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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 48th meeting of the RSPG on 30 January 2019 (RSPG#48). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

Recital 73 of Directive (EU) 2018/1972 of the European parliament and of the Council (11 December 2018) establishing the European Electronic Communications Code indicated the intention of the Commission to amend Decision 2002/622/EC within six months of the entry into force of the Directive, in order to reflect the new tasks conferred on the RSPG by the Directive.

This new decision is expected to be adopted by the Commission on 11 June 2019.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#47, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC#67) on 13 March 2019. The following issues were discussed:

- **UWB**

The Committee reached agreement on a final draft of the Implementing Decision on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for equipment using UWB technology in the Union and repealing Decision 2007/131/EC. After completing internal preparations the Committee's regulatory opinion was requested by written procedure.

Following a positive regulatory opinion by the RSC, the Commission has adopted a new Implementing Decision¹ on UWB on 14 May 2019.

- **26 GHz band**

The Commission services presented a draft Commission implementing decision (RSCOM18-41rev5) on the designation and making available the 26 GHz frequency band for wireless broadband electronic communications services under harmonised technical conditions, with particular focus on 5G. The draft decision was further discussed and amended, in particular with a view to addressing an authorisation regime in the band different from individual rights of use. Subsequent to the meeting, a revised draft was adopted by the RSC by written procedure and in the interim, on 14 May 2019, the Commission adopted the relevant decision².

¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/785 of 14 May 2019 on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in the Union and repealing Decision 2007/131/EC <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019D0785>

² Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/784 of 14 May 2019 on harmonisation of the 24,25-27,5 GHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing wireless broadband electronic communications services in the Union (notified under document C(2019) 3450) (Text with EEA relevance.) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019D0784>

- **SRD**

The Commission services presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision (RSCOM18-6) amending Decision 2006/771/EC on harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short-range devices, the seventh update of the short-range device (SRD) Decision. The meeting discussed the text and based on additional written feedback the Commission will go ahead with further steps towards adoption, amongst others requesting the regulatory opinion of the Committee at the next meeting in July.

In addition, the Commission services presented a draft of the guidance letter for the eighth update cycle of above Decision, which the meeting discussed.

RSC#68 is scheduled for 10 July 2019 in Brussels.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Workshop on 5G Authorisations

On 24 April, the Commission held a workshop on 5G authorisations which was well attended by participants from 26 Member States. The Chairs of the RSPG and BEREC also attended. Participants confirmed the strategic importance of efficient and predictable authorisation procedures for spectrum bands for 5G, in particular 700 MHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz and 26 GHz ('the pioneer bands'), and shared information on their plans to make such spectrum available for use in the EU by the agreed deadline of the end of 2020.

The discussion on the objectives for such award procedures focused on issues such as how to define and achieve territorial coverage objectives, timely and sufficient spectrum to meet demand, the best means to ensure availability of advanced services for local or industrial users, the scope for network sharing to lower deployment costs, quality of service and the maintenance of competition.

The Commission and the Member States will continue to monitor the ongoing award procedures and to facilitate the exchange of best practices through both the RSPG and BEREC, with a view to a further discussion of progress in the second half of 2019.

Call for tenders – Study on the 900 MHz band

On 20 May 2019 the Commission published a call for tenders to launch the study on the current and prospective use of the 900 MHz band by GSM as a technology of reference, considering present and future Union policies (SMART 2019/0006). Interested economic operators can express their interest to participate in the call for tender until 4 June 2019. More information including tender documents are available on the Commission’s Digital Single Market web site³.

Public consultation on the Implementing Act on small-area wireless access points

The public consultation took place between 10 January and 10 April 2019. It was conducted in the context of the implementation of Article 57 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC or ‘the Code’). The aim of the consultation was to provide all the interested parties with an opportunity to express their views on the physical and technical characteristics to be taken into account in the preparation of a “light deployment regime” for small-area wireless access points. A [summary report](#)⁴ takes stock of the contributions and presents preliminary trends that emerge from them.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/study-current-and-prospective-use-900-mhz-band-gsm-technology-reference-considering-present-and>

⁴ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/29416299-8876-11e9-9369-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-HTML/source-99139822>