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# EU Telecommunications Package Protects the Interests of Broadcasting – Decision on Enactment Now Lies with Council

The Telecommunications Package passed today by the European Parliament is welcomed by the Media Authorities in Germany. “The European Parliament and the Council have achieved a result, that makes allowances for the interests of the Member States in the development of their national broadcasting landscapes as well as for interests in efficient use of frequencies by the telecommunications industry. The balance achieved by the compromise between the interests of the net industry and those of broadcasting deserves endorsement”, asserted Thomas Langheinrich, Head of the Directors’ Conference of the State Media Authorities (DLM).

Especially noteworthy: The Member States remain responsible for frequency administration; they will, however, be obligated to intensify coordination within Europe. Efficient administration of valuable broadcasting frequencies must be carried out under balanced consideration of commercial and public interests. Frequency policy on the European level should not compromise content regulation or the media policy of Member States. A possible harmonization of the broadcasting spectrum on a European level should only be brought about by law and not by the Commission by means of a technical implementation process; important decisions about the use of the spectrum remain then subject to the democratic processes of opinion building

#### Mitglieder:

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and responsibility. After all, international agreements such as those of the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) must be further adhered to. This does not detract from the value of existing long-term cross-border planning.

On one point, however, the European Parliament and the Council could not find agreement. This concerns the provision concerning possible limitations on access to the internet in the case of intellectual property rights infringement. On June 12, 2009 the council is expected to decide, whether it will approve the changes passed today by the European Parliament on this point, so that the new provisions on infrastructure regulation can go into effect.

“The Council and the Parliament, in complex and protracted negotiations, have spoken out for the future-oriented development potential also – and especially – of broadcasting, their achievements to the benefit of the dual broadcasting system also in Germany deserve our thanks and respect” declared Professor Wolfgang Thaenert, European Affairs Commissioner of the DLM (Directors’ Conference of the State Media Authorities). “The decision about whether the – in general – balanced provisions can soon go into affect or not now lies in the hands of the Council.”

#### **About the Directors’ Conference of the State Media Authorities (DLM)**

The Directors’ Conference of the State Media Authorities (DLM) is composed of the legal representatives (Directors, Presidents) of the 14 State Media Authorities. Since 1 January, 2008 Thomas Langheinrich– President of the State Media Authority of Baden-Wurtemberg (LFK) – has been the Chair of the Directors’ Conference of the State Media Authorities. Vice-Chairs are Manfred Helmes – State Media Authority of Rhineland-Palatinate (LMK) and Jochen Fasco – State Media Authority of Thuringia (TLM). The DLM is responsible for representing the interests of the member authorities in the area of broadcasting on the national and international levels. It maintains an exchange of information and opinions with broadcasters, deals with common matters outside of licensing and supervision in the area of audiovisual media, commissions expert opinions on questions of fundamental interest and observes and analyses channel development. For observation of developments in media policy within the European Union the DLM names a European Affairs Commissioner from among the members of the Directors’ Conference. Since March 2007 Prof. Wolfgang Thaenert – Director of the LPR Hessen (State Media Authority of Hesse) – has held the position of European Affairs Commissioner.

#### **Contact for questions regarding Media:**

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