

**Agreement regarding the new DTT frequency plan
470 – 694 MHz
between
the Administrations of Slovakia and Austria**

Introduction

This document is a bilateral coordination agreement between the Administrations of the Slovak Republic and Austria (**the Agreement**). It expresses in particular the convergence of will between both parties, indicating an intended common course of action.

Background

In the light of the Decision of the European Parliament and the Council (Decision (EU) 2017/899) on the use of the 470 –790 MHz frequency band in the EU, Austria and the Slovak Republic have to conclude an agreement for the future use of DTT in order to enable to use the frequency band 694 – 790 MHz for MFCN (Mobile Fixed Communication Networks).

The intention during the negotiations preparing this agreement has been to find a common final planning solution enabling up to six layers in each country, depending on chosen SFN-sizes, network structure assignment parameters etc.

Conclusion

The Administration of Slovakia and Austria successfully facilitated the bilateral frequency coordination activities in order to implement the relevant broadcasting spectrum reorganizations, in respect to:

- Achieving mutual compatibility of the spectrum resources to be used in the UHF-band;
- Facilitating any consequential modifications to the GE06 Plan.

Working method

Both Administrations submitted their requirements to various working groups, dealing with the re-planning of the frequency band 470 – 694 MHz. The submissions of the requirements have been followed by an analysis of the compatibility of the requirements by both Administrations. This analysis was the basis for the development of a common frequency plans containing the most feasible solution across frequency coordination area of the Administrations of the Slovak Republic

and Austria. Hence, the development of a common frequency plan has been an iterative process as:

- the modifications to the proposals have been evaluated taking into account national requirements;
- frequency coordination areas of neighboring countries have also been taken into account.

Results of the activities

With this agreement the Administrations of the Slovak Republic and Austria establish a frequency plan which is illustrated in Annex 1. This frequency plan represents the areas and channel positions for Digital Terrestrial Television in the band 470 – 694 MHz and supersedes the existing GE06 frequency Plan.

The Agreement refers to the technical parameters of assignments, which are listed and attached in Annex 2 and in an electronically format (ITU TerRaSys / G06) in the same Annex.

With this agreement the assignments are bilaterally coordinated between the Slovak Republic and Austria according to the Article 4 of the GE06 Agreement.

Subsequent activities:

The current GE06 frequency Plan will be updated by the Administrations via the GE06 article 4 notification procedure based on this agreement accordingly.

Both Administrations will contribute in the timely framework, as specified in the European Parliament and Council decision on the UHF band, with their best effort to implement the new agreed frequency plan in a way that a smooth transition from the existing GE 06 Plan to the new GE06 Plan, with the least possible adverse effects for the audience can be carried out.

Annex 3 of this Agreement contains a table with the new-planned assignments, which are the result of the preceding re-planning activities and are not contained in the updated GE06 Plan in the respective area, including the column “date of availability”. The “date of availability” expresses that there is a time-conflict regarding availability of a certain channel, because of an existing channel in the neighboring country. The new channel can only be used after the listed “date of availability”, when the existing channel is switched off. Those dates can be modified as appropriate, if both Administrations agree to it.

All future further national developments and refinements of the broadcasting networks in the frequency band 470 to 694 MHz, which may be necessary because of the needs of the broadcast network operators to evolve their networks, will be done according Article 4 of the GE06 Agreement.

Enter into force

This agreement will enter into force upon the signature of the paper version of this agreement of the two Parties.

Language of the Agreement

This Agreement is prepared in English in two originals. Each Administration holds one original.

Vienna, 19.12.2017.

for the Administration of the Slovak Republic

For the Administration of Austria

Milan Mizera

Peter Reindl