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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group

on "Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

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Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group on

"Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

The "Good offices" Sub-Group held two meetings since the 69th Radio Spectrum Policy Group, which took place on 15 April and 19 May. The reports of the meetings are annexed to this progress report, and an executive summary of the key developments is provided below.

1. FM harmful interference around Italy

In April, Italy presented its assessment of the FM interference situation and linked it to the broader infringement procedure opened by the European Commission. Italy confirmed that it was not contesting the infringement procedure and stated that it remained committed to identifying solutions to the harmful interference caused by Italian stations. Italy considered that the problem was structural, referring to the lack of harmonisation in the FM band, the continued use of analogue technology and favourable propagation conditions, which it said limited spectrum sharing. It also highlighted what it described as an imbalance between the total number of GE84-registered stations and the estimated number of stations in operation in border areas, and argued that this should be taken into account when assessing the broader interference situation.

Italy further set out a number of specific concerns regarding Croatia, France and Slovenia, which it considered to reflect practices inconsistent with the applicable rules. Those allegations were strongly rejected by the countries concerned, which maintained that their stations operated within the relevant international and coordination frameworks. France, Slovenia and Croatia also stressed that the key issue remained the interference caused by uncoordinated or non-aligned Italian stations, and called for complete and up-to-date station information, together with focused technical discussion on the specific cases causing harmful interference.

The discussion underlined the legal and practical complexity of the issue. France pointed to the long-standing nature of the unresolved coordination issues and the delays affecting bilateral work, while Slovenia and Croatia emphasised that the same concerns had been raised repeatedly over many years without sufficient concrete progress. Italy reiterated that it was willing to address the interference issues, but only through a balanced approach that took account of the operational reality in all affected border areas and not through the immediate switch-off of its uncoordinated stations.

The May meeting acknowledged that the infringement procedure would address compliance with EU law but would not, by itself, resolve the interference issues. The focus was therefore placed on practical follow-up, including the resumption of bilateral and multilateral technical discussions, the exchange of complete and current station data, and work towards a jointly agreed roadmap with clear timelines and milestones. Italy emphasised that any solution should include opportunities for it to register some FM stations and underlined that a solution involving

the switch-off of all uncoordinated stations was not realistic. It stated that activities should include spectrum optimisation in border areas to reduce redundancies. Italy expressed willingness to share data on its FM stations currently in operation, including both coordinated and uncoordinated stations, and indicated that, while around 4,400 stations were registered under the GE84, around 16,000 stations were currently authorised nationally.

Slovenia highlighted the root of the problem as the extensive use in Italy of uncoordinated stations, and expressed concerns that commitments made during coordination activities were not being confirmed or followed through by Italy. Croatia and France shared similar views and concerns. Italy outlined the reasons underlying its practice but expressed willingness to improve its internal process for the examination of frequency coordination requests.

Moreover, Croatia, France and Slovenia rejected the assertion that the FM band was being used inefficiently in their territories and underlined that spectrum management within their national territories remained a matter of national competence. They further stressed that discussions should remain focused on the resolution of harmful interference cases, which had remained unresolved notwithstanding reports submitted several years earlier.

In conclusion, the Sub-Group agreed on the following key principles and action points:

a) Efforts should remain focused on finding solutions to eliminate the various harmful interference cases around Italy.
b) The administrations concerned should exchange accurate, complete and up-to-date information on the stations in operation before the next plenary meeting in June. If deemed appropriate, this information may also be complemented by information on the name of the network using the frequency.
c) Bilateral and multilateral technical engagement should resume with a view to addressing the underlying issues and identifying technical solutions to the outstanding FM harmful interference cases. A technical measure underlined in this context is the alignment of Italian FM station parameters with the GE84 Plan.
d) National planning and the efficient use of spectrum fall within the direct competence of each administration, which is responsible for ensuring that radio spectrum is used efficiently without causing harmful interference to neighbouring administrations. The guiding frameworks include the EECC, in particular Article 45, and the relevant ITU instruments, including the Radio Regulations and the GE84 Agreement.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

The Adriatic and Ionian Group continued its work towards finalising the regional DAB agreement. While the overall status of the draft agreement remains stable, a number of issues are still under active discussion.

The latest meeting of the Group took place on 15 May and its discussions focused mainly on the annexes to the agreement, in particular the Italian part. Clarifications were provided by Italy on points previously raised by Croatia. It was reported that the pending case concerning the

Učka site was also resolved between Croatia and Italy. The Group is expected to resume discussions in July.

