

Detailed plan for the cessation of terrestrial analogue transmissions - Switch-off Plan (SOP)

The European Commission, in its Communication of 2005, gave 2012 as the deadline for the termination of terrestrial analogue television broadcasts within the European Union.

To this end, it was nevertheless deemed necessary to provide for the analogue-digital transition of the terrestrial platform, which has been conducted in the various Member States in different ways and according to different schedules, depending on the national context - in many cases this process is still ongoing.

It should be noted that the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) is designed, above all, to replace analogue terrestrial television with digital broadcasting, enabling conditions by which more and better television services can be provided to users and enabling more efficient use of the radio spectrum, a scarce public resource. The decision to make this switch is one that is happening in nearly every country in the world, given the advantages derived from this transition, especially the advantage that it frees up a set of frequencies, which has been called the digital dividend and whose importance is recognized by most bodies and entities in Europe and elsewhere.

In this context, after a public consultation held in 2007 on the most fitting model for the introduction of DTT and the subsequent launch in 2008 of public tenders for the operation of the network and a new service of unrestricted free-to-air television programme services, it can be considered that the transition process itself began in Portugal on 9 December 2008 with the issue of the allocation of the right of use of frequencies for the provision of the Digital Terrestrial Television service, associated with Multiplexer A.

Network deployment began immediately and DTT started to become available to part of the population as early as 2009, currently enabling the service of digital reception in Standard Definition, but with better picture and sound quality than provided by the analogue system. The service made available comprised the four existing nationwide unrestricted free-to-air television programme services (RTP 1, RTP 2, SIC and TVI), as well as the regional services (RTP RTP Azores and Madeira). Access is also provided to an Electronic Program Guide and (depending on the reception equipment used) to the use of a set of features such as recording and pausing of transmissions.

There is also a possibility of making a fifth television programme service available, to be licensed, and of high definition unrestricted free-to-air television programme services, in non-simultaneous mode until the closure of analogue television broadcasting, which services are not yet operational.

Meanwhile, Resolution of the Council of Ministers No 26/2009 (RCM), published on 17 March, determined that the cessation of analogue terrestrial television broadcasts throughout the national territory shall take place no later than 26 April 2012.

This date was based on the assumptions that, at the end of fourth quarter of 2010, the digital network would be deployed ensuring 100% coverage of the population, as provided for in the right of use of frequencies associated with Multiplexer A and that there should be a period of simultaneous terrestrial analogue and digital broadcasting, for a period that, to minimize the impact of transition on consumers, should be no less than 12 months.

Having met these requirements, ICP-ANACOM shall, on the established due date, recover currently allocated rights of use of frequencies for the provision of publically available television programme services provided using analogue technology, which recovery is made without any charges. In this context, the same RCM determines that ICP-ANACOM shall, as part of its remit of managing the spectrum, prepare a detailed plan of the termination of the terrestrial analogue transmissions of each transmitter station or relay (hereinafter Switch-Off Plan - SOP), in respect of which shall be heard, specifically, the holder of the right of use of frequencies for the digital terrestrial television broadcasting service, associated with Multiplexer A, holders of rights of use of frequencies for the terrestrial analogue television broadcasting service and the respective operators of the transport and distribution network of the analogue terrestrial television signal (paragraph 2 of the RCM)

Whereas the SOP may be published in whole or in phases, it is considered that, in the interests of greater transparency and with a view to the preparation of the population for the analogue-digital transition, the SOP should be published in full, although it is planned that the cessation of analogue terrestrial transmissions shall occur in phases.

Since this SOP embodies the exercise of ICP-ANACOM's powers and responsibilities in respect of its remit of managing the spectrum and as a measure with significant impact on the relevant market, it was made object to the general consultation procedure pursuant to article 8, paragraph 1 of Law No 5/2004 of 10 February.

