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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for Europe (RPM-EUR)**  | P:\SUP\Logos\Post-150th Anniv\ITU-logo-UNblue.jpg |
| **Vilnius, Lithuania, 27-28 April 2017** |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-EUR17/****26-E** |
| **14 April 2017** |
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| **Serbia (Republic of)** |
| Follow-up to the report on resolution 33 (rev. dubai, 2014) |
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| **Priority area:**Streamlining WTDC resolutions**Summary:**This report provides an update on the progress of the implementation of Resolution 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) on Assistance and Support to Serbia for Rebuilding its Destroyed Public Broadcasting System. Taking into account advanced status of the development of the digital broadcasting system in the Republic of Serbia it is proposed to suppress Resolution 33. Simultanously, it is proposed to strengthen the efforts of ITU-D in the field of digital broadcasting, including digital radio at the global and regional levels through activities carried out under the Action Plan and Regional Initiative for Europe on Digital Broadcasting respectively.**Expected results:**RPM-EUR is requested to examine this document.**References:**WTDC Resolution 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) |

**Proposal**

Taking into account advanced status of the development of the digital broadcasting system in the Republic of Serbia it is proposed to suppress Resolution 33. Simultaneously it is proposed to strengthen the efforts of ITU-D in the field of digital broadcasting, including digital radio at the global and regional levels through activities carried out under the Action Plan and Regional Initiative for Europe on Digital Broadcasting respectively.

**Background**

The public broadcasting system in Serbia, operating today was established with the significant assistance from the European Union pre-accession funds and ITU, as well as from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development loan.

According to Resolution 126 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and Resolution 33 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) has been providing assistance for rebuilding the public broadcasting system in Serbia and improving digital broadcasting coverage. In close cooperation and coordination with Serbia, and upon the request for provision of broadcasting equipment from the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, BDT supported the request, within the framework and available budgetary resources, to donate three gap fillers to public enterprise “Emisiona tehnika i veze” (ETV).

The highest priority of the Republic of Serbia was set to enabling reception of the digital terrestrial television to citizens in rural and remote areas that do not have reception of the national, regional and local programmes. Today, more than 95 per cent of the population is covered with the digital terrestrial television signal with the first multiplex, and more than 90 per cent with the second and third multiplex, in line with the Serbian legislation.

Priorities were set but, under present conditions, the Republic of Serbia could not complete them without help from the international community. In order to cover specific, predefined areas with the digital terrestrial signal, request for help from the Republic of Serbia was addressed to provide the basic broadcasting equipment, gap fillers, which would make an integral part of the public broadcasting infrastructure. The equipment donated by BDT was installed by ETV engineers at the broadcasting location Veliko Središte in the North-East of Serbia, and people who did not have the possibility to follow broadcasted programmes were finally covered with a television signal.

The Republic of Serbia would like to express its gratitude to ITU for support and realization of Resolutions 33 and 126, for the continuous special action within the framework and available budgetary resources of ITU and for the provision of appropriate assistance in order to support Serbia in rebuilding its public broadcasting system and improving digital broadcasting coverage. The Republic of Serbia would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to ITU for its very efficient and professional approach, and to stress out the devotion to continue and strengthen cooperation.

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