CLAIMS

1. A method of encoding a picture (10) of a video stream (1) of multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50), said method comprising:

determining (S1), for said picture (10), at least one reference picture (40, 42) of said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50) as encoding reference for said picture (10);

providing (S2), for each reference picture (40, 42) among said at least one reference picture (40, 42), a picture identifier identifying said reference picture (40, 42) among said at least one reference picture (40, 42),

generating (S3), based on said at least one picture identifier, buffer description information defining said at least one reference picture (40, 42);

inserting (S4) said buffer description information in a data structure in the encoded representation (60) of said picture (10), wherein all reference pictures present in a decoded picture buffer (530,650) and not being associated with any of said at least one picture identifier determined based on said buffer description information are to be marked as unused for reference; characterized in that decoded pictures to be used as reference pictures during decoding are specified in an absolute and explicit way independently of an encoded representation of previous pictures in the video stream.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining (S1) said at least one reference picture (40, 42) comprises determining (S1), for said picture (10), any reference picture (40, 42) among said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50) as encoding reference for said picture (10) and any reference picture (42) among said multiple pictures (10,40,42, 50) as encoding reference for a subsequent, according to a decoding order, picture (50) of said video stream (1).

3. An encoder (100) configured to encode a picture (10) of a video stream (1) of multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50), comprising:

a reference picture determiner (110) configured to determine, for said picture (10), at least one reference picture (40, 42) among said multiple pictures (40, 42, 50) as encoding reference for said picture (10);

a picture identifier provider (120) configured to provide, for each reference picture (40, 42) of said at least one reference picture (40, 42), a picture identifier identifying said reference picture (40, 42) among said at least one reference picture (40, 42);

a buffer description information generator (130) configured to generate, based on said at least one picture identifier, buffer description information defining said at least one reference picture (40, 42); and

a data inserter (140) configured to insert said buffer description information in a data structure in the encoded representation (60) of said picture (10), wherein all reference pictures present in a decoded picture buffer (530, 650) and not being associated with any of said at least one picture identifier determined based on said buffer description information are to be marked as unused for reference, characterized in that decoded pictures to be used as reference pictures during decoding are specified in an absolute and explicit way independently of an encoded representation of previous pictures in the video stream.

4. The encoder according to claim 3, wherein said reference picture determiner (110) is configured to determine, for said picture (10), any reference picture (40, 42) among said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50) as encoding reference for said picture (10) and any reference picture (42) among said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50) as encoding reference for a subsequent, according to a decoding order, picture (50) of said video stream (1).

5. A transmitter (200) comprising:

an input section (210) configured to receive multiple pictures (10,40,42, 50) of a video stream (1);

an encoder (100) according to claims 3-4 configured to encode said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50) to generate respective encoded representations (60) of said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50); and

an output section (220) configured to output said respective encoded representations (60) of said multiple pictures (10, 40, 42, 50).