



From the Minister of State
for Industry and Information Technology

RT HON GEOFFREY PATTIE

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Rine Ruster

CDP
27/5

26 May 1987

Dear Charles

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PAN-EUROPEAN DIGITAL CELLULAR RADIO

In her speech to the European Council last December, the Prime Minister called on Member States to reach an early decision on the introduction of a common standard for pan-European digital cellular radio in the 1990s.

Mr Pattie has asked me to let you know that in Bonn on Tuesday 19 May he signed an agreement with representatives of Germany, France and Italy committing our respective operators to the introduction of such a service by 1991, based on the narrowband TDMA concept. The two UK operators, British Telecom and Racal, were present and are co-signatories to the agreement. This will be formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in September.

The agreement marks a major breakthrough in getting the French and the Germans to agree to a narrowband system, and should improve the prospects for collaboration between the four major European countries in telecommunications. Agreement on a common European standard means that Europe stands a very real chance of becoming a world leader in mobile radio technology. And because agreement was reached on the UK's preferred narrowband system, UK suppliers should have every opportunity to take advantage of the enlarged European market for cellular radio.

I am copying this to Lyn Parker at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Yours sincerely
Julian Farrel

MY5/MY5ADB

JULIAN FARREL
PRIVATE SECRETARY



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Mr C D Powell
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16 March 1987

Dear Mr. Powell

DIGITAL CELLULAR RADIO: A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

The European Council at its meeting in December 1986 concluded that a special effort was needed to agree a common standard for a pan European digital cellular radio service. A recent meeting of the European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT) made significant progress. Thirteen out of fifteen Administrations supported the standard preferred by the UK operators and industry (called Narrowband TDMA). The two dissenting Administrations were France and Germany. This is believed to have been the result of last minute lobbying at a political level in France by Alcatel. This could potentially stall the initiative.

Mr Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, has written to his opposite numbers in France and Germany trying to bring them around to supporting the CEPT majority view. Complementary lobbying by the FCO and others is taking place. This note is an update of the progress of this initiative.

Yours sincerely

S. R. Temple

STEPHEN TEMPLE

cc PS/Secretary of State
PS/Mr Pattie
PS/Mr Butcher
PS/Sir Brian Hayes
Mr Fairclough Cab Off
Mr Macdonald
Mr Mogg EP
Mr Nieduszynski R
Mr Priddle TP
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