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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

6th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Spectrum aspects of the Digital Single Market

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RSPG at its Meeting #44 (Brussels, 21 November 2017) approved the 5th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group (RSPG17-039) on spectrum aspects of the Digital Single Market. This covered the RSPG's ongoing work on the development of its Peer Review functions and also considered areas of joint work and common interest between RSPG and BEREC.

I. RSPG WORK ON PEER REVIEW

The aim of the RSPG work on Peer Review is to better enable RSPG members to exchange experiences and views on spectrum awards and national assignment procedures relating to spectrum harmonised for ECS¹. Key initiatives undertaken by RSPG over the past few months have included:

- A series of presentations from Member States on experience of awarding, or plans to award, 700 MHz spectrum, held on 20 November;
- A workshop, held on 16 January hosted by ComReg, focusing on the recent 3.6 GHz spectrum award in Ireland;
- A study visit by RSPG members to Hong Kong, Korea and Japan in December 2017.

Further details in respect of each of these is given below.

Brussels workshop on award of 700 MHz band

A workshop on spectrum awards of the 700 MHz band was held on 20 November in Brussels. This provided an opportunity to discuss the experience of countries that had already awarded the 700 MHz band (France and Germany), along with the thoughts of two countries (Sweden and Norway) that are in the process of planning their award. An overview of some of the key points covered in the presentations and in subsequent discussions was provided to the RSPG Plenary on 21 November.

Workshop on Ireland's 3.6 GHz award

On 16 January 2018 ComReg hosted a workshop in Dublin on Ireland's award of 3.4-3.8 GHz held in 2017. The workshop provided an overview of the background to the award, information on the development of the licence conditions attached to the award and a detailed explanation of the award design. The description of the award included information on measures taken to provide information about the structure of the award and help potential bidders to participate in the award.

¹ Spectrum subject to technical harmonisation under Spectrum Decision (700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1452-1492 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2,1 GHz, 2,6 GHz and 3,4-3,8 GHz)

The Workshop included a series of presentations from individuals at ComReg responsible for different aspects of the award and others involved in the award. This provided a basis for interactive discussion of the different elements of the award, allowing the workshop attendees to ask questions and discuss detailed aspects of the award design and process. The workshop ran through the day and gave participants great opportunity to understand and analyse the different aspects and features of this 3.4-3.8 GHz award.

RSPG study visit to Hong Kong, Korea and Japan

The RSPG undertook a study visit to Hong Kong, Korea and Japan from 11-14 December 2017. The participants were the current Chair of RSPG, along with the previous Chair and incoming Chair. The team met with representatives from Governments, Regulators, operators and manufacturers and the visit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss spectrum developments in Europe and Asia, not least in terms of developments in respect of 5G.

Further information about the study visit will be provided to RSPG members at the RSPG Plenary in January 2018.

Peer Review Platform

As described in previous Progress Reports, the Peer Review Platform has been established to enable RSPG members to learn from each other's experiences and to seek support, as appropriate, from peers on issues of spectrum management, focusing on spectrum harmonised for ECS. The RSPG Peer Review platform is based on voluntary principles and is not intended to impose additional obligations for the members. Member States are encouraged to continue to upload further information about spectrum awards in their countries as more information becomes available.

II. RSPG AND BEREC WORK ON MOBILE COVERAGE

The RSPG and BEREC worked together in 2017 to develop a joint Report addressing mobile coverage policy. Following a consultation which closed in November 2017, the joint report - entitled *Facilitating Mobile Connectivity in "Challenge Areas"* - was approved by both RSPG and BEREC for publication at the start of this year. The joint report is available at:

http://berec.europa.eu/eng/news_and_publications/whats_new/4734-berec-and-rspg-present-solutions-to-facilitate-mobile-connectivity-in-challenge-areas

BEREC and RSPG will continue to work on mobile and 5G related issues in 2018. In particular RSPG has recently consulted on a second Opinion on 5G while BEREC has identified 4 workstreams that it will be taking forward in 2018 with a mobile/5G theme. These are:

- A best practices report on spectrum authorization and award procedures with a view to considering their suitability for 5G

- A common position on monitoring mobile coverage
- A best practices report on coverage obligations with a view to considering their suitability for 5G
- A report and common position on infrastructure sharing

These 4 work items will be progressed by BEREC through the course of 2018. Although the workstreams will result in BEREC outputs we will aim to keep RSPG informed of developments as the various reports and common positions are progressed. In addition BEREC has indicated that there may, at points, be opportunity to informally seek views from RSPG members on the different outputs as they are developed.

Rapporteurs:
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