

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau

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**Circular letter
6/LCCE/78**

11 May 2012

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication
Sector Members, ITU-R Associates participating in the work of
Radiocommunication Study Group 6 and ITU-R Academia**

Subject: Questionnaire on spectrum requirements for terrestrial television broadcasting in connection with WRC-15 Agenda item 1.2

References: Administrative Circular CA/201

1 Consistent with the directives set forth by Administrative Circular [CA/201](#) and in accordance with the outcomes of the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting 15-1, ITU-R Working Party 6A seeks estimates from Member States and Sector Members of current and future spectrum requirements for terrestrial television broadcasting in Region 1 and Iran.

2 One particular question that will be addressed by the JTG 4-5-6-7 is to confirm the lower edge of the allocation to the mobile service made at WRC-12 from 694-790 MHz. As a result Working Party 6A realizes the JTG 4-5-6-7 needs to be fully informed about the implications to the broadcasting service consequential to that decision.

3 The following questionnaire, which is being sent to all Administrations and Sector Members in Region 1 and Iran, is designed to gather information on spectrum use in the band 694-790 MHz for television broadcasting.

4 Administrations and Sector Members are also invited to make more detailed inputs addressing the matter of current and future spectrum requirements for television broadcasting to the next meeting of WP 6A.

5 Administrations and Sector Members are requested to submit responses to brsgd@itu.int or rsg6@itu.int by 31 July 2012.

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At the request of the Chairman of Study Group 6 the attached questionnaire is published for consideration of the Administrations of Member States, Sector Members and Associates, as appropriate. The Radiocommunication Bureau does not make any engagement nor assume any responsibility with respect to the content of the attachment or any follow-up action as may be required.

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- ITU-R Academia
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- Secretary General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

QUESTIONNAIRE ON SPECTRUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN CONNECTION WITH WRC-15 AGENDA ITEM 1.2

This questionnaire can be completed online at the following web page:

<https://extranet.itu.int/rsg-meetings/sg6/wp6a/Lists/DTTB%20Questionnaire/overview.aspx>

Login as: **Username:** (your TIES username)@ties.itu.int
Password: (your TIES password)

NOTE - Electronic versions of Annexes 1, 2 & 2 can be found under QUESTIONNAIRE in the WP 6A Share Folder on the WP 6A Sharepoint site.

Name of the Administration/Sector Member:

For sector members please indicate the geographical area over which you operate:

Contact person: **Adrian Galea**

E-mail address: adrian.c.galea@mca.org.mt **Telephone number:** **+356 2133 6840**

- 1
- a) What standards have you adopted for digital terrestrial television broadcasting?
 - b) Have you started introduction of digital terrestrial television services?
 - c) If yes, please provide further detail on the number of multiplexes in use, their technical specifications, the percentage of geographic area or population they are intended to cover and the total spectrum use to inform WP 6A.

A proposed format for detailed responses is provided in Annex 1.

Reply:

Refer to Annex 1

- 2
- a) Have you commenced analogue television switch-off?
 - b) If you have any such plans, when do you expect to have completed the analogue switch-off process?

Reply:

Analogue switch-off completed in 2011

- 3
- a) What is the percentage of viewer uptake of terrestrial television in your country, including those whose service provider uses terrestrial broadcast re-transmission (e.g. in cable networks)?
 - b) If possible, please also provide details of the number or proportion of users who receive television primarily by terrestrial means.

Reply:

The total number of terrestrial and cable television services subscribers as of end March 2012 stood at 146,231. Out of this figure, 65,497 (43.9%) relate to digital terrestrial television subscribers. No data is available with regard to free-to-air television 'subscribers'.

In this context it should be noted that the total number of households and business units as of end 2011 stood at 208,613.

- 4
- a) Indicate how many analogue television transmitters use channels in the frequency sub-band 694-790 MHz (as indicated in Resolution **232 (WRC-12)**).
 - b) How many are in the remaining part of the UHF band.

Reply:

Analogue terrestrial television was switched-off in 2011. Therefore, no analogue transmitters are in operation.

- 5
- a) What frequencies/channels are currently used or intended to be used by digital terrestrial television broadcasting in your country? Please distinguish between those in use and those intended to be used.
 - b) If allotments/SFNs are in use, a sketch map of frequency allocations could be included, with an accompanying table of allocations, as shown in Annex 2. Otherwise, it might be possible to show main transmitters and channels, grouped in layers, in a table.
 - c) Please indicate how many digital television assignments/allotments use channels in the frequency sub-band 694-790 MHz (as indicated in Resolution **232 (WRC-12)**, and
 - d) How many are in the remaining part of the UHF band.