Progress was also reported in bilateral and multilateral coordination activities in the region. Albania is analysing the comments received on its frequency assignments and is reviewing assignments submitted by North Macedonia and Greece. North Macedonia reported that no outstanding issues remain with Greece and that a draft FM coordination agreement has been shared. Bulgaria and North Macedonia have also reached a general agreement on the VHF band, although minor technical issues remain to be finalised. Trilateral discussions are ongoing with Bulgaria and Greece, and with Serbia and Albania, to further improve national coordination.

3. Cross border activities with non-European Union countries

Interference cases around Albania

The Sub-Group continued its examination of harmful interference originating from Albanian television transmissions in the UHF band, affecting both digital terrestrial television and mobile services in neighbouring countries.

Albania reported that an international expert engaged to support the migration process submitted his report in February 2026. The report provides a detailed assessment of the migration of the 700 MHz band, including associated costs, and takes into account key cost drivers such as equipment price increases, labour costs and exchange rate variations. An inter-institutional working group has been reactivated to continue the work on the migration process and finalise the draft legislation. Albania expects that this process will lead to a complete resolution of harmful interference issues in the UHF band affecting neighbouring countries, including Greece, Italy, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

Croatia reported harmful interference on channels 23, 29 and 56, and liaison is taking place between the two countries. Greece reported interference on channels 51, 53 and 54, affecting mobile LTE services, while North Macedonia reported similar interference on channels 51, 54, 55 and 57. The interference experienced in Italy was, for the time being, not considered critical.

Montenegro reported bilateral discussions with Albania and indicated that a bilateral agreement on DTT use below 700 MHz is expected to be finalised in the June-July period. Albania expressed its readiness to include a precise date by which no DTT transmissions would remain in the 700 MHz band.

Interference cases around Ukraine

The European Commission confirmed that no new information is currently available regarding potential EU financing for technical mitigation measures in the Zakarpattia region.

Interference cases around Cyprus

No updates were reported, noting that the issue remains primarily of a political nature.

4. Date of next meeting

The Sub-Group will hold its next meeting on 30 September 2026 (09:30-12:30hrs.) in virtual format.

ANNEX I

REPORT

RSPG SUB-GROUP

"Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

Web meeting, 15th April 2026

The co-chairs welcomed the participants to the meeting of the RSPG Sub-Group of the 'Good offices'. The draft agenda of the meeting was then considered and subsequently approved.

1. FM interference around Italy

Italy reported that, following the last meeting of the 'Good Offices', it held two informal meetings with the European Commission (EC), during which it provided an overview of the actions it intends to adopt in response to the infringement procedure concerning harmful FM interference affecting neighbouring countries. Italy emphasised that, in the context of the infringement procedure, the role of the EC should not be limited to facilitating agreements between administrations; rather, it should also ensure the fair application of the relevant rules among the countries concerned.

Italy also highlighted several challenges associated with the FM band, including the lack of harmonisation, the continued use of analogue technology (which do not allow for efficient channel reallocation) and favourable propagation conditions, which further limit spectrum sharing possibilities. Italy stressed that all countries should be treated equally and should comply with the applicable rules. In this context, it noted that certain practices inconsistent with these rules have been observed and were recently communicated in writing to the EC. A summary of these observations is provided below:

- France:
  - Elba case: Operations by the French public broadcaster Radio France from Elba Island without authorisation from the Italian administration. This case was identified in 2022, and Italy expressed its willingness to regularise the relevant FM installations (four stations) in accordance with Article 18.2 of the ITU Radio Regulations (RR).
  - Bonifacio case: An increase in transmission power for Radio Nostalgie operating on 88.3 MHz, from 100 W to 1000 W, without any request for coordination. Italy's proposed technical solutions were not accepted by France. In the meantime, France addressed the issue by deploying another station at

Monte Corbu on a different frequency (88.4 MHz). This station is causing interference to an Italian station registered in the GE84 Plan.