Additionally, in compliance with paragraph 2 of the RCM and articles 100 and 101 of the Administrative Proceeding Code, the following entities were notified, to comment if they saw fit, PT Comunicações, S.A., Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, S.A. (RTP), a SIC, Sociedade Independente de Comunicação, S.A. and TVI, Televisão Independente, S.A.

These consultation procedures were undertaken and the respective report published.

In this context, termination of analogue terrestrial television transmissions shall occur according to the following schedule:

1st Phase - 12 January 2012

Coastal area of the mainland territory

Transmitters and relays listed in Annex 1, which substantially provide coverage of the coastal area of the mainland territory, as marked in Annex 2 of the tender specifications of the public tender for the allocation of a right of use of frequencies on a national basis for the digital terrestrial television broadcasting service, as approved by Regulation 95-A/2008 of 25 February. This is reproduced in Annex 1 of this SOP for ease of viewing, except, however, the transmitters of Monte da Virgem, Montejunto, Marão and Lousã, which cannot be turned off because they cover areas and feed relays that are outside this coastal area.

Since it is not feasible to disconnect all stations simultaneously, in a first phase, on 12 January, transmitters will be switched off which do not supply any relay installed outside this area, namely São Macário, Reguengo do Fetal, Lisboa, Palmela and Fóia and the relays which are supplied by the transmitters of Monte da Virgem, Montejunto, Marão and Lousã. Seven days later the relays supplied by transmitters which were switched off will themselves be switched off, and will therefore stop transmitting on 12 January.

In this regard, reference is also made to the point concerning the termination of terrestrial analogue transmission in pilot areas, since in this context some of the relays listed in Annex 1 will be deactivated in 2011.

2nd Phase - 22 March 2012

Autonomous Regions of Azores and Madeira

Transmitters and relays of the Autonomous Region of the Azores (listed in Annex 2) and of Madeira (listed in Annex 3).

To ensure fairness in the treatment of the Autonomous Regions, cessation of analogue terrestrial transmissions should occur on the same date.

It is not feasible that all stations are disconnected at the same time, whereas, in a first phase, the 5 transmitters of the Azores and the transmitter in Madeira will be switched off on 22 March. In the Autonomous Region of the Azores, and since the transmitters are spread over eight islands, they should be shut down within the 15 subsequent days, while in Madeira the relays shall be switched off within 7 subsequent days.

3rd Phase - 26 April 2012

Remaining mainland territory

Transmitters and relays listed in Annex 4. It is not feasible that all stations are disconnected at the same time, whereas, in a first phase, the 11 transmitters installed in this area will be switched off, on 22 March, as well as the transmitters that could not be switched off in the first phase. Within the subsequent seven days the relays will be switched off.

Note on the 1st and 3rd Phase

It should be noted that the coastal coverage area (shown in Annex 1) of the mainland (shown in Annex 1), with respect to the 1st phase of the switch-off, or the rest of mainland Portugal, with respect to the 3rd phase of the switch-off represent only approximate coverage areas of the set of transmitters and relays to be switched off in the respective phases, whereby, due to the nature of the terrestrial broadcasting service, these areas cannot be considered wholly accurate in geographic terms. In this context, users, when in doubt, should always check, if necessary with the help of a specialist technician, which

analogue station is actually providing the signal they receive, depending on the pointing of their aerial, in order to ascertain the exact date on which reception will cease, according to this SOP.

Termination of analogue terrestrial transmissions in pilot zones

Given the social sensitivity of a process of termination of analogue terrestrial transmissions and the delicacy of this operation, ICP-ANACOM takes the view that it is fitting, prior to the three phases detailed above, to cease analogue transmission of certain specific relays in pilot zones to be determined, which should take place in the first and second quarters of 2011. This kind of approach in limited zones, where there is greater ability to control any adverse conditions, will help to refine the procedures preparing for the termination of analogue terrestrial transmissions throughout the territory, thereby minimizing the risks associated with such an operation.

This is also an approach that helps raise awareness among the entire population as to the naturalness and irreversibility of the complete closure of analogue terrestrial television, which will culminate on 26 April 2012.