Reply:

- a) **The channels which are currently in use for digital terrestrial television services are: 26, 28, 31, 38, 45, 56, 58, 60 and 66.**

The frequencies which Malta intends to use depend primarily on the outcome of frequency coordination activities with neighbouring countries.

- b) **SFNs are in use and Maltese islands are considered as one area.**



- c) **Three channels (56, 58 and 60) fall within the sub-band 694-790 MHz.**
- d) **Six channels fall outside the sub-band 694-790 MHz.**

- 6 a) Are those frequency bands also shared with other primary services?
b) If yes, please give details of those systems and their spectrum use.

Reply:

- a) No
b) Not applicable.

- 7 a) Are those frequency bands also shared with secondary services such as PMSE (Programme Making and Special Events), radio astronomy or wind-profile radar?
b) If yes, please give details of those systems and their spectrum use.

Reply:

- a) Currently, PMSE applications are allowed to make use of the band 470 – 790 MHz on a secondary basis. This use is also on a temporary basis.

Radio astronomy or wind-profile radars do not make use of this band.

- b) The PMSE applications referred to in 7(a) above are radio microphones.

- 8 a) Do you foresee the adoption or expansion of television services broadcast using second-generation systems such as DVB-T2?
b) If yes, please give indicative details of the planned transition, including any simulcast period.

Reply:

Current licences limit digital terrestrial television transmissions to DVB-T. In addition no plans are currently established with regard to the implementation of DVB-T2 systems.

- 9 a) Do you foresee a requirement for new and enhanced services, including HD and 3D television, on the terrestrial television platform?
b) If yes, please give indicative details of the number and nature of services planned, and if known, the expected timeframe for their introduction.

Reply:

HD television is currently being provided over the cable and IPTV platforms. HD is not being provided over the digital terrestrial platform (pay-tv) due to capacity issues.

No plans are available with regard to 3D television.

- 10 a) Are there plans in your country to launch more multiplexes in the future?

- b) If yes, how many more and when? Please also indicate the expected timeframe for their introduction.

Reply:

In order to accommodate requests for additional digital terrestrial television frequencies, in 2010, Malta launched a frequency coordination process with neighbouring countries. This process was not successful and as a consequence the requests received could not be accommodated.

Therefore, currently no formal plans are in place to make available additional multiplexes for digital terrestrial television services. These plans, detailing the number and timelines, can only be established if frequency coordination activities with neighbouring countries will be successful.

With regard to free-to-air broadcasting a multiplex (VHF band) is reserved for HD services.

- 11 a) What is the amount of spectrum you foresee that will be required for terrestrial television broadcasting, if plans in Questions 8, 9 and 10 are to be supported, and services identified in Questions 6 and 7 are to be taken into account? Please indicate the modes of transmission that will be used, and timeframes.
If appropriate, a suggested form to express these requirements is shown in Annex 3.

Reply:

Spectrum requirements for terrestrial television broadcasting are commercially driven. However, for free-to-air broadcasting one channel is reserved for the delivery of HD services.

ANNEX 1

Suggested form of presentation of reply to Question 1: *What standards have you adopted for digital terrestrial television broadcasting? Have you started introduction of digital terrestrial television services? If yes, provide further detail on the number of multiplexes in use, their technical specifications, the percentage of geographic area or population they are intended to cover and the total spectrum use.*

A sample response is shown for guidance only.

Country	No of multiplexes	System & modulation	FEC	GI	Reception mode ¹	Capacity per multiplex (Mb/s)	Current percentage population coverage	Intended percentage population coverage	Content per multiplex	Total capacity (Mb/s)	Total spectrum bandwidth used or intended for implementation (MHz) ²	Any additional comments (e.g. duration of licences)
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed		-	-	8 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed		-	-	9 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed		-	-	3 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of

¹ E.g. fixed, portable outdoor/mobile, portable indoor.

² Refer Sections 2 and 3 on page 1 of this circular.