- Slovenia:
  - Civil cases: Based on documentation presented during court proceedings, Slovenian stations were authorised to transmit at power levels higher than those recorded in the GE84 Plan. These uncoordinated changes increased interference levels within Italian territory.
  - Stations at Kuk: Discrepancies have been identified between the data registered in the GE84 Plan and the actual station parameters. These discrepancies relate to the transmission site, including geographical coordinates and antenna heights. Compatibility assessments based on registered data versus actual parameters yield different results. The Kuk site is particularly problematic because it is situated on a ridge less than a kilometre from the Italian-Slovenian border, and the radiation patterns recorded in the GE84 Plan also emit significantly in the direction of Italy.
  - Inefficient spectrum use: The same Slovenian programme can be received on multiple frequencies within Italian territory (in some cases 8–10 different frequencies, but in one case as many as 17).

- Croatia and Slovenia:
  - Significant signal levels: Recent measurements carried out by Italian local offices indicate that signal levels from Croatian and Slovenian FM stations within Italian territory are significant, exceeding 50 dBµV/m for Croatia and 60 dBµV/m for Slovenia, and in some cases even reaching over 80 dBµV/m. These findings are consistent with the results of a measurement campaign conducted in 2015, which also indicated heavy use of the FM band in the region.

Italy reiterated on its readiness to solve the FM interference issues, provided that all parties comply with the applicable rules. Any solution should also ensure that Italy has access to a sufficient number of frequencies registered under the GE84 Plan. Italy further emphasised that a solution based on switching off Italian stations is not considered realistic.

Italy also presented arguments concerning inequitable spectrum use involving France, Slovenia and Croatia, as summarised below:

Country	**France**	**Croatia**	**Slovenia**
Total number of GE84 registered	7,882	877	630
Estimated number of stations in relevant areas[1]	FR: 1,453 IT: 730	HR: 579 IT: 485	SI: 458 IT: 196

[1] The approximate distance from the border is as follows: 100 km around France, 70 km around Croatia and 100 km around Slovenia.

Italy acknowledged the fact that the actual number of stations operating within its territory exceeds those registered in the GE84 Plan and requested assistance from the EC to achieve a more balanced and equitable use of registered frequencies.

Response by France and discussion

France expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Bonifacio and Elba Island cases were presented and rejected the claims that it had failed to comply with the applicable rules.

Regarding the Elba island case, France stated that the stations had been in operation for at least 20 years, based on an agreement between France and Italy allowing their operation on Italian territory in accordance with the applicable rules. Concerning the absence of Italian authorisation, France requested clarification on the basis upon which Italy concluded that France had not complied with the relevant rules. France further stated that, once the issue of the missing authorisation was raised, it fully cooperated with Italy to regularise the stations with bilateral agreement under article RR.18.2.

France noted that, for at least the past year, the draft agreement has only required final signatures. Italy shared the legal framework for the license involving payment of audiovisual taxes to which France had agreed to adhere. France reiterated its willingness to regularise the situation as soon as possible and indicated that the reasons for the lack of closure of this case on the Italian side remain unclear.

With regard to the Bonifacio case, France confirmed that the station is registered under the GE84 Plan and stated that, since 2008, it has been adversely affected by harmful interference originating from Italy. It emphasised that it has been unable to effectively use its assigned frequency in Bonifacio due to the persistence of harmful interference since that time. France further explained that, due to the lack of progress in resolving the Bonifacio interference, it explored alternative solutions involving changes in frequency and transmission site. A proposal was submitted to Italy, however, a response is still pending.

France also referred to the Porto Vecchio interference case, which remains unresolved, noting that a simultaneous measurement campaign was scheduled for April.

Concerning Italy’s claim that the French station at Monte Corbu is causing interference to an Italian station, France reiterated its request for Italy to provide the relevant reports and supporting documentation substantiating this claim and proceed with the applicable AP10 report.

France informed that all frequency coordination activities with Italy in the FM band have been stalled following Italy’s decision to suspend coordination activities in light of the infringement procedure. It also recalled that bilateral discussions were not limited to the registration of French stations but also included the registration of Italian stations. France questioned how progress could be achieved under the current circumstances, while reaffirming its willingness to continue cooperation on bilateral matters.

In conclusion, France clarified that, although it has formally reported only two cases of harmful FM interference, there are approximately twenty additional frequencies affected by interference from Italian stations. It urged Italy to resume discussions.

In response, Italy stated that the infringement procedure has altered the overall context, thereby justifying its decision to suspend certain coordination activities. Regarding the Elba case, Italy clarified that the long-term operation of the four stations does not imply that they were duly authorised; indeed, no bilateral agreement had been concluded in the past to regularise the situation. It also noted that these stations are not registered under the GE84 Plan and that, in principle, Italy retains the right to switch them off. France confirmed its intention to register the stations on Elba Island once the agreement with Italy has been formally signed.

