

DIGITAL INTEROPERABILITY FORUM IN 2009

2009 brought 3 new members to **DIF** – Conax, Irdeto and Viaccess – strengthening the involvement of the conditional access industry and DIF's representation of the paid -content distribution chain.

During 2009 **DIF** continued to lead the industry initiative on a self-regulatory approach (the VA) for improving further the energy efficiency on set top boxes with conditional access (CSTBs) ([http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/DocsAndMediaManager/documents/Voluntary Industry Agreement CSTBs - V 2 12 06 09 .pdf](http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/DocsAndMediaManager/documents/Voluntary_Industry_Agreement_CSTBs_-_V_2_12_06_09_.pdf)). This culminated in a presentation to the Consultation Forum established under the Eco-Design of Energy Using Products Directive ([http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/Voluntary Agreement - To Further Improve the Energy Consumption of Complex Set Top Boxes - Final.pdf](http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/Voluntary_Agreement_-_To_Further_Improve_the_Energy_Consumption_of_Complex_Set_Top_Boxes_-_Final.pdf)). By the end of 2009 there were 39 signatories to the VA, accounting for approximately 75% of the CSTBs placed on the market in the EU. The Commission is expected to formally adopt the VA – the first self-regulatory agreement under the EUP Directive - by the end of March 2010.

DIF's established relationship with the Commission on broadcast piracy was reinforced when DG Markt invited **DIF** was invited to make a presentation ([http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/DocsAndMediaManager/documents/Conditional Access & The Pay TV Environment - 2009.pdf](http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/DocsAndMediaManager/documents/Conditional_Access_&_The_Pay_TV_Environment_-_2009.pdf)) to the first meeting of Conditional Access Directive Experts Group. The presentation explained the operation and purpose of conditional access and the importance of maintaining highly secure conditional access systems. **DIF** continues to liaise with DG Markt on a regular basis.

In the legislative arena **DIF** maintained its success rate and secured a crucial amendment to Annex VI of the Universal Service Directive during the passage of the New Regulatory Framework (or telecoms package). This amendment means that use of the Common Scrambling Algorithm is mandatory for only DVB-C, DVB-S and DVB-T, and not for IPTV or mobile TV. Consistently with **DIF's** principles this allows industry the flexibility to choose the most appropriate technology and protects investments already made in IPTV.

As part of its programme to inform and educate **DIF** re-launched this website. It has proved to be an effective communications tool. **DIF** also prepared a FAQ (<http://www.difgroup.eu/policy-document/fag>) to assist new MEPs and Commission officials in understanding the technology of pay TV and what interoperability means in practice.

DIF welcomed senior officials from DG Markt and from DG InfoSoc to two of its meetings. Members value the opportunity for an exchange of views.

During 2009 **DIF** continued to co-Chair the European High Definition Forum (EHDF) (http://wiki.ebu.ch/ehdf/Main_Page) with the EBU. EHDF is valued by the participants as a means of exchanging information on the development of, and technology issues associated with, high definition television. EHDF met twice (in Madrid and Luxembourg) and at their last meeting members confirmed that the remit of EHDF should cover 3D television also.