

EBU

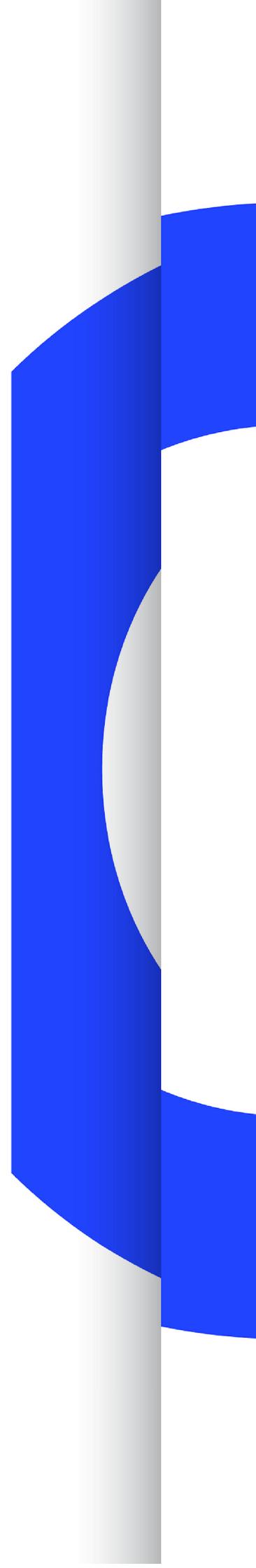
OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

R 138

DIGITAL RADIO DISTRIBUTION IN EUROPE

Recommendation
Source: SP-DRP

Geneva
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Recommendation for Digital Radio Distribution in Europe

EBU Committee	First Issued	Revised	Re-issued
TC	2013		

Keywords: DAB, DAB+, DRM, RadioDNS

The EBU, considering that,

1. Radio is of vital cultural importance throughout Europe;
2. Radio is consumed by the vast majority of Europeans every week;
3. Radio is consumed at home, at work and on the move;
4. Terrestrial broadcast delivery is the only free-to-air and cost-effective method for truly mobile reception, particularly in cars;
5. AM radio listening is declining in Europe due to issues of poor quality and accessibility;
6. FM radio is constrained by a lack of available spectrum in all developed markets;
7. DAB and DRM are openly specified, complementary, digital radio standards that meet the needs of Europe's radio broadcasters. In addition, they are proven to be energy efficient;
8. Multi-standard chips for digital radio decoding are available from many major manufacturers which enable radios to be built that decode FM, DAB and DRM;
9. Digital terrestrial radio standards are already in use in Europe with different countries at different stages of deployment;
10. Radio broadcasters are not all the same; whilst most EBU members are public service broadcasters with a variety of national and regional services, there are also private broadcasters of varying sizes, and community broadcasters.

Recommends that,

1. The needs of all radio services in a country be considered when making plans for the digitisation of radio, including future service expansion, the available spectrum, and the cost effectiveness of different standards for different services;
2. Immediate deployment be done using DAB transmission as defined in ETSI EN 300 401 with DAB+ services as defined in ETSI TS 102 563 for digital radio broadcasting in VHF Band III;
3. When DAB coverage is not possible, to use DRM as defined in ETSI ES 201 980 for digital radio broadcasting in the frequency bands currently used for analogue radio broadcasting;
4. Digitisation is accompanied by the deployment of enhanced features, such as text, images and programme guides to keep radio relevant in the digital age;
5. Hybrid radio services are deployed with digital broadcasting systems (for example using RadioDNS);
6. Harmonisation in the timetable for deployment of digital radio across Europe, including a target date for the switch-off of analogue radio, would create a greater momentum and market take-up.