Therefore, relays fulfilling the following conditions are deemed eligible for this pilot phase: (i) cessation of analogue transmissions is easy to carry out in operational terms; (ii) cessation of analogue broadcasting takes place in well-defined areas with terrain which significantly impedes, following the shutdown of the transmitter in question, reception of TV transmissions from alternative analogue stations still in operation; (iii) that the population covered¹, with respect to each of the relays identified, does not exceed 150,000 inhabitants; and (iv) that on the switch-off date of the analogue transmitter, the population has been served for at least one year by digital terrestrial television broadcasting (simulcast).

The operator authorized to provide the digital terrestrial television broadcasting service and the television operators responsible for the organization of unrestricted free-to-air television programme services will be fully involved in defining the sets of relays involved in the pilot and the respective dates of the switch-off, which details shall be the subject of a specific determination in the context of and subsequent to the approval of the SOP.

¹ Estimates based on data from INE (Statistics Portugal) (2001 Census).

Having identified the areas in which the pilots will be conducted, local authorities and other relevant local bodies will be involved in the preparation of the operation and timely information campaigns will be directed at the population involved.

Pursuant to and in compliance with paragraph 3 of the RCM, the plan of the present phase will be published not less than three months prior to the switch-off date of the analogue terrestrial transmission of each station or each relay that will be identified.

ANNEX 1

STATIONS OF THE COASTAL ZONE

TRANSMITTERS

SÃO MACÁRIO

REGUENGO DO FETAL

LISBOA - MONSANTO

PALMELA

FOIA MONCHIQUE

RELAYS

CALDAS DE VIZELA

CALDAS VIZELA II

SANTO TIRSO

AMARANTE

GONDAR

STA MARTA PENAGUIÃO

FOZ

VALONGO

VILA NOVA DE GAIA

SÃO DOMINGOS

LAMEGO

LALIM

CALDAS DE AREGOS

RESENDE

ANCEDE

RIO ARDA
STA MARIA DA FEIRA
AROUCA
VALE DE CAMBRA
COVAS DO MONTE
VOUZELA
VISEU
CEDRIM
PRÉSTIMO
MORTÁGUA
AVÔ
CIDREIRA
LORVÃO
PENACOVA
BENFEITA
VILA NOVA DE CEIRA
MALHADA
CANEIRO
COIMBRA
CEIRA
VALE DE AÇOR
CEIRA DOS VALES
PADRÃO
SENHORA DO CIRCO
ESPINHAL
CASTANHEIRA DE PERA

POMBAL
AVELAR
ALVAIAZERE
LEIRIA
CARANGUEJEIRA
NAZARÉ
OURÉM
ALCARIA
CANDEEIROS
TOMAR
MIRA DE AIRE
SOBRAL DA LAGOA
VALE DE SANTARÉM
ALENQUER
SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO
CABEÇÃO
CORUCHE
MALVEIRA
CARVALHAL
CHELEIROS
SINTRA
CACÉM
ODIVELAS
ESTORIL
BARCARENA
AREEIRO

