



## PRESS RELEASE: Europe's Great Summer of Television

*From Angela Merkel to Andy Murray, new European TV records were set this summer.*

*For every minute spent on YouTube, Europeans spend one hour watching television.*

European broadcasters are returning to work in good heart, on the back of a summer of spectacular ratings successes.

Despite the fact that this summer did not feature a FIFA World Cup, a UEFA European Championships or an Olympic Games, and despite the unusually warm summer weather in much of Europe, viewers remained gripped by TV shows – whether about sport, politics, royalty or entertainment...

Commenting on this summer of success, **Philippe Delusinne**, President of the **ACT** said that:

*“Across Europe, broadcasters are achieving astonishing levels of innovation in technology and we are constantly developing new ways to deliver our content to consumers: HD, Ultra-HD, on-demand. Crucially, we are doing this with very high levels of linear TV viewing and high growth in additional, non-linear TV viewing. As and when the European economies return to growth, this will be translated into increased advertising and subscription revenue to be reinvested in future programming – a real virtuous circle for European business and consumers”*

Speaking for European TV sales houses, **Franz Prenner**, Chairman of **egta** added that

*“Audiences across the European continent were extraordinarily loyal to television be it for news, sports or entertainment over the summer. Regardless of the device it was on, Europeans consumed a lot of television content and didn't miss any of the national and/or European-wide happenings of the summer: political debates or royal “happenings”, tennis tournaments, etc. Certain events gathered a whole nation, whilst others gathered large European audiences. This comes as proof that our industry is very healthy and while economic uncertainty affects advertising expenditures in some markets, the interest in reaching out to masses through powerful television content across screens and devices, is intact. Audiences are growing and TV viewing figures are at their highest ever... We look forward to a very exciting future!”*

These comments were backed up by strong TV audience data from across Europe:

- In **Italy**, the lack of a global sporting event was irrelevant as Italians watched **3.5% more television** in the summer of 2013 than the previous year;

- **26 million Germans** watched the election debate between Chancellor Angela Merkel and her challenger Peer Steinbrück;
- That other all-German dispute, the Champions League final between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, was watched by a global audience of **360 million**, **23.7m** of them in Germany;
- Up to **13m viewers** in **France** and **2.75m** in the **Netherlands** watched coverage of the Tour de France. The Tour also broke records in the UK;
- In other sporting highlights, over **14m** people in the **UK** watched Andy Murray win the men's singles at Wimbledon (and Marion Bartoli's victory in the women's singles created an audience record for its channel in France), while **2m Swedes** watched the women's European Championship football semi-final;
- But it wasn't all about sport – talent shows continued their decade-long run of success, with over **14m viewers** for the final of Britain's Got Talent and strong figures also recorded in the Netherlands, Belgium and elsewhere;
- Royal events also proved popular, with **6.08m Belgians** watching the coronation of King Philippe I, **1.9m** in Sweden for the marriage of Princess Madeleine, and – aggregated across four UK channels – **11.9 million** watching coverage around the birth of Prince George;
- TV-related **tweets** amounted to average **6.5m per month** in **France** in July and August.

And the sector also believes that the impact of YouTube on television audiences has been overstated by some commentators. For the first time, industry bodies from around Europe have begun comparing the time spent watching television against that consuming various online media. The figures to date show that the impressive success of YouTube has not been at the expense of television. **Across Europe, for every minute spent on YouTube, the average person spends an hour watching linear television** (for national figures – see the Note to the Editor).

Commenting on this new comparison, which builds on data published by the UK trade marketing body Thinkbox in May, **Tess Alps, Executive Chair at Thinkbox** said:

*“Whenever a commentator glibly announces that YouTube has ‘displaced’ TV we should ask for their impartial evidence. In the UK, according to official sources, for every minute spent on YouTube, the average person spends nearly an hour watching linear TV. We’re delighted to discover from co-operating with our sister organisations that this pattern is replicated across all the major European markets. This is not to denigrate YouTube in any way. It is complementary to TV and it is going to grow, but the assumption that time spent on YouTube will inevitably cannibalise linear TV time is flawed and not borne out by analysis of real consumers.”*

Finally, the trade marketing bodies, egta and the ACT intend to intensify their co-operation and exchange of information, and expressed their openness to co-operate with other TV bodies in Europe and beyond.

