



**DIGITAL INTEROPERABILITY FORUM WELCOMES COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION ON INTEROPERABILITY OF DIGITAL INTERACTIVE
TELEVISION SERVICES**

7 February 2006

The Digital Interoperability Forum (DIF) welcomed the Commission's confirmation today that it does not propose to mandate an EU-wide technical standard to facilitate the interoperability of interactive television services.

DIF endorses the Commission's view that interoperability can be achieved where there is co-operation amongst stakeholders and that industry-led voluntary initiatives will best serve the development of interactive television; rather than the statutory imposition of a technical standard.

In this context, DIF recalls that DVB developed MHP in a consensual manner and that members and industry players agreed that MHP should be adopted on a voluntary basis; recognising the need for industry itself to determine its own business models and choice of technology.

Sheila Cassells, Chair of DIF, said:

“The Communication concludes a lengthy period of intense debate.

DIF's members believe strongly that a consensual approach to solving interoperability is in the interests of all industry players. We will continue to work with stakeholders to achieve this. We will be discussing with the EBU how to build upon the model of the European High Definition Forum.”

About Digital Interoperability Forum: DIF represents many of Europe's pioneers in the delivery of digital and interactive television through satellite, cable and terrestrial platforms. Its members are: Advanced Digital Broadcast; Arqiva; BskyB; Canal+; Flextech; Liberty Global Europe B.V.; Microsoft; Nagravision; NDS; ntl; Numericable; OpenTV; Pace Micro Technology; Premiere; Sky Italia; TPS; TF1; and ZetaCast.