

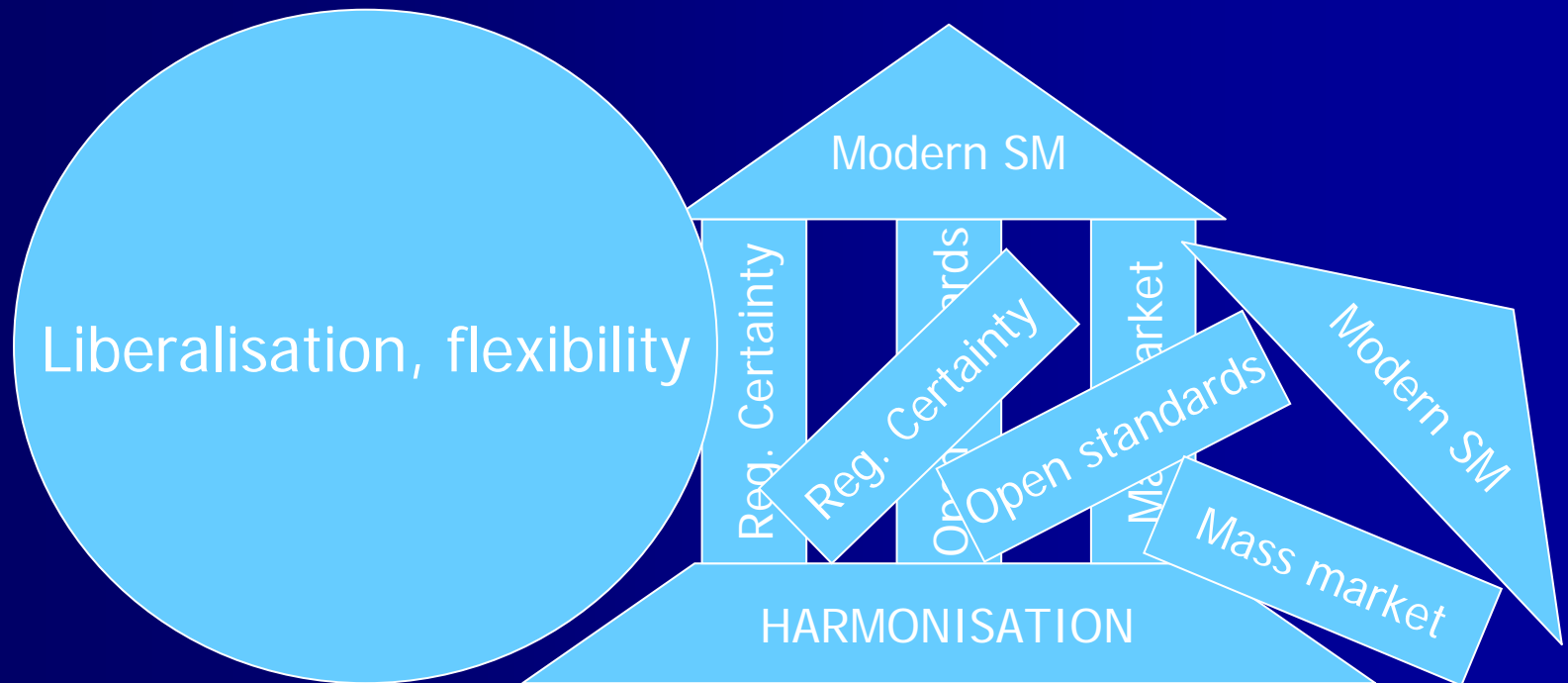


Liberalisation versus harmonisation

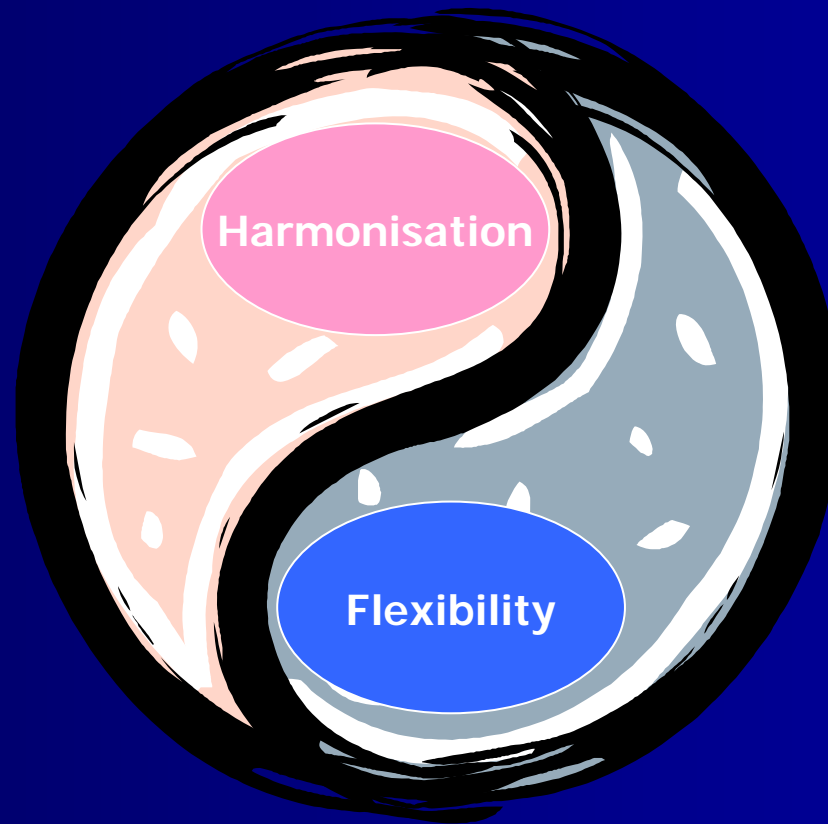
Finding the balance

A. Medeisis, Deputy Director
European Radiocommunications Office

The Modern Tragedy?



The solution...



Harmonisation goals

- Until recently was considered being the cornerstone of (European) spectrum management
- The idea was to achieve mass-market economies of scale and easy international roaming across the fragmented patchwork of 40+ odd countries