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## NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

**The national figures on the time spent watching linear television and YouTube** (without mobile usage):

- In the **UK**, for every minute spent on YouTube, the average person spends nearly an hour watching linear television. *(January 2013, BARB, UKOM)*
- In **Germany**, if YouTube were a TV Channel, its market share would be less than 1%. Linear TV is watched 130 hours per month - almost 44 times more than YouTube (3 hours). *(AGF/GfK, TV Scope 5.0 (KFA 0/1, Age 3+), Comscore (Home + Work), January 2013; IP Deutschland 04.06.2013)*
- In the **Netherlands**, linear TV is watched on average 120 hours monthly, while YouTube - 3.2 hours. *(SKO/ comScore. Target audience: All 15+, January 2013. Internet: PC Home & at Work. Google: all sites)*
- In **Italy**, linear TV viewing time is 145 hours 11 per month, while the viewing time of YouTube is 1 hour 27 minutes. *(January 2013, Auditel; Audiweb)*
- In **France**, linear TV is watched 126 hours/month, while YouTube - 1 hour 28 minutes. *(January 2013, Médiamétrie/Netratings)*

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**The Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT)** represents the interests of the commercial broadcasting sector in Europe. Formed in 1989, the ACT has 33 member companies licensed in 37 different European countries and distributed across 45 European markets and beyond. Our members operate several hundred free-to-air and pay-tv channels and distribute many more channels and new services. The ACT members encompass several business models: free-to-air broadcasters and pay-TV players, digital platform operators and multimedia groups.

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**egta** is the association representing television and radio sales houses, either independent from the channel or in-house, that market the advertising space of both private and public television and radio stations throughout Europe and beyond. egta fulfils different functions for its members in fields of activities as diversified as regulatory issues, audience measurement, sales methods, interactivity, cross-media, technical standards, new media etc. During its 35 years of existence, egta has become the reference centre for television & radio advertising in Europe. egta counts 125 members operating across 37 countries.

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**SNPTV** (The Syndicat National de la Publicité Télévisée) is a professional organisation of the French TV sales houses (TF1 Publicité, M6 Publicité, France Télévisions Publicité, Canal + Régie, TMC Régie, Next Régie, Lagardère Publicité, Be Viacom). SNPTV has for the main mission to collect the

proofs, through collective studies, that the television is the undeniable media for the advertisers and their TV ads in terms of return on investment, construction of brand, fame, image ...

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**SPOT** is the Dutch marketing center for television advertising. SPOT provides information about television as a medium for advertising, offers services in support of advertisers, and represents the interests of television broadcasting advertising agencies. The following organizations participate in SPOT: Ster, Discovery Networks Benelux, ORN, RTL Nederland, FOX Channels Benelux, AT5, SBS Broadcasting, Disney Channels Benelux, BE VIACOM Benelux, Eurosport, Eredivisie Live and Sport1.

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**Thinkbox** is the marketing body for commercial TV in the UK, in all its forms – broadcast, on-demand and interactive. Its shareholders are Channel 4, ITV, Sky Media, Turner Media Innovations and UKTV, who together represent over 90% of commercial TV advertising revenue through their owned and partner TV channels. RTL Group and Virgin Media are Associate Members and Discovery Channel UK & STV also give direct financial support. Thinkbox works with the marketing community with a single ambition: to help advertisers get the best out of today's TV.

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**Wirkstoff TV** is the initiative of the German TV Sales houses for television and online video. The nine partners of Wirkstoff TV are representing more than 95% of the German TV advertising market.

**ABMA** is the Belgian Association for Audiovisual Media. For more information, please see [www.abma-bvam.be/](http://www.abma-bvam.be/).