



Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico



MALTA COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico (Italy)	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
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Frequency Coordination Agreement between the Administrations of Malta and Italy for the use of radio spectrum in the 470-694 MHz band

Introduction

The purpose of this Agreement which is entered into between the Administrations of Italy and Malta (hereafter "Administrations") is to:

- (a) allow the Administrations to make available the frequency band between 694 MHz and 790 MHz ("700 MHz band") for mobile services;
- (b) facilitate the mutual clearance of digital terrestrial television ("DTT") services from the 700 MHz band through the establishment of a new frequency plan for such services, based on the principle of equitable access to radio frequencies in the 470-694 MHz band.

This Agreement describes the radio frequencies which can be used by the Administrations in their respective exclusive zone for DTT within the band 470-694 MHz. For the purpose of this Agreement the term "exclusive zone" shall have the same meaning as "coordination zone", as described in section 2 below.

This Agreement is the result of several bilateral/multilateral meetings held in a cooperative spirit in order to define an acceptable solution for all the Signatory Administrations.

1. DTT channels

The Administrations agree that in the frequency band 470-694 MHz the television channels within the exclusive zone shall be distributed as described in Annex 1 hereof.

In using these channels each Administration shall guarantee full protection and non-interference to the other Administration in relation to these channels.

2. Additional frequency assignments

The Administrations shall apply the procedures established in the GE06 Agreement to coordinate additional radio frequencies for DTT use in the 470-694 MHz band; the C/I calculations method shall be used. The requirement to apply the GE06 frequency coordination procedures shall also be respected by Italy prior making use of those shared DTT channels with Malta, as described in Annex 1 hereof.

The Administrations agree that in the planning of additional frequency assignments which fall within the coordination zone and which affect third countries, they shall cooperate with each other in reaching an agreement before end 2019, which is based on the principle of equitable access to radio frequencies.

3. Coordination zones

The coordination zones between the Administrations includes the entire territory of Malta and all administrative border of the provinces of Sicily, excluding the Provinces of Palermo and Messina as described in Annex 2.

4. Exclusive zones

As from 1 July 2022, the Administrations shall, in their exclusive zones, only establish DTT services operating on the agreed Channels, or as may be amended from time to time in accordance with the GE06 Agreement.

The Administrations shall register these Channels in the Digital Plan annexed to GE06 Agreement.

5. Transitory period

The Administrations recognize the necessity for a transition period and agree that the final date of the implementation within the coordination zone will be 30th June 2022, at the latest.

Italy agrees that it will switch off its DTT channels 50, 51, 52 and 53 in the exclusive zone during the 2021-2022 timeframe and that it will be in line with the Agreement before the 30th of June 2022 on the basis of the national roadmap that will be approved by Italy before the 30th of June 2018. For Malta to meet its 1 July 2021 milestone for allowing mobile services to make use of the 700 MHz band, Italy's release of DTT channels 50 to 53 (corresponding to the uplink part of the 2x30 MHz mobile plan) is necessary, and to be in accordance with this Agreement, Italy expects to use transitional Channels during the transitory period.

Malta agrees to switch off its DTT channels 56, 58 and 60 by 30 June 2021. Malta will allow Italy to make use of its DTT channel 60 for Italian DTT services, on a temporary basis, as from 1 July 2021. Taking into account the transitory provisions to be adopted by Italy, Malta will, subject to market demand, make available the 700 MHz band for mobile services as from 1 July 2021.

Each Administration will, in writing, inform the other Administrations at least two months before of any change in the use of the agreed frequencies.

6. Review of the Agreement

With the consent of the other Administration, this Agreement may be modified at the request of one of the Administrations where such a modification becomes necessary in the light of administrative, regulatory or technical developments.

In addition, considering that:

- a) this Agreement modifies the GE06 assignments and allotments of the Administrations; and
- b) the Administrations will have to conclude a frequency coordination agreement with the administration of Tunisia,

an Administration may also request the other Administration to review this Agreement if a provisional coordination is reached with Tunisia, which may necessitate a change to the specific DTT channels assigned as per Annex 1. In requesting such review, the Administration shall share the details of this provisional coordination with the other Administration.

