

FM SOUND BROADCASTING SERVICES IN THE 76-88 MHz FREQUENCY BAND

The 39th Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunications (PCC.II),

CONSIDERING:

- a) that analog FM Sound Broadcasting remains an important and effective way for delivering content to large audiences;
- b) that several countries of Region 2 use and will continue to use the 76-88 MHz Band (corresponding to VHF television channels 5 and 6) for Television Broadcasting;
- c) that some countries of Region 2 will continue to use the 76-88 MHz Band for Digital Terrestrial Television after the analog television switch-off;
- d) that in some other countries of Region 2, the 76-88 MHz Band may be released after the analog television switch-off, which will occur at different times depending on national decisions;
- e) that in some countries from outside Region 2, the 76-88 MHz Band is used for analog FM Sound Broadcasting and therefore compatible receivers are already available;
- f) that some countries of Region 2 may face congestion of terrestrial Sound Broadcasting stations in the 88-108 MHz Band in various geographical areas;
- g) that some countries developed public policies for the migration of broadcasters from the AM/MW Band to the FM Sound Broadcasting Band;
- h) that to facilitate the transition from analog to digital Sound Broadcasting in a manner that ensures continuity of service, a simulcast (combined analog and digital) solution may be necessary, in addition to digital-only solutions;
- i) that Recommendation ITU-R BS.1114 addresses “Systems for terrestrial digital sound broadcasting to vehicular, portable, and fixed receivers in the frequency range 30 – 3000 MHz”;
- j) that on account of the various plans in place in Region 2 for the use of the 76-88 MHz band, consideration should be given to the need to coordinate frequencies and stations in border areas with neighboring or possibly affected administrations;
- k) that the use of FM Sound Broadcasting in the 76-88 MHz frequency band does not prevent the band’s use by any other application of the services to which it is allocated, nor does it establish any priority over those services or any applications belonging to them;

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l) the benefits for CITEL Member States of sharing experiences and completed or ongoing studies with respect to sharing and compatibility between sound and television broadcasting in the 76 to 88 MHz band;

RECOGNIZING:

that several CITEL Member States will not use the 76-88 MHz frequency band for the provision of the FM Sound Broadcasting service,

RECOMMENDS:

That the CITEL Member States that evaluate the use of the 76-88 MHz frequency band for the provision of FM Sound Broadcasting services:

- a) consider the following allocation of channels:

Frequency Band (MHz)	Channel Separation (kHz)	Number of channels
76 – 88	200	60

- b) develop, as necessary and appropriate, before deploying stations for the provision of the Sound Broadcasting service in this band, bilateral or multilateral frequency Coordination Agreements in border areas that apply both to Sound Broadcasting stations among themselves (76-88 MHz band) and to Sound Broadcasting stations with Television Broadcasting stations (76-88 MHz band).
- c) take into account existing or future bilateral or multilateral frequency Coordination Agreements for FM Sound Broadcasting stations in the 88-108 MHz band, in order to guarantee interference-free operation.
- d) if manufacturers of FM Sound Broadcasting receivers exist in their territories, consider the possibility of taking action to facilitate the production of receivers capable of tuning stations in the 76-108 MHz band.