



The Future of the 700 MHz and the Sub-700 MHz Bands

Creating a sustainable future for mobile broadband

*Wladimir Bocquet, Head of Policy Planning
Government & Regulatory Affairs, GSMA*



EC UHF proposal – 700MHz

It is essential to satisfy the exploding demand for mobile broadband and ensure all citizens, whether in metropolitan or rural areas, benefit from the key socio-economic benefits of broadband connectivity

- Europe should aim to **make the 700 MHz band available for mobile use no later than 2020 and preferably earlier**
 - Germany and France auctioned the band in 2015 while Finland and Sweden will do so by 2016 and 2017 respectively
- **Achieving cross-border coordination by June 2017 and publishing national plans by December 2017 is crucial** to avoiding delays in the release of the spectrum
- **Maintain the core of the 700MHz band for mobile broadband only**
 - Alongside the 800 MHz band, this would give the EU a powerful opportunity to deliver on the Digital Agenda objective of universal high-speed broadband access (i.e. 30Mbit/s for all EU citizens by 2020)



EC UHF proposal – sub-700MHz

It is essential to prepare the convergence considering the diversity and ensure Europe can respond to fast changing mobile and media markets

- Unlikely to be a single ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution due to the differing use of terrestrial broadcast and IPTV around Europe
 - Significant mobile data traffic is already video as content providers increasingly use apps
- **Europe should aim to make legislation future-proof and forward looking** by granting Member States the possibility to provide downlink as well as uplink in the sub-700MHz band.
 - **The United States has identified up to 126MHz in the sub-700MHz band for mobile broadband** and will start the first part of the incentive auction by the end of May
 - **Including uplink in the proposal would foster global synergies** and the development of a globally harmonized band plan, benefiting the European economy and its citizens.
- **Europe should complete the review of the UHF band by 2023 as agreed internationally** in the ITU during the last World Radiocommunication Conference 15



Further need for EU harmonisation

EU can draw significant benefits from greater spectrum policy harmonisation in the EU. Having the right harmonised best practices will permit efficient rollout of networks

- Europe should harmonise a set of best practice for the selection of and award methods:
 - The objectives of spectrum awards should be to **raise long-term economic value for the economy, society and consumers**
 - **Assignment procedure** should be **objective, transparent and non-discriminatory** in their treatment of existing and new mobile operators
 - Future awards should **ensure spectrum is effectively assigned and efficiently used**
 - **License rights and obligation should be clear** and promote competition as well as downstream market efficiency
 - The industry and **stakeholder should be consulted throughout the process** to ensure there are no distortions or flaws