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**Clearing the Skies? The Sudden Rise of New European Spectrum Policy and the Future Challenges for Television Distribution in Finland and Spain**

The European countries originally had a shared idea about the digital dividend created by digitalization of television as 800 MHz band, which in certain aspects was different from the rest of the world. This EU-wide consensus of the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) for Europe however collapsed in 2012, as the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) suggested that besides 800 MHz band also 700 MHz band should be reallocated in Europe from broadcasting to mobile broadband. Pascal Lamy, the chairman of the High Level Group (HLG) on UHF frequency use assigned by the European Commission has recently suggested a new joint European approach, where an additional digital dividend (700 MHz band) should be given to mobile broadband across Europe by 2020 and the broadcasters would be guaranteed to have access to remaining UHF spectrum until 2030. In practice, European TV broadcasting would suddenly lose 30 percent of its spectrum capacity just in five years. This paper provides a comparative analysis of the national contexts and coming challenges in two European countries. Finland was the first EU member state to make a national decision about clearing the 700 MHz band for mobile broadband after 2017 – while Spain has been slow even with the 800 MHz band. Spain is also very dependent on terrestrial broadcasting for the distribution of digital television when compared to Finland or any other European country.