



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity

Radio Spectrum Policy Group

RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 12 February 2025

RSPG25-011 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

**Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on
Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz
within the EU**

1. The RSPG Working Group on “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” (hereafter: the **UHF SG**) continued to work on its assigned tasks, holding three more meetings since the last report provided for the RSPG plenary #65:
 - Meeting #8, on 18 November 2024, virtual;
 - Meeting #9, on 18 December 2024, virtual;
 - Meeting #10, on 24 January 2025, virtual.
 2. One more meeting is already scheduled:
 - Meeting #11, on 20 February 2025, virtual.
 3. The participants registered in the **UHF SG** represent the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Representatives from Montenegro, Norway, Türkiye and Ukraine¹, as well as representatives of the European Commission and CEPT/ECO are also registered.
 4. The **UHF SG** continued to work on the Questionnaire and started to plan the Workshop, considering that the latter should take priority as organisational aspects predominate.
 5. The Questionnaire was published on 30 September 2024 and the deadline for replies was set for 5 November. An extension to 8 November was only granted on specific request.
 6. A total of 271 responses were received from 191 different subjects. Respondents indicated their category (in some cases more than one) according to this distribution:
 - Regulators: 37
 - Networks: 68
 - Contents: 49
 - End users of spectrum: 96
 - Other interested parties: 28
- 21 respondents did not identify themselves in a specific category, but answered some sections of interest to them.
7. The distribution of origin was as follows:
 - 238 responses were received from 24 (out of 27) EU Member States,
 - 15 from countries geographically close to the EU,
 - 12 from associations with members in more than one EU country,
 - 6 from global associations or multinational companies.

¹ The impossibility of reaching Ukraine's representatives by e-mail, already reported in the previous reports to RSPG Plenary #64 and #65, persists: messages sent by the chairman Umberto Mascia (email: umberto.mascia@mise.gov.it) are rejected with the error message *Sender address rejected: Domain not found*.

8. To analyse the results, a group of rapporteurs was set up on a voluntary basis. Each rapporteur worked on one of the categories, and an initial classification of the responses was made. The co-chairs and rapporteurs met several times and discussed the criteria to be applied in order to extract meaningful information from each question. The translation of this work into a report is still in progress and will take some time, given the large number of responses received.
 9. With regard to the workshop, the **UHF SG** has prepared an outline plan. The workshop will last one day and will be held at the European Commission, in hybrid mode to allow remote participation. The date currently identified is Friday 11 April 2025, with Monday 14 April as a second option if a suitable room is not available (assuming 50-100 participants). It is planned to start at 9.30 and finish around 16.00 to allow those who have to fly home.
 10. The tentative programme for the workshop is shown below, together with some indication on the focus to be given to each session. The **UHF SG** is working on contacting possible speakers.
-

Workshop Draft Program

9:30 Welcome and Introduction

9:40 **Session 1 – The present use of the band**

- The EU regulatory framework and its review
- The outcome of WRC-23 and its consequences (if any)
- The view from our Questionnaire

Timing: 15' + 10' questions

The session will be devoted to presenting the current situation of band usage. The reference to WRC-23 could contribute to the subsequent discussions, also in relation to the concept of "flexibility". The main results of the questionnaire will be presented, which could feed into the subsequent discussion.

10:05 **Session 2 – Cases from the four corners of the world**

- Two regulators in EU countries with intensive use for DTTB in the future
- Two regulators in EU countries with reduced/no use for DTTB in the future
- One or two regulators from countries outside the EU, who can report experiences and critical issues in the coexistence of broadcast with other services

Timing: 5x15' + 15' questions

The session aims to explore the regulatory aspects in different countries where current and future uses of the band are moving in different directions. It is also considered useful to have information from countries outside the EU, e.g. whether they have already authorised uses of the band other than broadcasting, what lessons they have learnt and how they have managed the coexistence of different services.

11:35 Break*Timing: 15'***11:50 Session 3 – The future use of the band**

- One representative of the industries for each of the following:
 1. TV – DTTB
 2. Mobile – IMT
 3. Mobile – PPDR
 4. Military applications
 5. PMSE
 6. Radioastronomy

Timing: 6x15' + 10' questions

The session will focus on industry viewpoints, also in the light of the regulatory aspects presented in session 2. The idea is to get each community's own picture of the "ideal case" for bandwidth use in the next decade. In order to represent the interests of each community rather than a particular point of view within it, speakers will be sought from industry associations.

13:30 Lunch break*Timing: 60'***14:30 Session 4 – Round table: “What if...”**

- One representative of the stakeholders for each of the following:
 1. Networks
 2. Services
 3. Regulators
 4. Consumers
 5. PMSE
 6. Other Users

Timing: 60' + 20' questions

The moderator could ignite the discussion by asking important and ‘provocative’ questions. The questions could come from ideas that emerged in sessions 2 and 3. The discussion should address possible solutions to concrete problems (e.g. ‘how to manage the broadcast service if the IMT enters the band?’) rather than letting each intervention be just an advertisement of its own merits.

15:50 Summary and conclusions*Timing: 10'***16:00 Closing**

11. No material is submitted to the Plenary for approval at this stage.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU
Rapporteur/s	Andreas Agius, Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, Greece Umberto Mascia, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy
Rationale	<p>The RSPG in its “Opinion on the strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030” contributed with a strategic vision for sub-700 MHz spectrum use, exploring the potential of the flexibility defined in Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2017/899 and at the same time the current implementation constraints, and identifying some possible scenarios beyond 2030. It is considered as the background for the report on the usage of sub-700 MHz required by the Decision (EU) 2017/899 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union.</p> <p>The RSPG noted that the evolution of UHF band broadcasting reception during the current decade, including factors such as the number of programs, the content format and technological advancements (T2, HEVC, 5G Broadcast) plays an important role in shaping any timeline post 2030. The RSPG considers that any later EU choice or decision on the European legal framework in this band will take due account of the needs of the Member States, respecting the flexibility offered by the ITU Radio Regulations in the use of spectrum.</p> <p>A notable finding of the Opinion is the recognition of the possibility that in the next decade, 2030-2040, a single scenario may not be applicable to all Member States. In order to continue the work undertaken with the above-mentioned Opinion, the RSPG considers that there is added value in exploring how different scenarios can coexist in EU.</p> <p>Further, the RSPG recognises the role of the PMSE and the need to preserve sufficient spectrum for PMSE needs, particularly audio-PMSE which make extensive use of the sub-700 MHz band, including for the long-term development.</p>
Scope	<p>The RSPG should continue to monitor EU Member States initiatives on the future usage in their frequency band 470-694 MHz.</p> <p>In consequence, based on its recent Opinion on UHF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The RSPG should carry out an assessment of the prospects for the use of the sub-700 MHz band in the decade 2030-2040 by the different Member States, seeking information from relevant institutional stakeholders. 2. RSPG should also collect lessons from early initiatives from Member States introducing other usages than broadcasting to address audio PMSE long term developments in order to preserve sufficient spectrum for audio PMSE needs, taking also into account the transition of audio PMSE towards new spectrum efficient technologies. <p>The RSPG also should gather information from industry stakeholders on expected technological developments in both mobile and broadcasting platforms.</p>

Planned deliverables and timing	<p>RSPG Report on the future usage of sub – 700 MHz band in the EU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Report for public consultation: June 2025 • Final Report: October 2025 <p>RSPG Questionnaire/workshops as appropriate.</p>
Project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Questionnaire. To be completed by the end of 2024. • Step 2: Workshop. To be held by April 2025. • Step 3: production of the Report.
Dependencies	No dependencies identified at present.