

E-2365/07 2 May 2007

WRITTEN QUESTION by Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE) to the Commission

Subject: Forcing the emergency services to share the S-Band with Mobile TV Answer(s)

It is believed that the Commission is giving serious consideration to using the S-Band to transmit Mobile TV. The responsible member of the Commission mooted the idea in public at a conference in Hanover on 16 March.

It may not be widely known but this bandwidth is already allocated to MSS-CGC which potentially provides those in the blue light services with a most effective solution for emergency communications both for two-way voice communications and the uploading and downloading of data.

Would it not be extravagant to propose sharing this valuable resource with Mobile TV at a time when critical infrastructure protection and the threat from terrorism are pre-eminent concerns in the minds of European citizens?

Will the Commission please confirm or refute that it is seriously considering proposing this?

E-2365/07EN

Answer given by Mrs Reding  
on behalf of the Commission  
(14.6.2007)

The Commission appreciates the interest of the Honourable Member in its work regarding the 2 gigahertz (GHz) mobile satellite band (the so-called S-band).

The recent Commission Decision 2007/98/EC<sup>1</sup> designates the S-band for systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS) in the European Union without setting any pre-conceived restriction as to the applications which could or should be provided by such systems.

That Decision envisages various types of pan-European applications which could be implemented such as mobile communications and broadcasting/multicasting services, and specifically includes public protection and disaster relief.

The Commission, together with national authorities, is now working towards the elaboration of a coordinated regulatory framework for the selection and authorisation of MSS systems in the European Union. This will follow a public consultation<sup>2</sup> which has been conducted at EU level, in which all interested parties have been invited to participate. The envisaged selection criteria include not only pan-European coverage, consumer and competitive benefits, and spectrum efficiency, but also other public policy objectives such as the need to provide efficient and reliable emergency services.

The Commission hence considers that the framework envisaged fully takes into consideration the

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision 2007/98/EC of 14 February 2007 on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 2GHz frequency bands for the implementation of systems providing mobile satellite services, OJ L 43, 15.2.2007.

<sup>2</sup> See:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/radio\\_spectrum/ongoing\\_consult/2ghz\\_mss\\_30march07\\_30may07/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/radio_spectrum/ongoing_consult/2ghz_mss_30march07_30may07/index_en.htm)

benefits of MSS systems capable of providing, inter alia, emergency communications, thereby enabling the pursuit of key objectives of the Commission such as the fight against terrorism and ensuring critical infrastructure.