



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

**RSPG Secretariat**

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**RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

**Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy**

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## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RSPG on 09 June 2020 (RSPG#52). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

### 2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

On 18 September 2020, the Commission adopted a Recommendation<sup>1</sup> (EU) 2020/1307 on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks and ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union. The purpose of the Recommendation is to guide the agreement of a toolbox of best practices by the Member States, which promotes network cost reduction (in the context of the BCRD) and coordinated spectrum authorisation across the Union. In terms of spectrum, the recommended measures address the timeliness of authorising 5G pioneer bands, financial aspects of award procedures and cross-border use cases for verticals. The envisaged role of the RSPG would be to provide input to the process for developing the toolbox, with a Special Group of Member States' representatives (set up by the Commission) serving as the cooperation platform.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/commission-recommendation-common-union-toolbox-reducing-cost-deploying-very-high-capacity>

### 3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#52, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC#71) on 8 July 2020, with the following outcomes:

- **ITS**

The Chairman recalled the status of the file and noted that the inter-service consultation within the Commission brought no changes to the substance of the Decision apart from proposing the repeal (instead of the amendment) of Decision 2008/671/EC.

Some Member States took the floor and provided comments. Main suggestions included an additional Recital, a 3-month delay in the designation of the band and some additional minor adjustments of the text.

Concluding, the Chairman thanked all MS for the constructive discussions. A scrutiny reserve was accepted pending the agreement of the Commission's Legal Service on the new Recital and on the text of Article 2.2. A written voting procedure was launched after the above clarifications which resulted in 26 positive votes and 1 abstention.

- **MCA**

The first draft of a Mandate to CEPT on MCA (*RSCOM20-22*) was presented to the Committee. The Mandate aims at updating for the third time Decision 2008/294/EC by introducing 5G technology and evaluating the possibility to make the Network Control Unit optional on board MCA equipped aircraft. Some Member States proposed to align the EC mandate with the already existing CEPT (PT1) work item. This includes the band to be studied (1 800 MHz) and the kind of antenna (non-AAS). Due to the general delay of PT1 activities as a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis (no physical meetings) some Member States considered that a later deadline may be appropriate for the Final Report, and proposed September 2022 in lieu of March 2021. The Chairman announced a further reflection on the points raised by MS and that a new version of *RSCOM20-22* will be circulated shortly and that Member States would be able to make comments until the end of August.

- **900/1 800 MHz**

The Committee discussed, based on a Commission input document (*RSCOM20-23rev1*), the need to prolong the deadline of the final report and to send additional high-level guidance to the CEPT, regarding the activity on the Commission mandate on harmonised technical conditions for the 900 MHz and 1 800 MHz frequency bands. The Chairman concluded that the CEPT may postpone the deadline for delivering the final CEPT report and submit it in time for the RSC#75 meeting in 2021. Furthermore, the Chairman concluded that due to the lack of support from the majority of Member States, no additional guidance will be submitted to the CEPT.

RSC#72 is scheduled for 14 October 2020.

#### **4. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

##### **Commission Implementing Regulation on small-area wireless access points**

The Commission Implementing Regulation on specifying the characteristics of small-area wireless access points (SAWAPs or small cells) pursuant to Article 57 paragraph 2 of the European Electronic Communications Code was published in the Official Journal of the European Union, (*EU*) 2020/1070 of 20 July 2020.<sup>2</sup>

This Regulation defines the constraints on specific physical and technical characteristics of small cells - volume, weight, visual impact and emission power - in order to establish a light deployment regime for them across the Union. These characteristics are meant to ensure aesthetical visual impact (either fully integrated and invisible to the general public or

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<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2020.234.01.0011.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:234:TOC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2020.234.01.0011.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2020:234:TOC)

maximum 30 litres) and high levels of public health protection against electromagnetic fields, in line with Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC.

### **European 5G Observatory**

On 25 September 2020, the Commission organised a 2<sup>nd</sup> European 5G Observatory stakeholder Workshop<sup>3</sup>. The workshop provide an opportunity to review the main findings of the second year of the 5G Observatory and to exchange views on the current state of play of 5G deployment, the latest market trends and in particular the impact of the current crisis on the 5G progress. It also served as input for the planned update of the Action Plan for 5G and 6G as announced in the Commission's Digital Strategy in February 2020.

The conclusions presented by the consultant team at the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop of the 5G observatory confirmed that until September 2020, 5G deployment had started only in 16 Member States, while the authorisation of 5G pioneer bands stayed at only 25.5% on an EU weighted average, with the primary 3.6 GHz being at 41 %. The workshop also dealt with the topic of appropriate key performance indicators for 5G services taking into account use for verticals. Important aspects in this discussions were coverage and green indicators.

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<sup>3</sup> See: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/2nd-european-5g-observatory-stakeholder-workshop-5g-growth-and-recovery>