

**ITU Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS Regions on  
Spectrum Management and Broadcasting**

*Virtual event*

**1 July 2020**

***Opening Remarks***

**Mario Maniewicz  
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Dr Peter Vári, Deputy Director General, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH), Hungary,

Colleagues from Europe and CIS Regions,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you all to this Regional Seminar for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on Spectrum Management and Broadcasting, which is organized by the International Telecommunication Union, with the support of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary (NMHH). I am pleased to note that almost 300 stakeholders, including over 40 speakers, from around 50 countries will be joining us during these two days to e-meet, learn, share and innovate.

Europe and the CIS have some of the most advanced economies in the world. This is also reflected in terms of access to and use of ICTs. The ITU Facts and Figures Report shows that Europe is the region with the highest Internet usage rates, having 88 per cent of individuals connected, and a 99 per cent mobile network coverage through 3G or higher networks. The numbers in CIS are also impressive, with 72 per cent of individuals using the internet and 88 per cent of mobile broadband coverage.

The connectivity in Europe and CIS and the digital technologies have proven to be instrumental to economies and societies during this COVID-19 pandemic. They enabled people to work from home, helped school children stay in school through e-learning tools and helped people to access critical medical services through telemedicine and other technology-led solutions.

At ITU we are making full use of technology to ensure our key meetings and events (such as this one) go virtual and we continue delivering to the expectations of our Members. It is in this context, and within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe and CIS, that we hold this Regional event.

The Seminar will discuss the outcomes of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19), the implementation plans at both regional and national levels, and the priorities of the region in preparation for WRC-23.

As you know, WRC-19 opened up the opportunity for introducing innovative and advanced services in the field of telecommunications. It has paved the way for new and more innovative ways to connect the world using both terrestrial and space-based communication technologies. The agreements we reached at the conference can favourably impact the lives of billions of people around the world, creating a digital landscape for sustainable growth and development. This seminar will explore the policies and best practices to foster and implement these wireless innovations in Europe and CIS.

WRC-19 identified additional globally harmonized (millimetre wave) frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), including IMT-2020 (otherwise known as 5G mobile), facilitating diverse usage scenarios for enhanced mobile broadband, massive machine-type communications and ultra-reliable and low-latency communications. This will unlock a host of applications facilitating Intelligent Transport Systems, creating smart cities and making communities more sustainable while allowing for effective climate action, improved health care, sustainable agricultural practices, and greater energy efficiency. This Seminar will examine the issues related to spectrum management and the challenges in national 5G implementation, as well as the economics of spectrum utilization in the context of 5G.

Finally, the Seminar will explore the future challenges to be addressed in digital broadcasting, and in spectrum management in general, in Europe and CIS regions.

The digital revolution is continuously opening doors to a variety of new spectrum applications that are spurring greater interest in, and demand for, the limited spectrum resource. Increased demand requires that spectrum be used efficiently and that effective spectrum management processes be implemented.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You have a very heavy agenda before you. So, let me conclude by thanking the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary for collaborating with ITU in organizing this virtual seminar. Please let me also extend my special thanks to the regional telecommunication organizations, including RCC, CEPT as well as BEREC for their excellent cooperation and their continuous support to the ITU.

At the same time, I would like to note that this seminar is a real example of excellent cross-sectoral collaboration between the ITU Radiocommunication and the Development Sectors, which continue to support each other in building national and regional human capacities and strengthening the enabling role of ICTs, including those relying on wireless systems, to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We, at the ITU, believe these discussions are of utmost importance and I assure you that you can count on the BR to support your initiatives on spectrum management and activities towards advancing the WRC-23 preparatory process.

I wish you very fruitful discussions.

Thank you.