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For Immediate Release

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DVB supports legal protection for decoding devices

(Statement of the DVB Project at the WIPO World Symposium on Broadcasting, New Communication Technologies and Intellectual Property.)

MANILA, 28 April 1997. The DVB Project supports the work of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in working towards specific legal measures for the protection of coded (encrypted) programmes against illicit decoding.

The DVB Project is a non-governmental organisation recognised by the WIPO. It will be represented at the WIPO World Symposium on Broadcasting, New Communication Technologies and Intellectual Property to be held 28-30 April in Manila, by **Carter Eltzroth**, chairman of the **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Module** of the DVB Project.

For the launch of digital video broadcasting, the DVB Project has developed a **Common Scrambling Algorithm** which is incorporated in every digital decoder in Europe and has been adopted elsewhere. The Common Scrambling Algorithm offers a very high degree of technical security against audio-visual piracy caused by the theft of encrypted digital signals. But technical security should be complemented by legislative measures which criminalise the "hacking" of decoders and smart cards.

In its *Recommendations on Antipiracy Regulation for Digital Video Broadcasting*, the DVB Project has recommended that Europe adopt legislation which prohibits - with penal, administrative and civil sanctions - the manufacture, importation, distribution, commercial promotion and advertising, and possession of decoding equipment designed to enable access to an encrypted service by those outside the audience determined by the encrypting organisation.

The DVB Project reached this conclusion as a result of a detailed study on the special factors present in digital video broadcasting: quantitative increase in the form of audio-visual piracy; the standardisation of DVB consumer equipment; and the introduction of new media services. These Recommendations have served as an important element of the work of the European Commission in its work on a proposed directive on legal measures to protect encrypted services.

The DVB Project believes that this legislative protection of decoding devices should also be adopted at the international level through the work undertaken by the WIPO.

Background

The **Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB)** is a consortium of over 200 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators and regulatory bodies in more than 30 countries worldwide, committed to designing a global standard for the delivery of digital television. Numerous broadcast services using DVB standards are now operational, in Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australasia.