



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market : regulatory environment, standardisation and New Approach  
Director

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Mr Brautigam / Mr Schmitz  
ADDX e.V  
Assoziation deutschsprachiger  
Kurzwellenhörer.  
Postfach 130 124  
D-40551 Düsseldorf

Subject: Your letter on powerline communications to Commissioner Liikanen

Dear Mr. Brautigam, Dear Mr. Schmitz,

Thank you for your letter dated September 30<sup>th</sup> on the subject of powerline communications. Commissioner Liikanen has passed your letter on to me and has asked me to respond on his behalf given my responsibility on new approach directives.

As you note in your letter, powerline communications have the potential to affect radio communications operating in short-wave like DRM, by increasing the level of radio frequency pollution. However, in our view it also offers a great opportunity opening up an entirely new infrastructure for the competitive supply of broadband services. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the technology has significantly evolved, which has led to much better controls with respect to interference.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, the Commission held a regulatory workshop on powerline communications. Your letter was considered by the Commission services as an input to this workshop and was made available to the attendees. The Workshop revealed concerns about short-wave radio disturbances, but also that modern powerline communications systems are comparable with other broadband systems in many respects (e.g. modulation technique, intrinsic radiation properties of wires, measured radiation characteristics) whilst the high level of spectrum pollution already seen in urban areas today is caused by other non-PLC systems.

The objectives of our work are to ensure a regulatory level playing field for all technologies, taking due account of the interests of various stakeholders, as well as the broader societal and economic interests of Europe, and to address interference concerns. Under EU law, Member States must ensure that cases of harmful interference are resolved and the negative impact of such developments is restricted to acceptable levels.

It was the view of the workshop that broadband systems will need to be dealt with in a 'holistic' manner. For that reason, the Commission issued in 2001 a mandate to the European Standardisation Organisation to develop harmonised standards for broadband systems.

The development of these standards for broadband transmission systems including powerline communications is a matter for the Joint Working Group of ETSI and CENELEC. We would take account of their standards when creating a regulatory level playing field for all stakeholders.

If you require further information please contact Mr. Brefort (tel: +32 2 2991055, [thierry.brefort@cec.eu.int](mailto:thierry.brefort@cec.eu.int)).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Evangelos Vardakas.

Evangelos Vardakas

CC: Messrs Mingasson, Montoya, Koolen(INFSO), Brefort, Bogers, Assistants, CAB