Harmonisation examples

- GSM-900/1800
- UMTS/IMT-2000
- DECT
- TETRA PMR/PAMR
- FWA/BWA
- Short Range Device applications
- Fixed Services, etc.

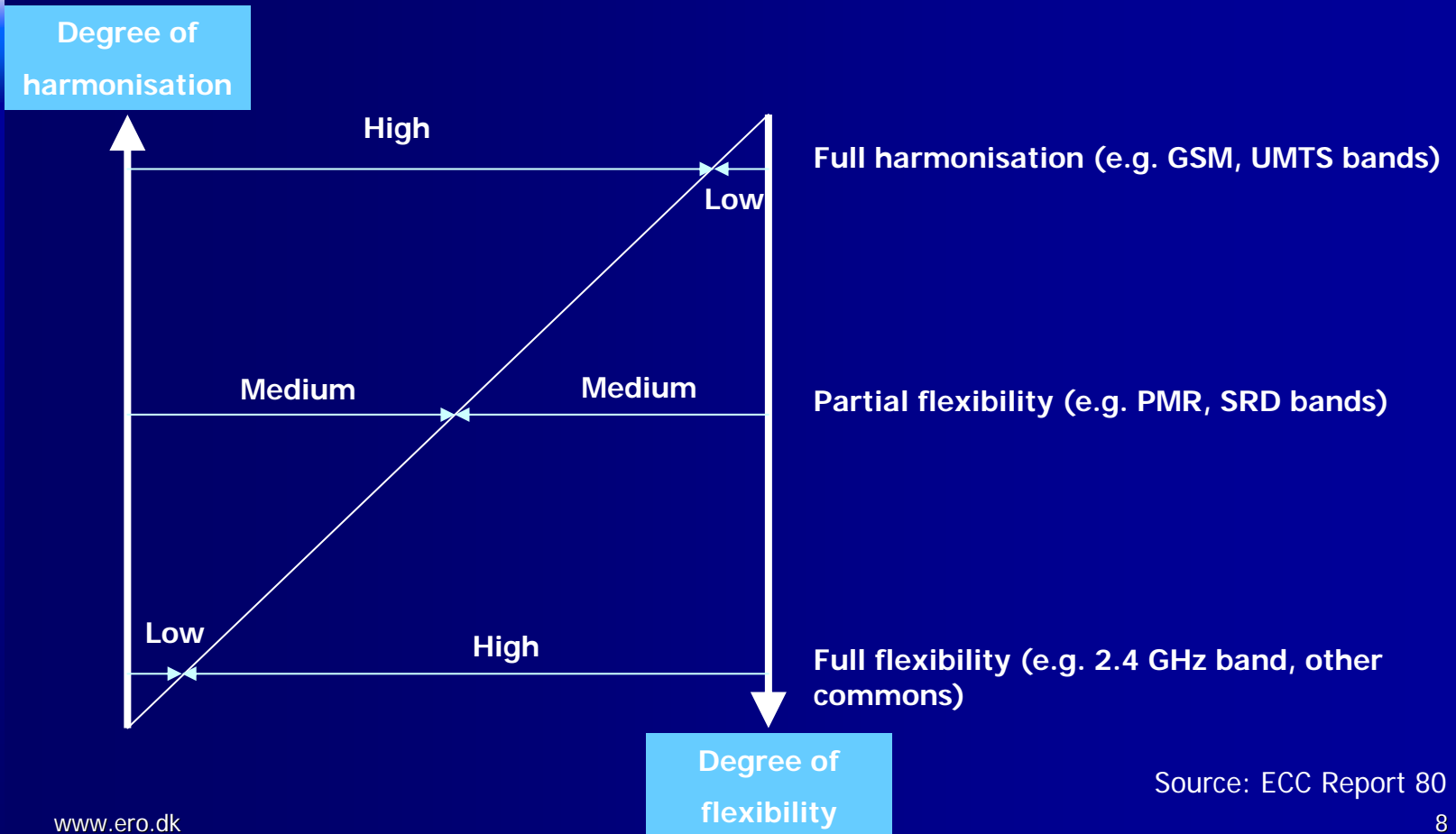
Flexible band concept

- The perceived slowness of administrative spectrum assignment led to calls for “carte blanche” approach, i.e. spectrum licence without service or technology obligations
- Paving the way for most efficient and innovative market-driven spectrum use

