

## **Media release**

Zurich, 29 September 2011

### **Obligation to broadcast in the analogue service for the youth channel Joiz: upc cablecom appeals to the Federal Court**

**upc cablecom is having the verdict which was passed on 23 August 2011 by the Swiss Federal Administrative Court regarding the obligation to broadcast in the analogue service for the youth channel Joiz reviewed by the Federal Court. Joiz has already been broadcast in the free digital service of upc cablecom since last March and can be received virtually everywhere in German-speaking Switzerland via various broadcasting channels.**

The verdict of the Federal Administrative Court that is being challenged with the present complaint supports an order made by the Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM) on 10 November 2010. With this order upc cablecom was obligated to transmit the TV channel Joiz free of charge in its range of analogue programmes because in the opinion of OFCOM the channel makes a special contribution to the constitutional performance mandate of radio and television.

#### **Analogue transmission not justified**

Whilst upc cablecom has been broadcasting the channel digitally in a prominent slot since the first day it was transmitted, the largest cable network company in Switzerland is of the opinion that additional analogue broadcasting of Joiz is not justified. It does not seem reasonable to have to remove from the extensive, 36-channel, analogue TV service a full public service German-language programme that has been established for decades in order to accommodate Joiz. The interventions that would therefore be necessary in the analogue programmes and the restrictions this would entail for viewers would be considerable. In the opinion of upc cablecom this would not in any way be commensurate with the increase in coverage anticipated by Joiz.

#### **Joiz already received everywhere in German-speaking Switzerland**

The range of programmes provided by Joiz is aimed at people aged between 15 and 29 and is already broadcast on various platforms as it has been integrated into the digital services of upc cablecom and Swisscom TV and is also available via online TV services such as Zattoo,



Wilmaa and Teleboy. This means that virtually every household in German-speaking Switzerland has unrestricted access to what Joiz has to offer via TV, PC or mobile device without incurring additional costs. Most recently the programme is now also broadcast live and in HD quality via the channel's website.

**Background:**

Art. 60 of the Federal Radio and Television Act (RTVA) stipulates that programmes with particularly valuable journalistic content must be broadcast free of charge in the analogue service by cable network companies. The Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM) can on application from a channel decree that transmission must be activated.

The current version of the Federal Radio and Television Act (RTVA) can be found at: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/e/rs/7/784.40.en.pdf> (English version).

**For more information about upc cablecom visit:**

<http://www.upc-cablecom.ch>

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**About upc cablecom**

upc cablecom – a member of Liberty Global – is Switzerland's largest cable network company and provides its customers with offerings in the television, Internet and telephony sectors. As of 30 June 2011 the company recorded over 1.5 million cable connections with television and radio reception. 509,600 customers additionally use upc cablecom Digital TV and Radio. Another 525,200 Internet and 339,000 telephony customers have invested their trust in the products of Switzerland's largest cable network operator. The company also provides voice, data and value-added services for business customers. upc cablecom supplies cable network companies with system building, application and transmission services. Its own network serves over 2 million households and covers all major Swiss cities. In 2010 upc cablecom generated revenue of more than 1.1 billion Swiss francs with 1400 employees.

<http://www.upc-cablecom.ch/about>

**About Liberty Global**

Liberty Global is the leading international cable operator offering advanced video, voice and broadband internet services to connect its customers to the world of entertainment, communications and information. As of June 30, 2011, Liberty Global operated state-of-the-art networks serving 18 million customers across 14 countries principally located in Europe, Chile and Australia. Liberty Global's operations also include significant programming businesses such as Chellomedia in Europe.

<http://www.lgi.com>