EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 14 June 2023
RSPG23-023 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Climate Change

The last meeting of the RSPG Plenary (15 February) approved for publication a questionnaire prepared by the RSPG Working Group on "Climate Change[1]" (hereinafter: SG) to Member States and stakeholders. The consultation ran until 12 April. After examining the responses, the SG held an online workshop via Webex on 17 May entitled "Workshop on the energy use in the Wireless ECS Sector, monitoring, assessing and reducing its impact on the climate; Regulating for the future". The purpose of this workshop was to establish a dialogue with private stakeholders further to the consultation. The SG had held a Webex meeting on 18 April in order to prepare for the workshop.

The workshop consisted of three presentations, from the SG co-chairs, ARCEP (France) and GSMA Intelligence, respectively. The co-chairs' presentation set out the SG work up to the present day and described the main findings and conclusions from the stakeholder questionnaire. Afterwards, ARCEP (France) gave a presentation on their work regarding the collection of mobile network energy consumption information from French operators. Finally, GSMA Intelligence presented their benchmarking project, including a description of the methodology and key findings. The workshop concluded with a dialogue and debate, including numerous questions from participants.

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1. Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change

The SG expects to use the information gathered from the public questionnaire and the workshop to continue their work on a report, to be presented for approval at the October 2023 RSPG Plenary.

1.   Webex meetings

The group has not held physical meetings since the last RSPG plenary meeting. During the April web meeting, the responses received from the public questionnaire were discussed and the SG prepared for the May workshop, which was also held via Webex.

2.   Next steps

The group will continue working on a report to be presented for approval at the RSPG plenary in the autumn. All meetings of the SG will be held via Webex.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Climate change mitigation
Rapporteur/s	Víctor Fernández López, Danish Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure, Rory Hinchy, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland
Rationale	Rationale The RSPG Opinion on the Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change provides a series of recommendations to the European Commission, Member States and stakeholders to continue the path towards a more environmentally-friendly society through the use of wireless technologies. The Opinion suggests further avenues in terms of spectrum regulation, harmonisation, voluntary initiatives, information gathering, etc. It is also recognised that the relationship between sustainability and electronic communications is also covered elsewhere. For example, the work in the BEREC Working Group on Sustainability should be followed closely in order to avoid a potential overlap. Two particular points raised by the Opinion fall into the purview of activities of the RSPG and it is therefore proposed to continue working on those points in the RSPG: 1) The need for a common set of methodologies in order to understand and assess the impact of ECS wireless technologies on climate change, involving ECS stakeholders and all interested parties, and with a particular focus on the ECS radio component. 2) The importance of having accurate information on emissions and energy efficiency related to spectrum use on a national level (e.g. reports from network operators). These activities will help Member States and the EC to take appropriate regulatory actions within the spectrum area in order to combat climate change.

Scope	- Identifying methodologies to assess the energy efficiency of wireless technologies, including the influence of variables such as the frequency band, type of access technology, etc. Input from stakeholders (e.g. through a workshop) may be required. - Collecting practices from Member States on how energy efficiency is measured and managed nationally in relation to the spectrum area, including how data to assess the energy efficiency is collected. - Assess how efficient spectrum policies can facilitate a green digital transition of Europe, to reduce carbon emissions.
Planned deliverables and timing	A report, to be delivered on October 2023.
Analytical approach	To be determined.
Project plan	To be determined.
Dependencies	To be determined.

Members, stakeholders and resources

Members to be updated with additions based on latest excel file	Austria, BMF CEPT, ECC and ECO Cyprus, Department of Electronic Communications Czech Republic, Czech Telecommunication Office Denmark, Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure EU, European Commission Finland, Finnish Transport and Communications Regulatory Authority (TRAFICOM) France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, French Ministry of Economy and Finance Germany, BNetza Germany, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport Greece, Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT) Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH) Ireland, DECC Ireland, ComReg Italy, AGCOM Italy, Ministry of Economic Development

	Malta, Malta Communications Authority (MCA) Netherlands, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (Minezk) Netherlands, Rijksinspectie Digitale Infrastructuur Norway, KMD Norway, NKOM Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs Portugal, ANACOM Slovenia, AKOS Sweden, PTS
Key stakeholders	Telecom operators Vertical industries Equipment suppliers
Other resources	