GRAÇA

MONTEMOR-O-NOVO

CAPARICA

SESIMBRA

ALCÁCER DO SAL

MELIDES

SANTIAGO DO CACÉM

CERCAL DO ALENTEJO

ODEMIRA

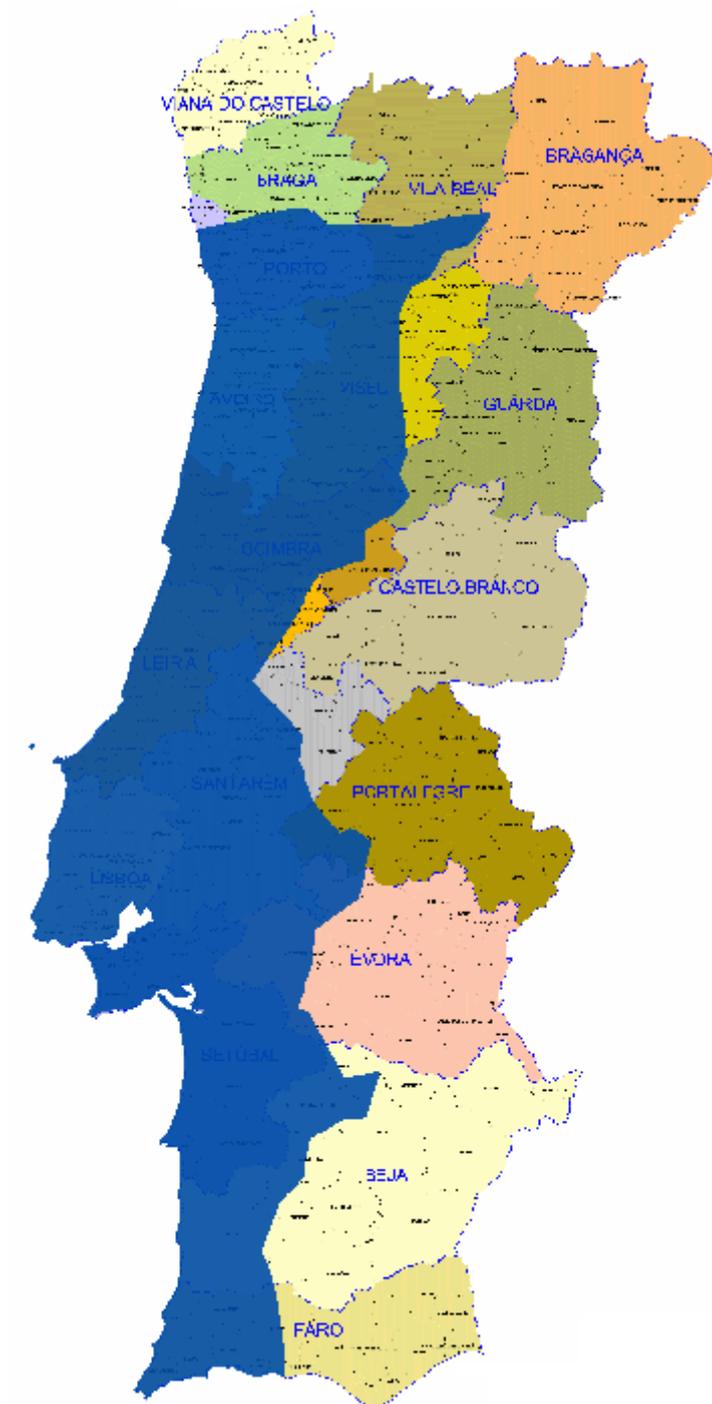
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ALJEZUR

MONCHIQUE

SILVES

Approximate coastal area of the mainland affected by the 1st phase of the Switch-Off



