

We recognize the efforts of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) in shaping the EU policy for satellite Direct-to-Device (D2D) connectivity. This opinion could have a tangible impact on the future policy concerning the regulatory framework for providing satellite services and their integration with terrestrial solutions.

However, the rollout of satellite D2D services comes with significant challenges that need careful attention. One of our main concerns is the potential risks linked to D2D-IMT services operating in frequency bands already assigned to terrestrial mobile communications. For the good of both consumers and operators it's crucial to empower CEPT to develop harmonized technical conditions for D2D-IMT satellite operations in ECS harmonized bands while ensuring the protection of ECS networks and other radio services from interference caused by D2D satellite operations.

While some countries have made strides in D2D regulation, many are still waiting for the outcomes of WRC-27. We believe that acting before WRC-27 could be feasible, but it carries risks for Europe, which consists of various countries in a relatively small geographical area. We support CEPT studies aimed at improving the understanding of coexistence between D2D and other services. However, we feel that turning these studies into legislation before WRC-27 may not be the best approach. Any changes should be based on conservative assumptions to protect terrestrial services and avoid future disruptions. Stricter coexistence parameters established after WRC-27 could impose significant costs on the market, ultimately affecting consumers and businesses that rely on these services. Therefore, any conditions defined or applied within the EU, such as for trials or potential bilateral agreements, should adopt conservative assumptions.

We urge RSPG to emphasize the critical need for protection of existing mobile networks from potential interference. It is essential that satellite services, which are supplemental in nature to services provided by terrestrial networks, do not compromise the reliability and quality of the latter, especially in the most vulnerable rural and remote areas with limited coverage.

According to the draft opinion, in the future, Member States may amend existing spectrum licenses under national legislation to enable D2D-IMT services based on future ECS harmonization decisions. We believe that protection of the rights of current license holders must be treated as a priority. Any amendments to existing spectrum licenses can't adversely affect these rights, as well as network users' experience. Additionally, any provisions for D2D services should always require cooperation and agreement with the terrestrial ECS license holder.

We believe that securing an agreement with MNOs should be a prerequisite for providing satellite D2D services in IMT spectrum. Regulators should allow D2D to operate under MNO licenses on a secondary basis, ensuring the protection of IMT networks in accordance with Radio Regulations. Satellite Network Operators (SNOs) must obtain agreement from MNOs to use their licensed spectrum within the designated area. Interference issues in interim frameworks, prior to WRC-27, should address adjacent band and area concerns. Decisions made at WRC-27 may necessitate a review of any local regulations established beforehand,

and new MSS allocations must ensure the protection of IMT identification in line with Radio Regulations.

In light of these considerations, we wish to underscore our concerns regarding the premature actions related to the outcomes of WRC-27. It is advisable to maintain flexibility in the use of CEPT studies until the results of the Conference are formally approved. Additionally, it is essential to ensure adherence to common requirements and to implement clear procedures for identifying any instances of non-compliance. This approach is in line with RSPG's considerations and recommendations. Ultimately, we believe that RSPG should explicitly state that D2D-IMT services should only be permitted under MNO licenses, contingent upon an agreement with the MNO that holds the license.

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