Note to the members of the Consultation Forum from the Complex Set Top Box Voluntary Agreement

First, many thanks for inviting the CSTB Voluntary Agreement to the Consultation Forum meeting on October 9th. It was a very useful meeting for us and I hope for you also.
There were a number of points raised and our responses to these are below.

Access to a greater level of detailed data in the VA reporting
Following the Consultation Forum Meeting, the CSTB VA Steering Committee met on October 24th when a proposal was made by the Chairman. Subsequent to this a conference call was held to discuss the detail. The proposal was agreed by those on the call, including Hans-Paul Siderius. Subsequently this proposal was circulated to all VA signatories with no further comments being received.

The agreement reached is to report a fully anonymised list of boxes with their claimed VA allowances and their On, Standby, APD and TEC numbers.

The anonymisation would be done by the Independent Inspector and would lead to a table with the following information:
Box aaa - Satellite - VA Functionality 2 tuners, DVR, HD, AVC - Pon - Pstandby - Papd - TEC
Box aab - Satellite - VA Functionality 3 tuners, DVR, HD, AVC, Return Path - Pon - Pstandby - Papd - TEC
Box aac - Cable - VA Functionality 2 tuners, DVR, HD, Return Path - Pon - Pstandby - Papd - TEC
Box aad - IPTV - VA Functionality 2 tuners, DVR, HD, AVC etc - Pon - Pstandby - Papd - TEC
Box aae - Terrestrial - VA Functionality 2 tuners, DVR, HD, AVC etc - Pon - Pstandby - Papd - TEC

This allows transparency of the data, which can be used, as a source for future discussions in the Steering Committee and the Consultation Forum and for measuring our progress going forward.

Auditing Procedures

As you know the Digital Interoperability Forum convened a joint meeting on November 13th between the CSTB and Imaging Equipment VAs and the Machine Tools and Medical Imaging Equipment SRIs where reporting/auditing process was discussed. The meeting agreed that in the course of the next few weeks the participants will produce reporting/auditing procedures guidelines document which will subsequently be shared and discussed with the Commission.

Tier 3

It was noted that with Tier 2 coming into force in July 2013, Tier 3 should be addressed. At the Steering Committee it was noted that the DG JRC Code of Conduct for Digital Television version 9.0 will be issued as a final draft by November 30th and should be finalised by the end of the year. The Steering Committee agreed that this would be reviewed and, if appropriate, could be used as the basis for its Tier 3.

Ambition

In addition to these points, the subject of the ambition of the values in the Voluntary Agreement was raised and I agreed to provide worked examples to demonstrate the significant tightening of TEC values between Tier 1 and Tier 2:

Tier 1
Satellite, 2 tuner device supporting Advanced Video Coding, High Definition and a PVR – TEC = 185
Cable, 2 tuner device supporting Advanced Video Coding, High Definition and a PVR and which contains a DOCSIS Modem – TEC = 255
Terrestrial single tuner device, Advanced Video Coding and High Definition with a return path – TEC = 145

For Tier 2 the allowance limits for technologies are reduced and High Definition and Advanced Video Coding become part of the base, so, for the same devices under Tier 2:

Tier 2
Satellite, 2 tuner device supporting Advanced Video Coding, High Definition and a PVR – TEC = 100
Cable, 2 tuner device supporting Advanced Video Coding, High Definition and a PVR and which contains a DOCSIS Modem – TEC = 150

Terrestrial single tuner device, Advanced Video Coding and High Definition with a return path – TEC = 80

These points will be added to the agenda for further discussion at the next CSTB VA Steering Committee.

I trust this provides the feedback you required.

Best Regards
David Daniels
Chair VA for CSTBs Steering Committee