Country	No of multiplexes	System & modulation	FEC	GI	Reception mode ¹	Capacity per multiplex (Mb/s)	Current percentage population coverage	Intended percentage population coverage	Content per multiplex	Total capacity (Mb/s)	Total spectrum bandwidth used or intended for implementation (MHz) ²	Any additional comments (e.g. duration of licences)
												national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed		-	-	7 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	3/4	1/16	Fixed				10 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	3/4	1/16	Fixed				9 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 16-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed				6 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 16-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed				5 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of

Country	No of multiplexes	System & modulation	FEC	GI	Reception mode ¹	Capacity per multiplex (Mb/s)	Current percentage population coverage	Intended percentage population coverage	Content per multiplex	Total capacity (Mb/s)	Total spectrum bandwidth used or intended for implementation (MHz) ²	Any additional comments (e.g. duration of licences)
												national territory. Licence expiry: 11/05/2021. Service: Pay-tv.
MLT	1	DVB-T, 64-QAM	2/3	1/16	Fixed		-	-	6 SD MPEG2			Coverage: >95% of national territory. Service: Broadcasting meeting general interest objectives (free-to-air)

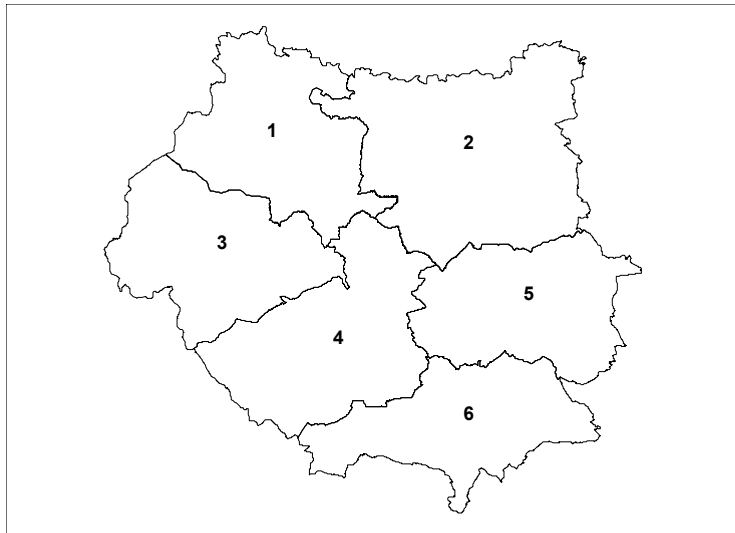
ANNEX 2

Suggested presentation of reply to Question 5: *What frequencies/channels are currently used or intended to be used by digital terrestrial television broadcasting in your country? Please distinguish between those in use and those intended to be used.*

If allotments/SFNs are in use, a sketch map of frequency allocations could be included, with an accompanying table of allocations, as shown in Annex 2.

Otherwise, it might be possible to show main transmitters and channels, grouped in layers, in a table.

Please indicate how many digital television assignments/allotments use channels in the frequency sub-band 694-790 MHz (as indicated in Resolution **232 (WRC-12)**), and how many are in the remaining part of the UHF band.



Area	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Layer 4	Layer 5	Layer 6	Layer 7
1	27	37	39	44	54	56	66
2	23	69	38	-	57	56	-
3	23	69	43	-	57	52	-
4	30	32	39	61	35	52	68
5	21	28	31	45	48	50	-
6	60	-	33	32	49	67	65

ANNEX 3

Suggested form of presentation of reply to Question 11: *What is the minimum amount of spectrum you foresee that will be required for digital terrestrial television broadcasting in Bands IV & V, if plans in Questions 8, 9 and 10 are to be supported, and services identified in Questions 6 and 7 are to be taken into account? Please indicate the modes of transmission that will be used, and timeframes.*

One example methodology showing how spectrum requirements can be calculated from the different parameters using a set of assumptions can be found in Doc. [6A/59](#) submitted to WP 6A and which is currently under debate in this Working Party.

A sample response is shown for guidance only.

Country	No of multiplexes	System & modulation	FEC	GI	Reception mode ³	Capacity per multiplex (Mb/s)	Intended percentage population coverage	Content per multiplex	Total capacity (Mb/s)	Total spectrum bandwidth needed (MHz) ⁴	Any additional comments including time frames
XX	6	DVB-T2, 256-QAM	2/3	1/128	Fixed	40.20	99.2%	7 HD MPEG4	187.0		1 now, 5 more from 2020
	2	DVB-T2, 16-QAM	1/2	1/8	Fixed	13.1	90%	2 HD MPEG4			1 in 2013, 1 more from 2020
YY	4	DVB-T2, 64-QAM	2/3	1/4	Portable indoor	22.6	60%	15 SD MPEG4	90.4		1 from 2013 2 more from 2015, 1 more from 2020
ZZ	4	DVB-T2, 256-QAM	2/3	1/128	Fixed	40.20	99.2%	7 HD MPEG4	160.8		1 from 2013 2 more from 2015, 1 more from 2020

³ E.g. fixed, portable outdoor/mobile, portable indoor.

⁴ Refer Sections 2 and 3 on page 1 of this circular.