EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Electronic Communications Networks and Services
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 09 October 2019

RSPG19-025 FINAL

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 49th meeting of the RSPG on 06 June 2019 (RSPG#49). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2.   POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

On 13 June 2019, the Council adopted a Council Decision on the Union Position for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

3.   HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#49, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC#68) on 10 July 2019. The following issues were discussed:

- **ITS**

Definitive rejection (21 against) in mid July by the Council of the proposed ITS Delegated Regulation.

On the spectrum side, the ITS topic was discussed at the 10 July RSC meeting where the Commission presented a working document in preparation of a draft Commission Implementing Decision to amend DEC 2008/671/EC on the extension of the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) safety-related band at 5.9 GHz. The focus of the above document was on the prioritisation of the Urban Rail and Road-ITS parts of the band in accordance with the conclusions of CEPT Report 71. Several Member States took the floor and welcomed the Commission approach to make a rapid update of the existing ITS Implementing Decision. While noting that ETSI might not be ready by December (when the next RSC takes place), they still welcome any progress on the draft implementing Decision. Some Member States supported "sharing priorities" between Road-ITS and Urban-Rail as proposed in CEPT Report 71 which are also translated into the forthcoming ECC Decision on this frequency band.

- **SRD**

The Commission services presented a revised draft Implementing Decision for the seventh update of the Short-Range Devices (SRD) Decision 2006/771/EC. The meeting discussed this revision and after some limited changes (RSCOM19-6rev1) gave its positive opinion. On 2 August 2019 the Commission adopted a new Implementing Decision[1] (EU) 2019/1345 amending Decision 2006/771/EC updating harmonised technical conditions in the area of radio spectrum use for short-range devices (SRD). The Commission also sent a guidance letter[2] to CEPT in order to start the eighth update cycle of SRD Decision.

- **Paired 2 GHz**

The Commission services presented the working document (RSCOM19-25) on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2012/688/EU, as regards an update of relevant technical conditions applicable to the frequency bands 1920-1980 and 2110-2170 (paired terrestrial 2GHz band) for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services. The new technical parameters according to the CEPT report 72 are included in the annex of the working document and their hamonisation will make the paired terrestrial 2 GHz band suitable for 5G, while preserving the principle of technology and service neutrality. The Delegations were positive to the initiative and will submit their comments to the next RSC committee in December 2019, where a first draft of this Implementing Decision will be discussed.

RSC#69 is scheduled for 11 and 12 December 2019 in Brussels.

4.   OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Small-area wireless access points**

As provided for in the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC or the "Code"), the Commission, by means of an implementing regulation, will facilitate the easy deployment of small-area wireless access points (SAWAPs or small cells) notably by defining the physical and technical characteristics of small cells, which should be exempted from any individual town planning permit or other individual prior permits, due to their limited impact on the environment.

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[1]   available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019D1345&from=EN

[2]   Guidance letter to CEPT is available at https://cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/wg-fm/client/introduction/

The Commission assigned a study[3] in July 2018 to collect evidence and views in implementing the above requirements. A relevant public consultation took place between 10 January and 10 April 2019. The final report of the study and a synopsis report of the results of the public consultation will be published in due course.

The Commission presented to the COCOM Committee on 24 September an outline of the possible provisions of the abovementioned implementing regulation and is now analysing the Member States' comments. For the preparation of the implementing regulation, the Commission will take into account the views of the Member States, the final study report as well as the inter-service consultation and the results of the public consultation.

• 	**5G Deployment for Railways**

A Round Table on the Digitisation of Railways, also known as "5G@Rail", was launched on 20 March jointly by DG Connect, DG MOVE the rail European Infrastructure Manager (EIM) and the Community of European Railways (CER). Working Group meetings took place in June, July and September. Further intermediary meetings will take place online. The Round Table various Working Groups focus on the perspectives for the uptake of digital technologies in the railway sector; the EU strategy to digitalisation of the mobility sector; key use cases; a new radio system for Railways: spectrum, standards, 5G, integration and migration needs – constraints and opportunities; cybersecurity and trust: the EU cybersecurity ecosystem and its implications on railways, digital technologies for enhancing trust and smart contracts; Blockchain; AI and robotics: big data analytics, autonomous trains, predictive maintenance, drones; data economy: open data availability and potential (obstacles, Open Data Directive, machine-readable data, etc.); identification of regulatory obstacles, market failures and topics for a common digital agenda in the future. A report is expected in November 2019.

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[3]   SMART 2018/0017: Study on a "Light Deployment Regime for Small-Area Wireless Access Points (SAWAPs)".