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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

2nd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the future use of the UHF Band

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The RSPG Working Group on the future use of the UHF held three meetings (on the 1st July, 16-17th September and 29-30th October) since the last RSPG meeting (RSPG#34).

In order to develop the required Opinion, the group took into consideration the ongoing work in other fora namely on the preparation of WRC-15, CEPT response to the EC mandate on the 700 MHz band, High Level Group, 5GPPP and CEPT TG6.

In addition, Phillipa Marks from Plum Consulting was present at the 4th meeting of the group to present the work which is being carried out on “Challenges and opportunities of broadband-broadcast convergence”. After the presentation of the work, a brief discussion took place on the details of this ongoing study.

A questionnaire on the future of UHF band have been developed by the group and sent to Member States in order to gather updated information on Member States *status quo* and their plans for the future. This information, together with the information already collected by the questionnaire issued by the group dealing with the Wireless Broadband Opinion, was of fundamental importance for the development of the Opinion. The summary of the responses to the questionnaire was addressed and agreed during the 4th RSPG UHF meeting.

At the 5th meeting of the group, the draft Opinion was fully reviewed and endorsed for submission to RSPG 35.

This Opinion have been developed with the active participation of all the Member States involved and was agreed by all the MS present at the 5th meeting, being: Austria, Belgium, France, Finland, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, UK, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Portugal.

Also ETSI and the EC were present in the meetings, helping the group with their expertise.

It has to be noted that one of the sensitive topics of the Opinion concerns the deadline(s) for the 700 MHz band, in particular given the potential difficulties that some Member States may face in order to make the band available in the short/medium term. Therefore, the group felt that this key issue requires the guidance of the RSPG plenary on the way to address this matter on the RSPG Opinion. Two options are offered in draft RSPG opinion (see section 9) for due consideration of the RSPG. The draft Opinion developed (annex 1) is submitted to the RSPG meeting for discussion and approval.

After the approval of the final text, the group recommends RSPG to submit the draft Opinion to public consultation before its final approval.

31/10/20014

The Rapporteur of the group

Luísa Mendes (Portugal)

Attachment: Doc RSPG14-585 “Draft RSPG Opinion on the future use of the UHF band”