



Cable Europe

Cable Europe comments on the European Consultation on Directive 98/84/EC on the protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access.

4 April 2008

Cable Europe and its members welcome the Commission's consultation on the Conditional Access Directive (CAD).

Cable Europe, the European Cable Communications Association, groups all the leading European cable TV operators and their national trade associations throughout Europe. The aim of Cable Europe is to promote and defend the industry's policies and business interests at European and international level, and to foster co-operation among its members. The European cable TV industry provides broadband, digital TV, and telephony services to more than 70 million customers.

Accordingly, Cable Europe members have a strong interest in growth and development of digital TV and information society services in Europe and are of the view that the technical protection of these services are a fundamental element to our ability to compete in the market. Today our members allocate significant resource to conditional access technologies and are major deployers of such systems. They also have considerable experience in addressing piracy through security arrangements and, increasingly, through collaboration with other e-services providers to ensure illicit decoders and software are not made available through online digital marketplaces.

We therefore welcome the opportunity to contribute to the public debate and to underline the importance of the directive as a vital tool to ensure the economic viability of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access.

Cable Europe believes that the Commission is right to pursue a vigorous agenda against electronic piracy as this is key to ensuring Europe's competitiveness in the increasingly knowledge based economy in Europe. Conditional Access protection is a cornerstone of the audiovisual distribution services sector today and as it evolves toward new platforms and technologies.

As such we believe it is important that new and innovative conditional access technologies, like DRMs for example, are included within the current legal protection regime in implementation at national level so as to support the development of new technologies and business models.

We would also welcome efforts on the part of the Commission to increase public authorities' awareness of the issue so that a broader strategy of deterrence can be implemented at national level.

In the light of the above, we look forward to contributing further to the 2nd implementation report and remain at your disposal for any necessary clarifications.



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Cable Europe 4832