

Approval of the Frequency Plan

The Council of the Communications Regulatory Authority has approved today -upon President Corrado Calabrò report- a document for the revision of the national television frequency allocation plan for digital technology.

The document, which will be subject to consultation together with the public concessionaire and the representative associations of national and local broadcasters, is intended to guarantee, in a less rigid way than in the past, an efficient and pluralistic use of the frequencies, a uniform coverage and a rational distribution of resources between parties operating on national and local level, with the saving clause for the latter.

For a more efficient use of the radio-electric spectrum, the usage of the isofrequential technology is in particular foreseen. It'll allow to maximise the use of resources at the advantage of all operators in the sector.

The document adopts the decision of the 2006 Geneva Agreement in the perspective to harmonize the more efficient use of the resources assigned to our Country with neighbouring countries. It will boost a rearrangement of the national situation leading it to compliance with international agreements.

The document foresees concrete steps for the quick implementation of the allocation plan in Sardinia, which will be a pilot case for the national implementation of the plan.

The Authority will complete the interventions in its competence timely in order to allow their efficient application in Sardinia before the deadline for the switch-off of March 2008.

In the same meeting today the Council of the Authority has examined the guidelines for the approval of the disciplinary action regarding the disposal of 40% of the transmission capacity of digital terrestrial networks.

The disciplinary action will be permanently enacted by September – in line with the development of the process of frequency planning.

The Council of AGCOM, regarding the development of digital terrestrial television, has also considered the numeration to apply to the automatic ordering of channels.

The Authority will have the task to define the guidelines on the numeration, taking into account the habits and preferences of the audience, simplicity of use and non-discrimination towards content suppliers and broadcasters.

Rome, 2 August 2007