

To the attention of Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Brussels, 16/01/2026

Object: Safeguarding radio in connected cars – Call for action in the Digital Networks Act

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, Members of the European Parliament, are writing to urge the European Commission to **safeguard the future of radio in cars** within the upcoming proposal for the **Digital Networks Act**.

Radio remains the **most trusted medium in Europe**, providing **editorially independent, high-quality information** to millions of citizens every day.

It is not only a source of reliable news and cultural content, but also a **critical safety tool in times of crises and emergencies**, enhancing the EU's preparedness and resilience by ensuring that populations can access timely alerts and guidance from public authorities without any technical barriers such as power outages or network failures.

Beyond its role in information and safety, radio is profoundly **human**: it offers companionship, connection, and a sense of community to listeners across Europe.

It is free at the point of use, accessible to all, and continues to be the backbone of the broader audio sector - the largest in terms of both audience and revenues.

As cars become increasingly connected, however, radio's position on the dashboard is no longer guaranteed. Without clear regulatory safeguards, global tech platforms and automotive manufacturers risk becoming gatekeepers to radio content, undermining **media pluralism, consumer choice, and public safety**.

We therefore call on the European Commission to ensure that the Digital Networks Act proposal:

- Mandates the inclusion of **radio receivers** in all new vehicles placed on the EU market.
- Guarantees **easy discoverability and accessibility** of licensed radio services via car interfaces, ensuring radio remains free and prominent.
- Secures a **level playing field** for radio vis-à-vis global audio platforms, preserving competition and pluralism.

Safeguarding radio in cars is mainly about strengthening the EU's preparedness and resilience in times of crisis, and ensuring that citizens continue to have free, trusted, and reliable access to information, companionship, and safety in the digital mobility era.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, strongly urge the Commission to act decisively in the Digital Networks Act proposal to save radio in the car and secure its future for European citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Sunčana Glavak (EPP)

Sabine Verheyen (EPP)

Nela Riehl (Greens)

Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (EPP)

Emma Rafowicz (S&D)

Zala Tomašič (EPP)

Hélder Sousa Silva (EPP)

Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP)

Manuela Ripa (EPP)

Norbert Lins (EPP)

Nina Carberry (EPP)

Regina Doherty (EPP)

Adina Valean (EPP)

Alexandra Mehnert (EPP)

Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (EPP)

Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)

Barry Andrews (Renew)