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## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group**

#### **on cross-border coordination**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on cross-border coordination**

The Working Group has held three meetings during the RPSG meeting (12<sup>th</sup> June) and RSCOM meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> October).

The Working Group is focusing on the cross-border coordination and interference issues between Italy and neighbouring countries and on the implementation of the Decreto-Legge n°145, a compensation scheme for regional DTT broadcasters which will switch-off the stations which are interfering with neighbouring countries.

Although there has been some delay from the initial plan, Italy will have to apply, according to its law, the whole procedure before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The results will be analyzed in time for the next RSPG meeting in February.

One of the expected outcomes is the complete switch off of channel 43 in the south of Sicilia in order to make it available for Malta, as a replacement of channel 66, still in operation on the 800 MHz band. Malta is currently carrying out the GE-06 procedure for recording channel 43 as a new right for Malta but is facing difficulties to get the agreement of two other neighbouring countries : Libya and Tunisia. However, Malta has initiated, in line with its derogation decision, the authorization process for the 800 MHz band.

It has to be noted that the application of the Decreto-Legge will not address:

- Interferences cases notified after December 2013
- Interferences from national broadcasters
- Plan for new multiplex in neighbouring countries
- FM broadcasting

These issues will be further addressed in future meetings of the RSPG WG.

### **Next meeting**

Ad-hoc meeting of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination is planned during lunch time of this RSPG meeting.

## ANNEX

**REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC MEETING  
OF THE RSPG WG ON CROSS BORDER COORDINATION  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

**1. Minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014**

Slovenia clarified that the minutes of the meeting was not correct by stating that : “A general agreement on FM coordination has been signed by Italy and Slovenia on the 11th of June”. In fact, at this date only the Minutes of the bilateral technical meeting was signed by the representatives of Italian Republic and Republic of Slovenia.

**2. Report from Italy on the implementation of Decreto Legge n°145**

In response to the action point of the last meeting, AGCOM informed in September the RSPG coordination working group about the implementation of the Decreto Legge.

AGCOM plan for local broadcasting has been approved on the past 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. This plan excludes transmission on channels in regions where it was identified as interfering neighboring administrations. It has taken into account the comments made during and following the RSPG coordination WG meeting in July. The plan will be published in the next few days.

It is reminded that the potential interference from national channels is treated through other instruments.

The maps showing the exclusion zones around each neighboring country will be forwarded to all concerned administrations. There are deviations from the initial request from Croatia at the fringe of the exclusion area, but for the provinces excluded in spite of the Croatian request, the enforcement was strengthened with an obligation to get prior-agreement from the ministry (with a “project”) before transmission.

Concerned neighboring administrations may send any comment on these maps to Italy. In addition, it was stressed that in the above case, where a project is to be accepted before transmission, the neighboring administration (i.e. Croatia) is to be consulted in advance.

MiSE and Ministry of budget will publish within one month, after the publication of the new Agcom plan, the conditions and rules for to opt for the release of the interfering channels and for the application of the compensation fund. The concerned broadcasters will have one month from the date of publication to indicate their intention to release the channels. Then, the Ministry will still have to prepare the list of stations and the related compensation, by mid-December.

Italy reminded that if a broadcaster has not released the channel deleted from the plan (and/or) moved to the alternative channel, the MISE can proceed with mandatory switch off.

In spite of the delay in setting up the procedure, Italy will apply the Decreto Legge before 31st of December 2014, resulting in the switch-off of the interfering frequencies at that time.

Italy also confirmed that they try to give the highest priority to the switch-off of channel 43 in the south of Sicilia.

In the context of investigations on this case, the Commission services recently noted that the issue of interferences has not yet been fully solved. This is however without prejudice to the assessment of measures that are being taken by the Italian authorities with a view to ensure compliance with EU law.

### **3. Other elements concerning the interference cases**

As agreed during the previous meeting, France sent the relevant complaints for interference (AP10) for the interference on channels 21, 34 and 37 in Corse and organized a measurement campaign in Corse in June 2014 (third one for 2014).

**Channel 21:** The situation was solved in July 2014.

**Channel 34:** France stressed that there are more and more complaints.

Italy announced that the State Council finally decided that the legal dispute should not suspend the order to switch-off. Therefore, the Ministry issued a new order today and the transmission will cease at least until final judgment.

**Channel 37:** France stressed that there are more and more complaints.

Italy indicated that a new project has been applied to the transmission from Venti di Pedona and Monte Beigua to this national MUX (H3G). A new project has also been defined for Piano di Moreno, but the broadcaster has to wait for authorization of the local authority for changing the antenna.

Referring to Report to the last meeting, Croatia stressed that Channel 57 is still not included and it also belongs to the list of first priority channels receiving interference in D05. Italy indicated that this channel is awarded to the national broadcaster and that they intend to solve this interference problem through enforcement measures.

Relating to deviation of exclusion zones, Croatia noted that exclusion zones sent to Italy were defined taking into account concrete interference problems, and there is concern about potential interferences coming from transmitters outside exclusion zone as defined by Italy. Italy reminded that they will strengthen the enforcement for local broadcasters in those areas with the goal of eliminating in order to prevent future interferences and to solve cases that may arise towards Croatia. Croatia reminded its intention for new broadcasting deployment next year. Italy stressed that they intend to

start again, as soon as possible, the bilateral discussion with Croatia and Slovenia to address all remaining issues which are beyond the application of the Decreto Legge.

#### **4. Situation concerning the replacement of channel 66 by channel 43 in Malta**

Malta explained, that in spite of some coordination meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July, Tunisia announced mid-September that they do not wish to continue the discussion until the end of the process amongst Arab countries to replan broadcasting below 694 MHz, with the assistance of ITU. This is expected to be finalized in February and it is unclear what would really be the impact of such replanning since Tunisia is likely to keep some rights on channel 43.

Malta indicated that it is formalising an invitation to EC to help them in their discussions with Tunisia.

Malta also explained that they published the details of the procedure for authorization in July. So far, no operator has announced their interest, but it can be expected that this would happen before the end of the year, thus launching the whole process. The procedure clarifies that the final licence will be issued only when a satisfying solution will have been found for relocating the existing channel 66 transmission.

EC asked Malta to be informed as soon as an operator applies for the 800 MHz authorization.

#### **Next meeting**

Ad-hoc meetings of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination will be organized during the RSPG meeting, lunch time, on 12<sup>th</sup> November.