

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate
P.O. Box 20401
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Eutelsat's response to the public consultation of the on the amendment of the national frequency plan for the 28 GHz band

Eutelsat, one of the world's leading satellite operators, would like to thank the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate for sharing and opening for comments its draft decision on the amendment of the national frequency plan for the 28GHz band.

Eutelsat appreciates that the Ministry has taken into account in the preparation of this draft decision the compatibility with existing applications and the need to avoid compromising the development of satellite services. Eutelsat also welcomes the fact this draft decision is in line with the ECC Decision (05)01. Eutelsat nonetheless encourages the Ministry to ensure the protection of fixed satellite services (FSS) in the adjacent bands. The development of the use of fixed point-to-multipoint services could indeed impact FSS earth stations.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the key role satellites play in connecting people everywhere and supporting the socio-economic development of many countries. Among other benefits, satellites present a cost-effective solution for tackling the digital divide by providing broadband access directly to remote and hard to reach areas. A wide range of entities, private and public, benefit from reliable, resilient, and secure communications services provided by satellites on land, in the air, and at sea. In many countries, satellites are being used to help expand the coverage of mobile networks to places that would not otherwise be covered. Furthermore, the integration of satellites in the 5G ecosystem will bring high throughput 5G and cloud computing services to all users, everywhere.

Among the satellite services frequency bands, the Ka-band (27.5-30 GHz uplink) is a crucial band used on more than one hundred satellites in geostationary orbit and over a thousand satellites in non-geostationary orbit globally to provide among others broadband services to consumers and enterprises. Eutelsat and satellite industry have invested a significant amount of time in the development of satellites and complete ecosystem in Ka-band, for provision of broadband access and connectivity to earth stations in motion (ESIM).

In 2020, Eutelsat launched its innovative EUTELSAT KONNECT satellite in Ka-band, a high throughput satellite capable of providing high quality broadband services over Europe and Africa. This latest-generation satellite service enables all types of users, from consumers to businesses, schools, hospitals, and governments to enjoy the social and economic opportunities that internet connectivity entails, whether they are in urban, rural or the remotest locations at affordable prices.

From 2022, Eutelsat will operate another Ka-band satellite over Europe and the Middle East, EUTELSAT KONNECT VHTS (for Very High Throughput Satellite). This satellite will provide very high-speed Internet access throughout Europe, particularly in currently underserved areas, with a service comparable to that of a fibre-optic network in terms of performance and cost. By delivering 500 Gbps instantaneously across Europe, EUTELSAT KONNECT VHTS will make a significant contribution to bridging the digital divide in the region.

A sustainable access to the 27.5-30 GHz band for satellite earth stations and satellite activities in general would facilitate the development of satellite connectivity services for all citizens and businesses, regardless of their location.

Respectfully submitted,

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