



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 25 October 2023

RSPG23-041 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on MSS 2 GHz

Progress Report of RSPG SG MSS 2 GHz

1. The Subgroup worked towards a draft Opinion with the participation of representatives from numerous Member States: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the European Commission.
2. Since the last RSPG Plenary meeting, the Subgroup met seven times (virtually on 22 June, 10 August, 26 September, 29 September, 05 October and 10 October 2023, and on 12 September in hybrid mode on kind invitation of the Spanish administration). To meet the time frame set by the Request for Opinion, the work was additionally organised in parallel work streams by correspondence, each developing another section of the draft Opinion.
3. The result of the Subgroup's work is presented in the Draft Opinion (RSPG23-042).
4. For public consultation – and later publication – a second version (containing no business confidential information) was developed, too.
5. In order to better capture its content, the Subgroup proposes to adapt the title into “Draft RSPG Opinion on assessment of different possible scenarios for the use of the frequency bands 1980-2010 MHz and 2170-2200 MHz by the Mobile Satellite Services beyond 2027”.
6. As requested by the Request for Opinion, the Subgroup developed *“recommendations as to the most appropriate way forward taking into consideration the efficient and effective use of the 2 GHz MSS frequency band for the period after 2027”*.
7. The Subgroup identified, that after the choice of the scenario after 2027, further steps are required. First, a scenario needs to be chosen. Second, once a scenario has been chosen, an operator selection process may need to be established.
 - a. The tight timing of the Request for Opinion did not allow to proceed beyond the scope of the Request and to further conclude on a recommendation which particular scenario should be chosen. However, the Subgroup is of the view that this choice is to be made by and agreed amongst Member States.
 - b. Concerning the operator selection procedure, one administration proposed several elements, such as possible criteria for an EU selection process, which should be taken into account, when developing that procedure in future. Due to time constraints the Subgroup could not assess these proposals. Nevertheless, it was common understanding, that RSPG should play a role, if an operator selection procedure would be developed in future. The Subgroup

agreed to forward this information to the Plenary for appropriate consideration in RSPG's future work.

- c. Thoughts, which relate to future steps, could not be discussed in-depth by the Subgroup and will be stored in a Placeholder document.
 - d. In case, following steps cannot be taken in due time, it could be considered at a later point of time, noting the risk of fragmentation, to investigate extending the current EU framework, for a reasonable transitional time.
8. Finally, the European Commission informed that their "Study on Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) in the 2 GHz Band in the EU – Implementation of the Current Regulatory Framework and an Overview of the Satellite Connectivity Market" aims to accompany the EC's future Impact Assessment on the future of the MSS 2 GHz band and will focus on technical elements mainly. It will run for nine months and hence, not be finished in the time, when the RSPG's opinion is foreseen to be finally adopted. There will be a public Workshop in the course of the Study. It is further planned to present the results to RSPG and CoCom.

RSPG is invited:

1. To take note of this Progress Report,
2. To approve the Draft Opinion for public consultation and
3. To note, that only the public version of the Draft Opinion is foreseen to be circulated to the public.