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PSC EUROPE FORUM INITIATIVE "SPECTRUM HARMONISATION"

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**SPECTRUM PETITION FOR
PUBLIC PROTECTION & DISASTER RELIEF**

PREPARED BY: Jeppe Jepsen
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PSC Europe EXPERTS GROUP "INITIATIVE SPECTRUM HARMONISATION"

Spectrum Petition for Public Protection & Disaster Relief

The signatory to this petition is calling on National Spectrum Regulators and the European Union to allocate spectrum from the Digital Dividend for

Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR).

Considering

- ❖ That Public Protection and Disaster Relief is a priority subject for the citizens, the National Governments and the European Union and that effective communication are an essential element for Public Safety operations.
- ❖ That public safety services bring value to society by creating a stable and secure environment; that this can only be done by building robust, secure and reliable, modern Public Safety mobile communications networks. To fulfill this requirement, it is essential for Public Safety services to have access to appropriate spectrum in all parts of the territory sufficient to meet their evolving operational needs.
- ❖ That building these modern essential services requires a long project lead time, for example, today's national digital radio system for emergency services, often part of Critical National Infrastructure, typically take 10 years in planning before they are operational.
- ❖ That the mandatory services and facilities required by public safety organisations can only partially be provided on networks designed for commercial use. There remains a critical need for dedicated Public Protection and Disaster Relief networks and spectrum to support future operational requirements which will now include video and other picture applications.

further considering

- ❖ That mission critical operations for PPDR organisations address situations where human life, rescue operations and law enforcement are at stake and that these organisations cannot afford the risk of having communication failures in their voice, data and video transmissions.
- ❖ That PPDR organisations require reliable, high-availability, secure solutions provided by dedicated systems, permanently or temporarily operational and covering all necessary geographic areas (local, regional, country and continent). There are therefore unique situations that cannot be fulfilled without meeting demanding communications and other technical requirements.
- ❖ That evidence from recent disasters shows that public cellular systems are not designed to cope with major incidents and have failed at the time when good communications are needed most.

- ❖ That across the European Union, most Public Safety national agencies have invested in dedicated narrowband digital mobile networks for voice centric and limited data communications. Around 2010 Europe will be covered by wide area narrowband networks. Spectrum used for those networks was allocated in 1994.
- ❖ That in the future, as the specifications developed for public safety and disaster relief are becoming more and more specialized and demanding, the need to use dedicated systems based on dedicated spectrum sufficient to carry video and other picture-base operational communications will become even more obvious.

Recognizing

- ❖ That European PPDR organisations operate in a changing environment.
- ❖ That the PPDR services, including fire brigades, police forces, ambulance services, maritime and coastguard services, are the primary protectors of life and property in cities, towns and beyond, throughout the Union. These organisations provide individual and professional response to incidents and disaster situations.
- ❖ Since 11 September 2001, and even more since the Atocha (Madrid) bombings of 11 March 2004 and London attacks 7 July 2005, security and counter-terrorism have been on top of the agenda of the European decision-makers, at national as well as at EU level.
- ❖ Other catastrophic events such as the Tsunami in Asia of December 26 2004 and the US Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina on 29 August 2005 brought into prominence and provided further evidence of the importance of having efficient communications for Disaster Relief. They have also reinforced the imperative need to be prepared to face natural catastrophes.

I _____ representing _____

- An Organisation responsible for PPDR service in _____
- An Organisation providing Communication equipment to PPDR organisations
- A forum, Association or an Individual

support this petition for spectrum to be allocated from the Digital Dividend for PPDR Services for the European Union.

Sign

Date

Title

E-mail

- I accept to have my signed petition made public.

Please fax this page to **+32 2718 55 81** or scan/email to **ppdr@psc-europe.eu**

❖ **Public Protection (PP) radio communications:**

Radio communications used by responsible agencies and organisations dealing with maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, and emergency situations.

❖ **Disaster Relief (DR) radio communications:**

Radiocommunications used by agencies and organisations dealing with a serious disruption of the functioning of society, posing a significant widespread threat to human life, health, property or the environment, whether caused by accident, nature or human activity, and whether developing suddenly or as a result of complex, long-term processes.

❖ **Digital Dividend (DD) :**

The switchover from analogue to digital terrestrial TV by end 2012 will free up an unprecedented amount of spectrum in Europe as a result of the superior transmission efficiency of digital technology. This spectrum is known as the "digital dividend"