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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

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 42nd meeting of the RSPG on 07 february 2017 (RSPG#42). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

Following the adoption by both the European Parliament and the Council, the Decision on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 25 May 2017 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1496044962133&uri=CELEX:32017D0899>).

As a result of this decision, mobile operators will obtain exclusive access to the 700 MHz band (694-790 MHz) by 30 June 2020. This timeframe coincides with the expected deployment of 5G networks in Europe. Member states may, however, delay this reallocation by up to two years, but only in duly justified cases set out in the decision. Also the date of finalising cross-border coordination agreements by 31.12.2017 is relevant for the work of the RSPG.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#42, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee on 15-16th March 2017. The following issues were discussed:

- **Wireless Broadband in the 1.5 GHz range:**

The Commission services presented a draft Mandate to CEPT to develop harmonised technical conditions in additional frequency bands in the 1.5 GHz range for their use for terrestrial wireless broadband electronic communications services in the Union (RSCOM17-

03rev1). In particular, the Mandate aims at enhancing spectrum capacity in the already EU-harmonised 1452-1492 MHz ('1.5GHz') frequency range by studying the potential extension of adjacent bands (1427-1452 MHz and 1492-1518 MHz). After a drafting session, the Mandate was adopted with unanimous support (RSCOM17-03rev2).

- **Wireless broadband in the 2.3-2.4 GHz band:**

The JRC presented the 2nd study on Coexistence between LTE and Wireless Hearing Aid Systems operation in the 2.4GHz band (RSCOM17-17). No meaningful interference situations were detected with the user case scenarios used. The study has been distributed to the relevant stakeholders for any feedback to the Commission.

- **Ultra Wideband (UWB):**

The Commission presented a draft permanent mandate to CEPT for the update of the UWB Decision. Member States' comments and views were incorporated into the draft text and the revised version (RSCOM17-04rev3) received the positive opinion of the committee.

- **Short Range Devices (SRD):**

In the context of the 6th update of the SRD Implementing Decision (RSCOM16-59rev1), the RSC discussed the implementation of the additional entries proposed in the Addendum to CEPT Report 59. These entries are predominantly for IoT and RFID applications. The Commission services explained their preference to incorporate the entries in the band 863-868 MHz into the existing SRD Decision noting their consistency with the harmonized sharing environment established therein, and to treat the entries in the 870-876 and 915-921 MHz bands separately. Member States' agreement to this approach led to a stable text of the draft Implementing Decision.

The Commission services presented their view on the main elements for a separate draft Implementing Decision concerning the entries in the 870-876 and 915-921 MHz bands, (RSCOM17-06). While some Member States indicated that the implementation of the proposed entries for networked SRDs and RFIDs may currently not be feasible on their territory due to their need to protect existing services, others raised concerns about

fragmentation across the EU. The RSC will continue its discussions on these bands based on further analysis of the current situation and available policy choices.

- **Short Range radar (SRR) in the 24 GHz band:**

Recent reports from Member States and from potential victim services, which could be affected by Short Range Radars (SRR) using the 24 GHz band, have shown that there is no evidence of any interference. Noting the gradual phasing out of SRR by 2022 (in accordance with 2011/485/EU), Member States and the Commission discussed ways to minimise the administrative burden of reporting the penetration of SRR using 24 GHz in vehicles.

- **Implementation of EU law on spectrum:**

The Commission services presented a document (RSCOM17-02rev1) summarising the results of the questionnaire submitted to Member States in document RSCOM16-56 concerning the state of implementation of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/339 of 8 March 2016 on the harmonisation of the 2010-2025 MHz frequency band for portable or mobile wireless video links and cordless cameras used for programme making and special events (PMSE). Member States could also make observations in the questionnaire concerning legal or operational aspects of wireless video PMSE use in the 2010-2025 MHz.

- **Planning of 2017 joint meetings:**

The joint meetings of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC) with the Telecommunications Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM) and the Radio Spectrum Committee and the Railway Interoperability and safety Committee (RISC), held in October 2015 and July 2016 respectively, resulted in useful discussions and positive impact on cross-sectorial spectrum policy coordination. The Commission therefore intends to continue joint meetings with the TCAM and the RISC committees and asked for Member States' input concerning issues of particular interest, in view of preparing the relevant draft agendas.

All publicly available documents of this RSC meeting may be found on the CIRCABC website at:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/5df4d4a1-6fe0-4d37-b40c-70d4fc649ffa>

The next meeting of the RSC will take place on 12-13 July 2017.

3. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

5G workshop on research activities and spectrum

The European Commission will host a workshop on "spectrum for 5G" on 7th June 2017. The workshop aims at presenting recent research results covering the need for spectrum and suitability of frequency bands under consideration, ranging from the sub-GHz to the millimetre range, to provide ambitious services and adequate coverage, especially leveraging the 3GPPP project advancements. Special attention will be given to the vertical industries,. Spectrum availability for enabling timely trials and commercial roll-outs of 5G technology and service provision will also be discussed. Further information can be found at <https://5g-ppp.eu/event/workshop-spectrum-for-5g/>.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop - Mapping of fixed and mobile Broadband Services in Europe

In the context of the ongoing development of the EU Mapping Platform, the 3rd Stakeholder Consultation Workshop will take place on the 10 July in Brussels to which RSPG members are invited to participate.

The III Stakeholder Consultation will be an opportunity to discuss key measurement elements that could trigger comparability of Quality of Service (QoS) datasets in Europe. Furthermore, the event will also address the interdependencies QoS Mapping with other mappings exercises carried out at national level – i.e. infrastructure, investment and/or demand.

Further information will be available in due course at:

<https://www.broadbandmapping.eu/events-and-news/>

Workshop on the efficient use of spectrum in the bands 870-876 and 915-921 MHz

The Commission will also organise the above workshop, on 19 June 2017 in Brussels. The objective of the workshop is to seek a way forward for the harmonisation of the use of these bands in the most efficient way with respect to both new and existing uses.

Joint meeting of the RSC and RISC

On 4 July PM the 2nd joint meeting of the Railway Safety and Interoperability Committee and of the Radio Spectrum Committee will take place, almost exactly one year after the first one. The rail and spectrum communities will have an occasion to inform each other on respective policy objectives. In particular, discussions will touch upon spectrum usage in the 870-876 and 915-921 MHz band, the next generation rail communication system (provisionally known as FRMCS) and the migration from GSM-R to the next generation system.
