

A deeper insight in technology and service neutrality

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The European Commission has recently stressed the need of a coherent spectrum policy approach, driven by social and economic objectives, claiming for a political response from the highest levels of government.

Such a spectrum policy would require an innovative regulatory approach as well: in order to make easier to have access to spectrum and to similar conditions on its use throughout the whole European market it is necessary to relax administrative constraints, so to allow the competitive market environment to “naturally select” those systems leading to an optimal usage of radio resources.

This natural selection can be accomplished promoting all those administrative and technical procedures easing a dynamic replacement of services and technologies. Therefore, two basic principles are fostered: service and technology neutrality, which can be roughly synthesized as a full independence between the frequency band in use and both the delivered service and the adopted technology.

On principle, even though service and technology neutrality pave the way to a more efficient spectrum use and hence should be warmly encouraged, nevertheless, their inappropriate application can expose customers, operators and governments to new risks, which must be properly foreseen and prevented.