

# Safety First!

We must reinvest the Digital Dividend in order to safeguard European citizens!

Did you know that existing dedicated radio communication systems used by our emergency services cannot support mission critical data or video communications – or so called broadband?

Our emergency services only have access to voice and short text messages during emergencies. This is due to the lack of broadband radio spectrum allocations in all Member States.

The switch from analogue to digital television will permit the reuse of radio spectrum. The only economically viable solution to ensure public safety services have access to the latest communications technology is to provide access to a small part of the available spectrum. To ensure that the emergency communications systems across Europe are capable of using the latest technologies there should be:

- Dedicated spectrum for public safety and security services;
- Harmonisation of allocated spectrum across the EU

**Decision-makers have a moral and social obligation to allocate adequate spectrum to emergency services**

# The digital dividend – the facts

- Europe will switch over from analogue to digital TV by 2012, freeing up spectrum for other uses
- Free spectrum could be used for a number of things including additional mobile phone services, remote internet access or broadband for emergency services
- The emergency services require additional spectrum to enable them to use the latest technologies to aid their work
- Dedicated, harmonised spectrum for emergency services would provide access to the latest technology to access and transmit information that could save vital seconds in emergencies and save lives every year

**In 2008, decisions by the Parliament and Member States will need to be made in order to allocate such spectrum.**

Report available at: [www.public-safety-first.eu](http://www.public-safety-first.eu)

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