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## Press Release

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# Coexistence in spectrum policy: the cornerstone for a ‘Connected Continent’

European Commission Vice-President Neelie Kroes’ ‘Connected Continent’ proposal offers an opportunity to get future European spectrum policy right on track. The European Forum for Spectrum Coexistence (EFSC) emphasises coexistence as an important focal point for getting the proposal right. Furthermore, it underscores the vital role of coexistence between new and existing radio equipment to avoid interruption of essential services due to unwanted interference, as discussed today at the European Parliament, in a conference hosted and moderated by MEP Catherine Trautmann (S&D, FR).

Harmful interference of new spectrum uses with existing radio services can result in lost broadband connections or TV signals, disruption of a live performance, emergency services not being available, and loss of radio signal creating dangerous situations for the railway system or affecting the traffic regularity. It is essential that radio spectrum allocation policy takes into account the potential impact of new radio services on already existing equipment while ensuring that the concept of coexistence is embedded in pan-European thinking.

The EFSC calls upon the European Commission to pursue comprehensive impact assessments on this issue and to provide Member States with clear policy recommendations, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, in order to ensure quality connectivity for all consumers and businesses.

**MEP Catherine Trautmann (S&D, FR)** commented *“Networks govern the lives of the citizens of our modern and connected Europe. A jobs and growth agenda is nothing without connectivity - whether it is communication networks or transport networks whose safety and reliability are of paramount importance. We are optimists that the ‘Connected Continent’ package contains tools to address not only better connectivity for Europeans, but also to ensure new and existing technologies can work together for a better Europe.”*

**CER Executive Director Libor Lochman** said: *“It is essential that adequate conditions for the coexistence of railway communication devices and public mobile networks (GSM and wideband technologies) are established to ensure safe and uninterrupted train operations in Europe.”*

**Chairman of the ZVEI Consumer Electronics Division Hans Wienands** pointed out: *“The users expect reliable connectivity services, be it at home or while travelling. It is crucial to ensure that next generation smartphones work smoothly next to Connected TV sets, without interference of mobile broadband services and wireless or cable-based broadcast services. Therefore coexistence in a changing electromagnetic environment should be a priority for Europe”.*



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**APWPT Presidents Matthias Fehr and Dré Klaassen highlighted:** *“While the professional event production is operated for decades in the radio spectrum, it is not asking too much to also ensure that PMSE equipment such as wireless microphones and cameras used to produce the content works free of interference, too.”*

**Pearle\*-Live Performance Europe President Catherine Baumann underlined:** *“While we welcome the aim for a connected Europe and, as a sector, will potentially also benefit from such policy, there is a great sense of urgency to create a level playing field for all, including users of wireless microphone equipment for live performances. This should result in a win-win situation for new and existing users.”*

*“To avoid interference with existing high quality broadband services is crucial for the customer experience,” commented Cable Europe Chairman Matthias Kurth. “It’s in the self interest of all stakeholders and governments to think twice on how to find technology solutions to guarantee coexistence of new and existing services. We want to enhance the necessary constructive dialogue in time to avoid discussions at the last minute.”*

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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 80 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER’s main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see [www.cer.be](http://www.cer.be)

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‘ZVEI - the German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers’ Association’ promotes the industry’s joint economic, technological and environmental policy interests on a national, European and global level. The ZVEI represents more than 1 600 companies, mostly SMEs. The sector has 840 000 employees in Germany plus 665 000 employees all over the world. In 2012 the turnover was approximately Euro 170 billion. The electrical and electronics industry is the most innovative and the second largest industry sector in Germany. Every third innovation in Germany’s manufacturing sector stems on solutions of this sector. 20 percent of all industrial R+D spending comes from this industry.

[www.zvei.org](http://www.zvei.org)



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This association promotes on an international level the efficient and demand-driven provision and use of production frequencies for professional event productions as well as safeguarding such production frequencies for the users on the long run. At present APWPT has 50 members from 12 countries. The main group are 20 professional associations whereby represent more than 25000 members.

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PEARLE\*-Live Performance Europe is the European sector and employers federation of Performing Arts and music organisations. Pearle\* represents through its members associations more than 5 000 theatres, theatre production companies, orchestras and music ensembles, opera houses, ballet and dance companies, festivals, producers, and other organisations within the live performance sector across Europe.

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Cable Europe is a trade association that groups all leading broadband cable TV operators and their national associations throughout Europe. The aim of Cable Europe is to promote and defend the industry's policies and business interests at European and international levels, and to foster cooperation among its members. The European cable TV industry services more than 107 million broadband, TV and telephony subscriptions throughout the EU 27 (delivering services to 64 million households).

[www.cable-europe.eu](http://www.cable-europe.eu)