

Doc. 22/2014

RESOLUTION OF THE IAB 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND DIGITAL DIVIDEND

WHEREAS:

In recent years the public authorities of various countries have allotted numerous frequency bands to telecommunication services to the detriment of broadcasting services

CONSIDERING:

- 1) That the use of frequency bands by broadcasting services is essential for the people to receive good quality information and entertainment;
- 2) That the International Telecommunication Union – ITU, at its Radiocommunication Conferences, has approved agreements that lead to the reallocation of frequency bands used for broadcasting until now, that will be used by telecommunication services, specially mobile phones;
- 3) That most Latin America countries have faced difficulties with the reallocation of the so-called 700 Mhz Band (698-806 MHz), causing difficulties for broadcasting services, in detriment of general population that in many locations may be deprived of the reception of free, over-the-air broadcast services, while those bands go to paid telecommunication services;
- 4) That in various countries the possibility of a new allocation of frequency bands known as “Second Digital Dividend” is under discussion, which would mean a new allocation of UHF frequency (470-694/698 MHz) for telecommunication services;
- 5) That this new allocation is being proposed as a sharing between digital television services and broadband services, although such sharing is not technically feasible, which implies supervening difficulties for its use for broadcasting;
- 6) That such matter is being studied by CITELE and ITU, and shall be decided at the World Radiocommunication Conference in November 2015;
- 7) That there is controversy and conflicting positions among the countries of the administrative regions regulated by ITU, some administrations speak out against this new reallocation of frequencies, and others have a favorable position, within the latter, we can mention those from North America;

- 8) That the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), organization that groups: IAB – International Association of Broadcasting; ABU – Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union; ASBU – Arab States Broadcasting Union; AUB – African Union of Broadcasting; CBU – Caribbean Broadcasting Union; EBU – European Broadcasting Union; NABA – North American Broadcasters Association and OTI – Ibero-American Telecommunication Association, have already jointly expressed to be against this new proposal for reallocation of frequencies, known as “Second Digital Dividend”.

THE 44 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTING - IAB - MEETING IN PANAMA CITY, RESOLVES:

1. To request the authorities of the Member States of the ITU to preserve the spectrum allocated to broadcasting and to continue their efforts for the allocation of new bands that will be needed for the expansion and development of broadcasting services.
2. To request the authorities of the countries in the three Americas to state their position against alterations to the current allocation of the band 470-698 MHz (Table of Frequency Allocations, see Article 5, Radio Regulations ITU), to CITEL, an OAS body, as well as to the ITU itself, during the various preparatory meetings and the World Radiocommunication Conference in November 2015.

Panama City, October 11, 2014.