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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 35th meeting of RSPG on 12th November 2014. 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 9 December 2014 (RSC#50). The following topics were addressed:

Spectrum inventory: The Commission presented the document on the follow-up to the Commission Report on spectrum inventory (*RSCOM14-47*). RSC members were given the opportunity to provide their views. The report highlights the need for more spectrum sharing opportunities to satisfy increasing user demands for spectrum. The report gives a set of frequency bands which are already subject to ongoing initiatives and identifies other bands which should be investigated more closely. While launching a discussion on a Mandate for harmonisation of cordless cameras in the 2.7-2.9 GHz band at the next meeting, the Commission will wait for the outcome of WRC-15 before launching a discussion for a Mandate to CEPT on the harmonisation of satellite services in the 3.8-4.2 GHz band.

Unpaired 2 GHz bands: The Commission services presented a discussion document answering to key questions raised by delegations in the previous RSC meeting, clarifying the business case for DA2GC and proposing elements for an Implementing Decision. The choice of TDD technology for DA2GC as proposed by CEPT as one of the options in its forthcoming Report 52 was supported, as it leaves the whole upper unpaired band (2010-2025 MHz) free for PMSE, which is also an important application for Member States. Member States commented on the importance of addressing existing rights of use for 3G, the deadline for implementation and the possible difficulty of fixing all technical parameters for SRDs (for shared use with DA2GC) at this stage. In general, the understanding and acceptance of having an Implementing Decision covering the unpaired 2 GHz bands progressed and the wish emerged from several delegations to work further on the details at the following meetings.

1.5 GHz frequency band: The Commission submitted for initial discussion a draft implementing Decision on the harmonised designation of the 1452-1492 MHz frequency band for wireless broadband electronic communications services in downlink-only mode. The proposal contains technical conditions and regulatory provisions based on CEPT Report 54, pursuant to a Mandate of the Commission to CEPT. The draft Commission

decision also ensures co-existence in terms of appropriate protection with existing T-DAB services in the same band as well as services in adjacent bands. The discussions in the Committee showed wide support by the Member States. Following some proposed amendments, the draft Decision will be revised and presented to the next RSC meeting.

Study on license-exempt spectrum: Experts from Tech4i² Limited and Real Wireless gave a presentation about the goals of the Commission Study "Identification of the market of radio equipment operating in license-exempt frequency bands to assess medium and long-term spectrum usage densities (SMART 2014/0012). RSC members were given the opportunity to comment on the presentation.

3. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Commission study "Challenges and opportunities of broadcast-broadband convergence and its impact on spectrum and network use" (SMART 2013/0014)¹:

The final study report was published on the web site of the Commission mid of December 2014.

The publication of the final report of the Study "Use of commercial mobile networks and equipment for mission-critical high-speed broadband communications in specific sectors" (SMART 2013/0016)

The final report and its executive summaries in English, French and German have been published in December 2014 on the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) web site².

Launch of the Study "Identification of the market of radio equipment operating in license-exempt frequency bands to assess medium and long-term spectrum usage densities" (SMART 2014/0012)

The contract was awarded to Tech4i2 Limited and Real Wireless. The goal of the study is to enable a better understanding of the use of harmonised licence-exempt frequency bands by different categories of radio equipment in Europe. The study team is organising a workshop with industry which is planned for 17th March 2015. The final results of the study should be available by November 2015.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-challenges-and-opportunities-broadcast-broadband-convergence-and-its-impact-spectrum-an-0>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/use-commercial-mobile-networks-and-equipment-mission-critical-high-speed-broadband>

Workshop on study on socio-economic benefits of network sharing

On 29.01.2015, a workshop was organised in Brussels by TNO, the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research, the consultants responsible for the Study on socio-economic benefits of network sharing (SMART 2014/0024). It was attended by roughly 100 people representing industry (for instance telecom operators, broadcasters, equipment manufacturers) as well as NRAs, NCAs and several associations. The purpose of the workshop was to inform relevant stakeholders and experts about planned of the on-going study and to gather concrete feedback. The afternoon session was organised in 3 smaller groups and dedicated to gather feedback on specific market and network sharing scenarios, which will be the object of the study itself.

The goal of the Study is to support the Commission building up its knowledge base on the technological and economic models of network sharing in the context of possible EU policy initiatives on the issue. In particular, the study will estimate the cost synergies in deployment and operation of fast wireless broadband networks in different network sharing scenarios; quantify potential benefits from mobile network sharing for consumers and for society as a whole as well as potential negative effects; it will assess for specific identified scenarios the overall effect of potential benefits and potentially arising negative effects as well as identify existing and potential barriers that prevent operators from entering into network sharing agreements.