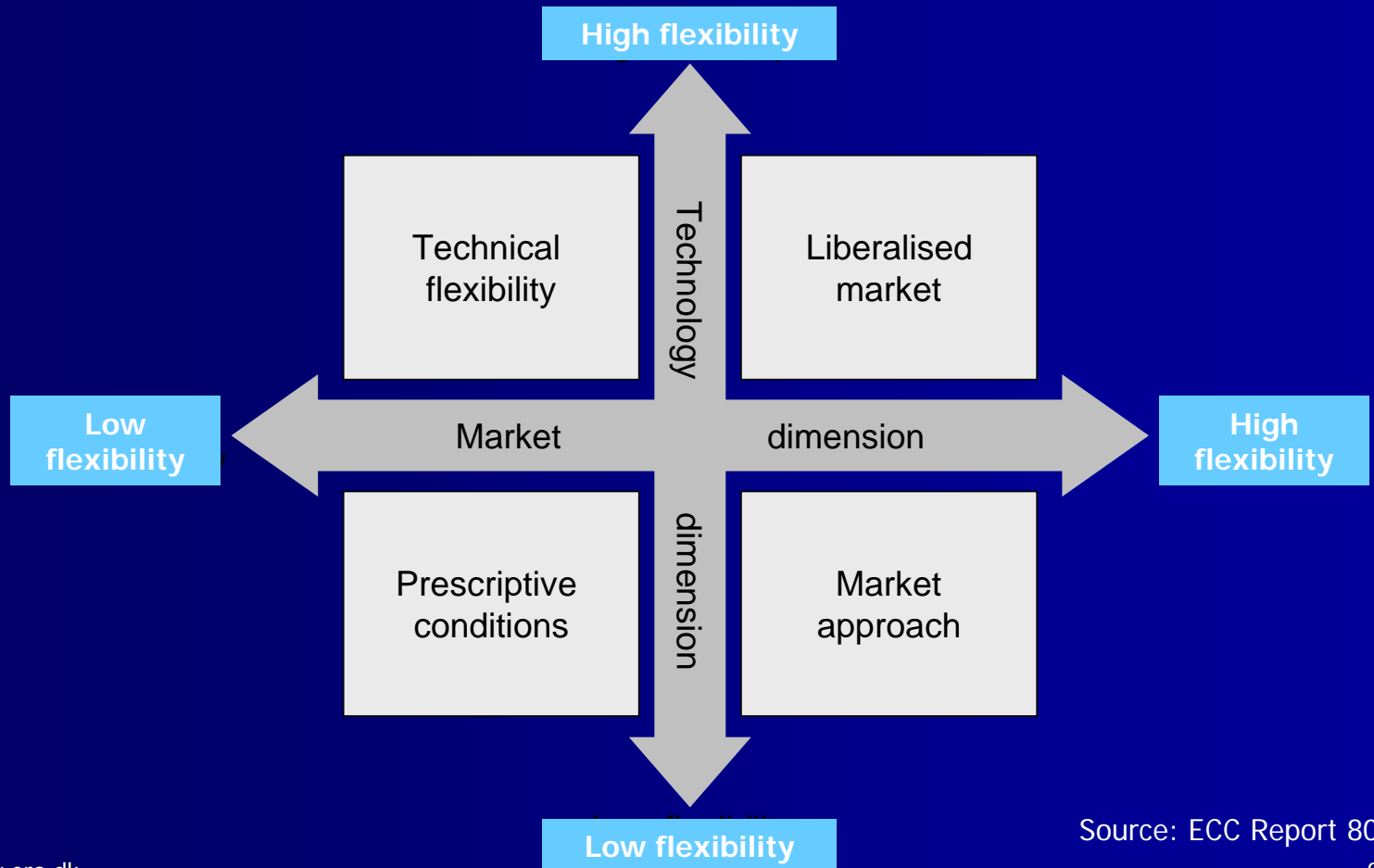
Flexible band definition

- “a band in which licences are technology neutral and can be used to offer any electronic communications service, subject to conditions for the protection of services operating in neighboring bands and ensuring safety, while omitting any further parameters for the use of the band as such” (ECC Report 80)

Flexible vs. harmonised



Market scenarios



The (obvious?) conclusion

- The flexibility in itself is not a universal one-fit-all solution
- The optimum is likely to be some mixture:
 - Set of flexible & set of harmonised bands
 - Partial flexibility in particular bands
- European balancing effort – WAPECS...

WAPECS briefly

- Wireless Access Policy for Electronic Communications Services
- Seeking the balance
- Flexible technology (FDD or TDD, etc.)
- Flexible (converged) services:
 - Voice, multimedia/IP, broadcasting, Triple-Play, etc.
- Compatible platforms: LOCAL ACCESS

So let's discuss...

- Pros and cons of liberalisation vs. harmonisation?
- How to find the right balance?
- What could be the right degree of symbiosis between administrative and market-driven or self-regulation?