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Member of the Commission

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Statement by Erkki Liikanen

Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society

Subject: Implementation of the DAB Eureka 147 standards in the European Union in the context of World DAB's mission to Japan, November 2003

I welcome the initiative by the WorldDAB group to encourage manufacturers to enter the market for DAB receivers. As the Commissioner responsible for Enterprise and Information Society, I am a strong believer in the value of open standards, and in their effective implementation so that manufacturers are able to achieve economies of scale across the European Union's Single Market. The challenge is how to overcome the fact that broadcasting is a national responsibility – for reasons of culture and subsidiarity – whereas manufacturers need a large, simultaneous market for receivers, covering as many Member States as possible. I have launched several initiatives to help resolve this issue.

The European Commission recognises the Eureka 147 standards and has included them in a list of standards which is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.¹ Member States are required to encourage the use of standards on this list.

Radio is an important broadcasting medium which enjoys a high level of trust among European citizens. Its migration to digital is therefore important. The Commission's recent Communication on Digital Switchover includes a section on digital radio.²

¹ OJ C 331, 31.12.2002, p. 32.
[http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=52002XC1231\(02\)&model=guichett](http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=52002XC1231(02)&model=guichett)

² See section 2.1.2, final paragraph, and section 1.2.2 of COM (2003) 541 final, 17.9.2003.
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/regulatory/digital_broadcasting/index_en.htm

Moreover, I understand that future possible enhancements such as an API and return channel capability could turn DAB into a platform for Information Society services. The Commission's recent Open Platform Communication³ supports the availability of Information Society services over broadcasting platforms. The pre-condition for further technical development is a sustainable equipment market, based on effective implementation of the standard. DAB is already a sustainable equipment market in the UK, with promising initiatives by public authorities in Germany. One major Japanese electronics company has already announced DAB products. I strongly encourage other manufacturers to participate and to grow the business.

³ COM(2003) 410 final of 9.7.2003

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecommerce/useful_information/archives/communic_reports/index_en.htm