

European Broadcasting Union Technical Assembly

Pre-recorded video message

Opening Remarks

13 June 2024

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union, it is my honor to speak at this esteemed annual meeting of the European Broadcasting Union's Chief Technical Officers.

ITU and EBU have a long history of partnership and collaboration in matters related to Radio and Television broadcasting. This partnership and collaboration are a cornerstone for innovation and development in the world of broadcasting, driving forward advancements in several key areas such as Spectrum Management, Digital Broadcasting, Technology and Standards Development, Capacity building and knowledge sharing, which benefits not only Europe but the global community.

I wish to acknowledge the active participation of the delegation from the EBU at the recently concluded World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23). Your presence and contributions at WRC-23 played a significant role in representing the interests of public broadcasters.

At WRC-23, ITU Member States resolved that, until at least 2031, broadcasting remains the only primary service within the 470-694 MHz UHF band, which is critical for digital terrestrial television (DTT) and related applications. This extended period provides broadcasters, broadcast network operators, programme creators, special events providers, and consumers, with the stability needed to plan and invest in future broadcasting technologies, such as 5G Broadcast.

Furthermore, manufacturers now have the required clarity to be able to continue to develop and produce equipment used by professional media in the UHF band, both for distribution and production of content. Likewise, national administrations can continue to rely on ITU-R procedures to coordinate their own national priorities in wireless services with neighboring administrations, for better efficiency and mutual protection.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

EBU's contribution to the ITU-R Study Groups and Regional Radiocommunication conferences on broadcasting has been invaluable.

From 2003 – 2006, EBU greatly assisted ITU administrations of Region 1 in preparing for and running the RRC-04 and RRC-06 planning conferences for digital television and sound broadcasting. The EBU was actively involved in sharing studies, establishing the technical basis for the GE06 Plan, and developing the planning software. In subsequent years, EBU has always assisted national regulators and broadcasters, especially from developing countries, in their transitions to digital broadcasting.

Your experts currently chair several Working Parties and Sub-Working Groups in Study Group 6 (Broadcasting): WP6C (Programme production and quality assessment), SWG6A-1 (Television), SWG6A-4 (Protection of broadcasting), SWG6A-5 (Other issues). They are also Vice-Chairs of SG6 and Members of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group.

I am informed that between 2019 and 2023, EBU made 76 technical contributions (in 8 block meetings) to ITU-R Study Groups, including joint contributions with other sector members.

Last, but certainly not least, the EBU was part of the ITU-R Working Party 6C, the committee that developed the radiocommunication standard for the High Dynamic Range Television (HDR-TV) that won the 2023 Engineering, Science & Technology Emmy Award.

Winning an Emmy is an enormous accomplishment that makes the ITU very proud. The award is a testament to the remarkable innovation, collaboration, and relentless pursuit of excellence within ITU Radiocommunication Study Groups. I commend EBU for its contribution to the HDR-TV standard.

Dear Participants,

The impact of our partnership is profound. It enables a more informed, entertained, and connected world.

As we look to the future, ITU is committed to continuing this fruitful partnership and to set the stage for the next wave of innovations in broadcasting.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.