



RSPG Workshop 'The future of the
470-694 MHz band within the EU'

11 April 2025

EU Regulatory Framework for the sub-700 MHz band

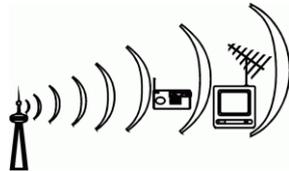
Nineta Vretou*

DG CNECT, Radio Spectrum Policy Unit

** The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Commission*

EU regulatory framework

- Decision (EU) 2017/899 of the European Parliament and the Council, referred to as the **UHF Decision** provides the regulatory framework for the use of the 470-790 MHz ('UHF') frequency band in the Union.
 - **Article 4** ensures the availability of the **470-694 MHz ('sub-700 MHz')** band for digital terrestrial television (**DTT**) and programme making and special events (**PMSE**) services until at least 2030. It also allows for alternative use of the band that does not affect the provision of broadcasting services in the neighbouring Member States.
 - Under **Article 7**, the Commission is required to **report** to the European Parliament and the Council, on the developments regarding the use of the **sub-700 MHz** frequency band, for the purpose of assessing the efficiency of spectrum use.



EC Report

A preparatory step in the future process towards EU position beyond 2030

- The objective is to cover the elements set out in Art. 7 (UHF Decision):
 - Developments in the sub-700 MHz band with focus on efficient spectrum use;
 - Social, economic, cultural, international, technological, consumer aspects, connectivity demand;
- Adoption of the Report **by end-2025** in line with the Lamy Report's '20-25-30' model.
- The **Report** will take into account:
 - The outcome of the Commission study conducted in 2022,
 - the RSPG Opinion on the strategy on the future use of the sub-700 MHz frequency band beyond 2030 (RSPG23-035),
 - the outcome of the WRC-23,
 - the outcome of the RSPG subgroup's work on the sub-700 MHz band,
 - other evidence related on the sub-700 MHz band

Commission Study on the Sub-700 MHz band (2022)

The study evaluates the current and potential future use of the 470–694 MHz band in the EU and internationally. It focuses on DTT, PMSE, consumer behaviour trends, and the broader policy and technological landscape. The aim is to inform spectrum policy decisions beyond 2030.

Key outcomes:

- The study confirms that the 470–694 MHz band continues to hold strategic importance for the EU, especially for **broadcasting** and **PMSE** services, but its future use will require careful **balancing between existing and emerging demands**.
- A **flexible and coordinated** policy approach will be essential to respond to diverse national circumstances, technological evolution, and shifting consumer behaviour.
- There is an increasing **divergence** among Member States (MS) — in terms of spectrum usage, technological deployment, and national priorities.
- The study stresses the need to maintain **support for DTT** in countries where it remains essential for public service media.
- The **growing demand for PMSE spectrum** is acknowledged, along with the potential of new technologies (e.g. 5G broadcasting), though these still face challenges around deployment and market readiness.
- Globally, there is increasing interest in the **600 MHz band** for mobile services.

RSPG Opinion on the future use of the 470–694 MHz band beyond 2030 in the EU

Document RSPG23-035 FINAL, 25 October 2023

- **Possible and technically feasible scenarios for post-2030 use**
 - Prevalent Broadcasting
 - Broadcasting (DTT and 5G Broadcast), Mobile limited (SDL)
 - Broadcasting limited, Mobile (Full FDD band plan)
- **Key Recommendations**
 - A single scenario may not be applicable to all MS
 - Any future EU framework should, to the extent feasible, facilitate the **implementation of various scenarios** across MS
 - Emphasise the need to preserve sufficient spectrum for PMSE usage, ensure protection for radio astronomy services, and support the continued development of efficient DTT technologies
 - Any regulatory action should also take into account the possible uses, already enabled by the implementation of Article 4
 - Monitor and reflect WRC-23 outcomes in future EU policy

World Radiocommunication Conference 2023



WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5 (UHF review)

- The Agenda item dealt with a review on the spectrum use and spectrum needs of existing services in the 470 – 960 MHz frequency band in **Region 1** and with possible regulatory actions in the 470 – 694 MHz frequency band, based on that review.
- **EU position:** Member States should ensure that any WRC-23 decision on the 470–694 MHz band in Region 1 aligns with the UHF Decision, **providing priority to broadcasting and PMSE use until at least 2030.**

ITU-R RR: 470 - 694 MHz

- **Service : Broadcasting primary** (No change to the primary allocation)
- **New footnote 5.295A:** Introduced **secondary mobile allocation**, except aeronautical mobile, in 43 CEPT countries (including all EU Member States except Italy and Spain)
- Mobile use must be coordinated under RR 9.21 and comply with the GE06 Plan, thus ensuring protection of broadcasting services



World Radiocommunication Conference 2023

ITU RR: 614 - 694 MHz

- **New footnote 5.307A:**

Introduced **primary mobile allocation**, except aeronautical mobile (co-primary with broadcasting) in 10 ASMG (Arab Spectrum Management Group) countries, with IMT identification

- **New footnote 5.307B:**

Introduced **secondary mobile allocation**, except aeronautical mobile, for 8 African countries

A **preliminary agenda item** for **WRC-31** was set to review spectrum use in the 470–694 MHz band and to consider possible regulatory actions — including a potential primary mobile allocation in the 614–694 MHz band in Region 1.

Further Actions beyond 2025

- RSPG deliverable(s) by ~ 2026.
- The UHF Decision should be reviewed in time for the 2030 milestone.
- Related activity: preparation / adoption of the Council Decision on WRC-27 (AI 10) as regards WRC-31 Agenda on the sub-700 MHz band.

Thank you!

Nineta Vretou

Niki.VRETOU@ec.europa.eu

DG CNECT, Radio Spectrum Policy Unit B4