ANNEX 2

STATIONS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE AZORES

ILHA DE SANTA MARIA

PICO ALTO

MAIA

MALBUSCA

SÃO LOURENÇO

ILHA DE SÃO MIGUEL

PICO DA BARROSA

PICO BARTOLOMEU

FAIAL DA TERRA

POVOAÇÃO

FURNAS

RIBEIRA QUENTE

SANTO ANTÓNIO NORDESTINHO

FETEIRAS

CASCALHO NEGRO

LAGOA DO PILAR

MOSTEIROS

ILHA TERCEIRA

SANTA BÁRBARA

PICO DAS CRUZES

SERRA DO CUME

QUATRO RIBEIRAS

MATIAS SIMÃO

SERRETA

ILHA DE SÃO JORGE

VELAS

ILHA DA GRACIOSA

PICO DO JARDIM

PICO TIMÃO

ILHA DO PICO

CALHETA DE NESQUIM I

CALHETA DE NESQUIM II

PICO DO GERALDO

PONTAS NEGRAS

CASTELETE

ILHA DO FAIAL

CABEÇO GORDO

ESPALHAFATOS

ESPALAMACA

PICO VERDE

ILHA DAS FLORES

MORRO ALTO

PONTA RUIVA

FAZENDA DE SANTA CRUZ

MONTE DAS CRUZES

ROCHA DO TOURO

FAZENDA DAS LAJES

PICO DO FACHIAL

FAJÃZINHA

ANNEX 3

STATIONS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MADEIRA

ILHA DA MADEIRA

PICO DO SILVA

PICO DO AREEIRO

PICO DO FACHO

GAULA

PICO DE ÁGUA

PICO DA CRUZ

CABO GIRÃO

CURRAL DAS FREIRAS

PEDRA MOLE

PONTA DO SOL

CURRAL DAS FREIRAS

PICO DO ARCO DA CALHETA

CALHETA

PAÚL DO MAR

FAJÃ DA OVELHA

TERÇA

PORTO MONIZ

RIBEIRA DA JANELA

PONTA DELGADA

ENCUMEADA

PICO DO ARCO DE SÃO JORGE

PORTELA

ILHA DE PORTO SANTO

PORTO SANTO

ANNEX 4

REMAINING STATIONS OF THE MAINLAND TERRITORY

TRANSMITTERS

MONTE DA VIRGEM

MARÃO

LOUSÃ

MONTEJUNTO

SÃO MIGUEL

MENDRO

SÃO MAMEDE

GARDUNHA

MOSTEIRO

MAROFA

BORNES

BRAGANÇA - NOGUEIRA

LEIRANCO

MURO

VALENÇA

RELAYS

ALBUFEIRA

ODELEITE

CACHOPO

VAQUEIROS

ALCOUTIM I

ALCOUTIM II
GUERREIROS DO RIO
ALMODÔVAR
MERTOLA
CORTE DO PINTO
ATALAIA-BEJA
PARDAIS
VILA BOIM
ELVAS
CAMPO MAIOR
PONTE DE SOR
PORTALEGRE
SÃO JULIÃO
PORTAGEM
CASTELO DE VIDE
BELVER I
BELVER II
MOURISCAS
CARVOEIRO
PENEDO GORDO
SERTÃ
ALVITO DA BEIRA
ALVARES
ALMACEDA
PAMPILHOSA DA SERRA
MALHADA II

CABRIL
MACHIALINHO
CORTIÇADA
PORTELA DE UNHAIS
SILVARES
FAJÃO
BARROCA GRANDE
RELVAS
PIODÃO
PENAMACOR
ALVOCO DAS VÁRZEAS
VIDE
BARRIOSA
LORIGA
VALEZIM
MANTEIGAS
SAMEIRO
VALHELHAS
GAIA (GONÇALO)
MAÇAINHAS
ALDEIA VIÇOSA
OUTEIRO DE GATOS
MOIMENTA DA BEIRA
SÃO LOURENÇO
BARCA D'ALVA
FREIXO

PIROCÃO
SEIXAS DO DOURO
VALENÇA DO DOURO
ALFÂNDEGA DA FÉ
MIRANDELA
MIRANDA DO DOURO
BRAGANÇA - SÃO BARTOLOMEU
RIO DE ONOR
FRUTUOSO - SEIXO
VILA POUÇA DE AGUIAR
CIDADELHE
BRAGADO
VILAR DE PERDIZES
RIBEIRA DE PENA
MONTALEGRE
CERVA
TOURÉM
CERDEIRA
CABRIL - MONTALEGRE
VIEIRA DO MINHO
GERÊS
VILARINHO
PÓVOA DE LANHOSO I
POVOA DE LANHOSO II
GUIMARÃES - PENHA
BRAGA

CALDELAS

BARROSELAS

ALTO DO GALEÃO

PERRE - MADORRA

PONTE DE LIMA

ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ

GIÃO

GAVIEIRA

MELGAÇO

PODAME

SISTELO

PAREDES DE COURA

COVAS

MONTE GÓIS

CAMINHA

MONTEADOR