In the event that such review is required, and if necessary, the Administrations shall take utmost account of those assignments and allotments that are registered in the GE06 Agreement and shall maintain an equitable distribution of DTT channels.

An Administration cannot withdraw unilaterally from this Agreement.

7. Language of the Agreement

This Agreement has been executed in triplicate in the English language, with each original being retained by each Administrations.

8. Entry into force and Execution of the Agreement

The Agreement enters into force for each Administration on the date of its signature.

Done on the 29th December 2017.

For the Administration of Malta

Edward Woods



For the Administration of Italy

Eva Spina



Annex 1 – DTT channel distribution in the exclusive zone

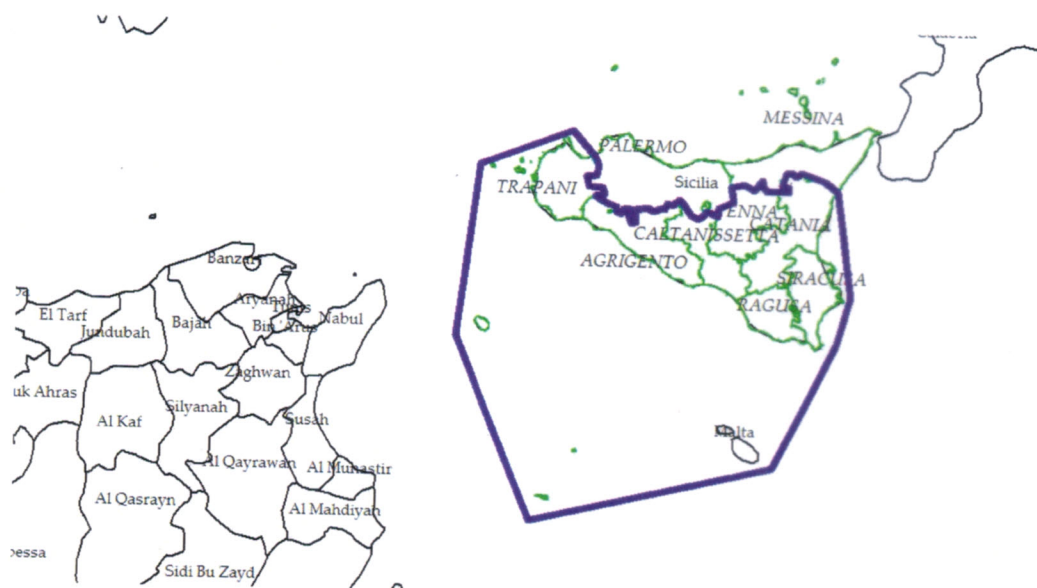
DTT channel number	Malta	Italy	Limitations
21	X		
22	X		
23	X		
24		X	To be used in the RG-SR-CT regions
25	X		
26	X		
27		X	
28	X	X	This channel can only be used by Italy in the TP region, and subject to successfully completion of the relevant coordination procedures with Malta in accordance with article 2 of this Agreement.
29		X	
30	X		
31	X	X	This channel can only be used by Italy in the TP region, and subject to successfully completion of the relevant coordination procedures with Malta in accordance with article 2 of this Agreement.
32		X	
33	X		
34		X	To be used in the TP-AG-CL-EN regions
35		X	
36		X	
37		X	
38	X		
39	X		
40		X	
41		X	To be used in the RG-SR-CT-AG-EN-CL regions
42		X	
43	X		
44		X	To be used in the RG-SR-CT-AG-EN-CL regions
45	X		
46		X	
47		X	
48		X	

Legend:

- X Exclusive use
- X Exclusive use but in the specified regions only
- X To be used by Italy and Malta on a shared basis, subject to limitations

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Annex 2 – Coordination zones



Coordination Zone between Italy and Malta