EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 39th meeting of RSPG on 24th February 2016. The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since the last RSPG meeting, there was one RSC meeting on 16th March 2016 (RSC#55) the following topics were addressed:

700 MHz band

The Commission presented a revised draft of the Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonised use of the 700 MHz band for wireless broadband and for flexible national use of parts of the 700 MHz band (duplex gap and guard bands) for audio PMSE, PPDR and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) radio communications (RSCOM15-42rev5), which was accompanied by an explanatory note (RSCOM16-02). There was a broad support for the draft measure as a whole, which also offers the opportunity of nearly global spectrum harmonisation for wireless broadband. Following editorial amendments the Commission presented a revised draft (RSCOM15-42rev6) to the RSC in a formal request for its opinion according to the regulatory procedure. The RSC gave a positive opinion to the draft Commission Decision with a qualified majority. The Commission adopted the Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/687 of 28 April[1].

Furthermore, on 26 May the Council adopted a general approach on the Commission's proposal for a Decision of the EP and Council on the use of the 470-790 MHz band. The next step will be the position of the EP, which is scheduled to vote in the ITRE Committee on 13 October 2016. Both the Commission and the Council have the aim of adopting a decision in first reading and formal trialogues will take place after the EP has voted.

LSA:

The Italian administration and the Commission gave a presentation on the ongoing LSA trial in 2300-2400 MHz band. This Pilot aims at testing the CEPT and ETSI frameworks on spectrum sharing with focus on 2.3-2.4 GHz band, validating the LSA sharing

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[1] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1464706780910&uri=CELEX:32016D0687

framework for the Italian NRA and exploring the possible applicability of the LSA approach to other frequency bands. The technical feasibility of sharing mobile networks with the incumbent services (in this case fixed radio relay links, video cameras, and telemetry) was successfully demonstrated, although some uncertainty remains as to the market interest (notably from MNOs) in the LSA approach. Therefore it was agreed to collect further relevant data and the Commission invited interested Member States to join an information group, where the Italian administration would provide further information on the trials and exchange experience.

An invitation will be circulated shortly inviting interested Member States to a presentation in Rome of the results of the Italian LSA trial.

Implementation of EU law on spectrum:

The Commission services presented a document (RSCOM16-03) providing an overview of the status of implementation of spectrum Implementing Decisions. In the context of good cooperation between the Commission and Member States in exchanging the necessary information for the purpose of verifying the implementation of EU law on spectrum, Member States were asked to provide the Commission services with all necessary updates by end of April 2016.

6th Update of Short Range Device decision

In the context of the permanent mandate to CEPT for the update of the Short Range Device decision (2013/752/EU), the Commission is currently analysing the corresponding (draft) CEPT Report 59 in preparation of the 6th update and awaits an addendum to this report on the bands 862-870, 870-876, and 915-921MHz. These bands appear very relevant in the IoT context also because of the usage of 915-921MHz for short range devices in other world regions and hence the potential of this band as an internationally harmonized IoT band. The addendum as such has been triggered by seven SRDocs within ETSI and generally large stakeholder support. It will deliver further insights into opportunities and obstacles concerning SRD usage within the above mentioned bands in the preparation of the 6th update and following updates.

5G ACTION PLAN

The 5GAP is a Commission initiative with the purpose to facilitate the swift roll-out of 5G networks and services in the Union ahead of other regions (by 2020) and in line with Europe's 5G policy priorities. While it is linked to technology developments in the context of the 5G-PPP, its major focus is on stimulating business models and early trials towards commercial 5G deployment. It will be materialised as a Commission Working Paper (or a Communication) adopted together with the Commission's proposals on the telecoms review.

As part of the main preparation, Commissioner Oettinger has also asked a representative subset of EU telco companies to provide a concerted input at CEO level. This Group is EU-centric due to the nature of the 5GAP and will be extended to include major EU players in selected vertical industries (such as transport, healthcare or media and entertainment) to send a political signal to the market in terms of Europe's deployment priorities. The key deliverable is a 5G manifesto which is being prepared by a Sherpa Group in its own capacity. The CEO group should adopt this manifesto on 7 July and submit it to the Commission. The manifesto should contain actionable recommendations and focus on a common roadmap of the telco and vertical sectors for deployment, envisaged large-scale trials and regulatory / spectrum enablers.

Closely linked to this process is also the ongoing roundtable organised by Commissioner Oettinger with a special focus on connected cars. Industry participants in this process plan a workshop on standardisation for connected and automated driving in Brussels on 20 June 2016.

The 5GAP as an industry-advised Commission initiative is related to the RSPG work items on 5G, ITS and IoT.

3. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Study workshop on market entry, scarce resources and end-user issues (SMART 2015/0003)

On 2 May 2016, the Commission hosted a study workshop to discuss and validate the interim findings of a study conducted by WIK, CRIDS and Cullen on *Substantive issues for review in the areas of market entry, management of scarce resources and general end-user issues* in the context of preparing the review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications.

The workshop was attended by around 100 external participants representing EU and national sectoral industry associations, electronic communications network operators and service providers, cable network operators, broadcasters, consumer interest associations, vendors, business users, as well as members of RSPG, Member States and national regulatory authorities.

A recording of the entire workshop is online at:

https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/public-workshop-on-market-entry-scarce-resources-and-end-user-rights

Individual sessions can be accessed from the following landing page:

https://vimeo.com/album/3939669/

Study workshop on Mapping of Broadband Services in Europe (SMART 2014/0016)

On 7 and 8 June 2016, the Commission will host a study workshop to consult stakeholders on mapping of broadband services in Europe. This workshop will be held in the context of a mapping project the Commission has launched a while ago, which will aggregate and benchmark measurements of broadband connectivity on aspects like Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE) in the EU – both for fixed and mobile networks. The resulting interactive online platform builds on existing mapping initiatives and shall act as a complementary information hub for all stakeholders involved in regulation, provision and monitoring of broadband services.

The project tries to achieve synergies with on-going activities like work on QoS mapping within the BEREC Net Neutrality WG or work on the national level as well as on-going standardization activities on QoS and QoE measurements. In the context of spectrum policy, the aggregated data could – for instance – provide useful insights in the future into how efficiently the available spectrum is used to provide mobile network coverage.

During the workshop, the study team will share the first concept of the platform and present implementation ideas and will seek feedback from stakeholders on these at this early stage of development.