Next ones will have to pay 150£. Non-AER Members pay 300£.

The next **Future Media Lounge¹⁰** will take place on **November 10th**, at the European Parliament in Brussels: “Technological disruption and its impact on professional journalism in Europe”.

On **November 11th**, the **European Commission** organises a public hearing on the evaluation and review of the **Telecom Package¹¹**, based on the questions outlined in the related public consultation.

The next **Radiodays Europe¹²** conference will take place in **Paris** from **March 13th to 15th**. Online registration will start in mid-October!

While main references are given below, more information is available upon request – if the links below do not work, please copy and paste them into your browser:

¹<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-consultation-directive-201013eu-audiovisual-media-services-avmsd-media-framework-21st>

²<http://www.aereurope.org/avmsdec2015/>

³<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/consultation-review-eu-satellite-and-cable-directive#English> and <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/SatCabReview2015>

⁴<https://www.eifonline.org/library/17-podcasts/566-vincent-sneed-aer-on-radio-spectrum.html>

⁵<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-consultation-evaluation-and-review-regulatory-framework-electronic-communications> and <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TelecomFrameworkReview2015>

⁶<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Platforms/>

⁷<http://www.radiodayseurope.com/>

⁸<http://www.widerspectrum.org/mediacontacts/>

⁹<https://www.worlddab.org/events/detail/386>

¹⁰<http://www.futuremedialab.info/events/upcoming-events/>

¹¹<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-hearing-evaluation-and-review-regulatory-framework-electronic-communications-networks>

¹²<http://www.radiodayseurope.com/>