[ES] CMT Approves New Resolutions Related to Audio-Visual Services

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Alberto Pérez Gómez
Entidad publica empresarial RED.ES

On 28 September 2000, the Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones (Telecommunications Market Commission - CMT) adopted a Resolution stating that it will investigate the impact of the use of proprietary API's (Application Programming Interfaces) in the Digital Terrestrial TV market.

The API's perform in the digital TV decoders a similar function to that of the operating systems in the PC's. They translate interactive TV applications written in a high-level software programming language into a low-level language the decoder can understand. If a decoder has a proprietary API embedded, it will not be able to understand interactive TV applications broadcast by a digital TV platform that uses a different proprietary API.

In Spain, the main operator in the DTTV market, Quiero TV, has chosen a proprietary API, Open TV. One of its rivals, the broadcaster Sogecable, has complained that this choice may affect competition in the DTTV market, and could restrict the ability of customers to receive all digital TV and interactive TV services with a single decoder. Quiero TV has argued that when it started operating it had to chose a proprietary API because there were no open APIs at that time, and that it then accepted a compromise to start the migration to an open API (the Multimedia Home Platform - MHP - fostered by the Digital Video Broadcasting group) as soon as it is available. Nevertheless, the CMT has decided to open an inquiry in order to assess the impact of the choice of API made by Quiero TV on the digital TV market.

Acuerdo del Consejo de la Comisión del Mercado de las Telecomunicaciones de 28 de septiembre de 2000, por el que se aprueba la resolución sobre la solicitud de intervención presentada por Sogecable, S.A. relativa a la adopción de determinadas medidas para garantizar la libre competencia en la prestación de servicios de la sociedad de la información en el sector de la televisión digital de ámbito estatal y el derecho de los usuarios de acceder a la pluralidad de ofertas existentes en el mercado

http://www.cmt.es/cmt/document/decisiones/RE-00-09-28-06.html

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Resolution of the CMT of 28 September 2000 on the intervention of the CMT requested by Sogecable in relation to the adoption of certain measures for the safeguard of free competition in the DTTV market

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