

14 January 2011

The EBU response to the Public consultation on the draft RSPG Work Programme 2011

The European Broadcasting Union¹ (EBU) welcomes the opportunity to present its comments on the draft Radio Spectrum Policy Group work programme for 2011.

The EBU and its Members follow with interest the activities of the RSPG. Concerning the proposed RSPG work programme for 2011 we would like to provide the following comments:

Review of Spectrum use

RSPG guidance on the best process for analysing spectrum demand and the impact of technology trends on such demand would be very valuable. It is the EBU view that such analysis needs to include, besides market and technology trends, also social and cultural aspects of the spectrum use.

Interference management

Avoidance of harmful interference is indeed of utmost importance in spectrum management. The EBU welcomes further RSPG work on this issue, including development of a Report on policies for interference management.

Digital Radio Broadcasting

The RSPG has produced a Report on the future of radio broadcasting in Europe (RSPG10-349) to which we submit a separate response. We encourage the RSPG to continue this work and outline the EU dimension of digital radio broadcasting. An Opinion or Report on necessary actions to foster the development of digital radio broadcasting would be an important step in that direction. It would provide the much needed clarity to national administration, broadcasters and the industry.

Broadcasters, manufacturers and CEPT have undertaken a number of activities that aim at creating favourable conditions for the successful transition to digital radio in Europe. It is important that these efforts are recognised and supported by the regulators and policy makers.

¹ The EBU is the world's largest professional association of national broadcasters, whose Active Members are public service broadcasters in 56 countries corresponding to the ITU European Broadcasting Area, which includes all European countries, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Associate Members include broadcasters from Canada, the USA, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, India and Hong Kong, as well as many others.

The EBU's purpose is to serve and support the interests of its Members, promote cooperation between broadcasters and facilitate the exchange of audiovisual content. The EBU works to ensure that the crucial role of public service broadcasting, which is central to Members' activities, is recognised and taken into consideration by decision-makers.

The organization provides services to the broadcasting community at large, along with expertise specifically to Members on legal, technical and programming issues. It also conducts economic and market analyses and offers targeted training programmes. For more information about the EBU: www.ebu.ch