ANNEX 2

Principles

1. General principles

For DVB-T the following general principles should be taken into account:

a) Frequency Bands

The frequency bands for implementation of DVB-T in the European Broadcasting Area are 174 to 230 MHz and 470 to 862 MHz. However, the CEPT considers the frequency band 216 to 230 MHz as the core band for T-DAB in VHF.

b) Equitable access

All countries shall as far as practicable have equitable access to the frequency bands to be used for DVB-T. Therefore if coordination requests may have major implications on the development of DVB-T plans of other administrations, the requesting administration should inform the countries affected prior to sending out coordination requests.

c) Unified system values

International coordination should be based on unified system values and planning parameters throughout the planning area (this does not exclude the use of different values, on a national basis).

d) Fixed and portable reception

For the establishment of technical parameters for coordination, both fixed and portable reception should be considered.

e) Single Frequency Networks

Administrations are encouraged to use SFNs as far as practicable because of their frequency efficiency.

2. Coordination Principles

The coordination procedures needed in addition to the provisions contained in Article 4 of the Stockholm Agreement are based on the following principles:

a) Coverage definitions

Definition of coverage areas according to definitions given in Annex 1, Section 1.

b) Coordination distances

The coordination distances as given in the ST61 Plan can also be used for the coordination of digital television assignments up to 862 MHz, until further studies indicate that it is more appropriate to use other distances.

c) Test-points

If coordination is required the acceptability of an individual digital assignment or SFN will be assessed by means of calculations of the increase of interference at test points representing the coverage area of any affected individual assignment or SFN. The locations of these test points will either be defined by means of the agreed method outlined in Annex 1, Section 6, or may be specified by the administration.

d) Margin

In general, a moderate increase in interference levels for analogue and new digital stations, at agreed test points, should normally be accepted. Generally calculations will be made using Rec. ITU-R P.370 and summation by the power sum method. For certain areas these calculations will not give realistic results and other propagation models should be considered. In such cases the values given below should be used with caution.

The margin should be applied as a trigger threshold for further investigation. This means that if the increase in the usable field strength is less than the margin the new or modified station(s) should normally be accepted. An increase of more than the margin is open to negotiations, in which more detailed calculation methods may be used.

The increase in interference level is related to a reference value which is the calculated usable field strength at an agreed point in time, that is 25 July 1997, or at a later time when a new digital or analogue assignment is entered in the Plan. The usable field strength is calculated as the power sum of all the nuisance field strengths from assignments in the updated ST61 Plan and the minimum field strength for the television system and the frequency band under consideration.

The increase in usable field strength, which should normally be accepted, is 0.3 dB per request in relation to the reference value. An increase of more than 0.3 dB is open to negotiations, in which more detailed calculation methods may be used.

However, in some areas and on some channels, the usable field strength for digital stations may be low, near the minimum field strength value. In these cases, a larger value of the margin might be acceptable.

In the case of a request for an SFN, the nuisance field is calculated as the power sum of the contributions from all transmitters of this SFN.

For the protection of low-power television assignments (analogue or digital) special treatment may be needed.

e) Location of transmitters

The nominal location of the stations is given by their geographical coordinates (longitude and latitude) expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds. A change of location should always be notified unless the site remains within 2 km of the nominal location, provided that the change in topographical conditions does not substantially increase the probability of interference to the stations of other countries.