The show must go on – vote to protect culture and media

Call to Europe 2023

In May 2023, more than 100 cultural and media organizations call on decision makers, governments and regulators to protect production and distribution via the lower UHF spec-trum band (470 and 694 Megahertz).

At the World Radiocommunication Conference in the autumn of 2023, there is a risk of transferring this frequency band to mobile broadband services.

This so-called "co-primary" allocation will result in a de facto exclusion of the media and the cultural sector from the airwaves.

For media distribution:

- Terrestrial television (DTT) in the UHF spectrum is simple, inclusive and cheap: plugging in a TV set offers instant access to a plethora of public and private programmes.
- DTT in the UHF spectrum is reliable in all situations: even in natural or manmade catastrophes, broad-casting distribution is very robust.
- DTT in the UHF spectrum is a sustainable distribution method – and the most sustainable when it comes to distributing the same content to all.
- DTT is innovative: it requires constant innovation and development of new digital technologies like e.g., 5G Broadcast.

For media and film production, cultural performances and other live events:

• The frequencies are needed for wireless means of production.

- They are important for: theatre, musicals, live events, festivals, conferences, radio and television reporting and media production.
- Technical equipment is used for a long period of time and often passed on from professional to non-professional organizations and in this way applying the concept of circular economy.

The mobile service sector ...

... already benefits from substantial UHF spectrum resources, i.e., the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. These allocations of spectrum, previously used by DTT and PMSE (Programme Making and Special Events), were justified by the need to develop rural broadband, but the current rural deficiencies can only be resolved by further developing infrastructure – and this can be done with spectrum already allocated to mobile broadband.

Every day, millions of people in Europe benefit from terrestrial television, media productions and enjoy cultural live events. For a thriving media and cultural sector, vote to keep the lower UHF band for TV distribution, media productions and cultural events:

Vote for "No Change" to the Radio Regulations at WRC-23.