With regard to achieving a balance in registered frequencies, Italy referred to terrain topography as a factor that could facilitate coexistence between stations.

The Sub-group co-chair confirmed that Bonifacio site has been interfered by Italian network and the French proposal for the Monte Corbu site at 88.4MHz was a fair and good proposal based on field strength calculations and usually such proposals are accepted in coordination. Concerning French stations operating from Elba Island, the Chair advised that agreement under article RR.18.2 shall be communicated to the ITU Secretary-General.

Response by Slovenia and discussion

Slovenia stated that the FM harmful interference situation has persisted for over 20 years and that it had been compelled to authorise an increase in effective radiated power as a mitigation measure to counter strong harmful interference originating from Italy. While this measure has been implemented by only a limited number of stations, its effects primarily impact Slovenian territory, where stations operate under interference levels in the range of 80 to 90 dBμV/m. Slovenia emphasised that this measure is temporary and will remain in place until the Italian harmful interference is eliminated. Slovenia also referred to its Nanos station operating on 103.1 MHz with a power level below the threshold registered in the GE84 Plan.

Regarding the Kuk case, Slovenia stated that the stations operate in accordance with the coordinated location, noting that the geographical coordinates registered in the GE84 Plan do not include second-level precision of latitude and longitude. Consequently, the exact location of the stations cannot be determined with full accuracy on a map. Furthermore, the GE84 Plan allows stations to be relocated within a radius of up to 15 km from the registered coordinates. These stations therefore should be considered as operating in accordance with the Plan. Slovenia also clarified that the actual altitude of the site is 1,256 m above sea level, which is reflected in the GE84 Plan and corresponds to the mountain peak.

With regard to Slovenian FM signals received in Italy, Slovenia stated that these are lawful, as they are fully coordinated and registered under the GE84 Plan. It categorically rejected claims of inefficient spectrum use, noting that it carries out periodic assessments to verify efficient spectrum utilisation and, where necessary, terminates licences and reallocates them through competitive procedures. Slovenia emphasised that the terrain is highly hilly and that most of

the stations referred to by Italy are low-power installations with limited coverage. It stressed that assessing spectrum use solely based on the number of frequencies is insufficient and that technical parameters such as coverage area, radiated power, and other characteristics must be considered. In this context, Slovenia requested Italy to provide a comprehensive map of all operating FM stations, including both GE84-registered and uncoordinated stations, in order to reflect the actual situation.

Slovenia also commented on the use of radio spectrum in neighbouring countries, referring to the GE84 Conference, which allocated spectrum equitably among countries and defined procedures for adding new stations[2]. It noted that all countries except Italy have registered new stations in the GE84 Plan, which explains why Slovenia and Croatia have a higher number of registered frequencies (i.e. the unbalanced situation) in the border areas. In contrast, for several years, Italy has brought new stations into operation without coordination.

Slovenia argued that it is unrealistic to expect that Italy could deploy a significant number of high-power stations without coordinating with Slovenian or Croatian stations. Italy was encouraged to identify technically compatible solutions and submit them for coordination with potentially affected countries. In this context, Slovenia stressed that Italy must respect not only its rights under the GE84 Agreement but also its obligations, including adherence to the outcomes of coordination procedures. Slovenia noted that achieving an interference-free environment requires Italy to operate only coordinated frequencies, while noting uncoordinated Italian stations cannot claim protection from harmful interference.

Slovenia added that harmful interference is not the only issue and referred to the opinion of the ITU legal office and the considerations of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) regarding Member States' rights and obligations. In particular, Slovenia expressed concern that Italy is also deploying uncoordinated frequencies under the GE06 Agreement and warned that the DAB band risks replicating the current situation in the FM band.

Regarding litigation cases, Slovenia stated that Italian courts are disregarding Italy's obligations under international agreements by protecting uncoordinated Italian stations. It noted that certain court decisions have required GE84 registered Slovenian stations to restrict transmissions towards Italy, despite operating within their registered parameters. Slovenia emphasised that the presence of Slovenian signals in Italian territory is lawful and fully compliant with ITU rules, whereas the Italian stations raising complaints are not registered under the GE84 Plan. Slovenia further highlighted concerns regarding EU legal provisions on the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters across Member States. It stressed the importance of Italy applying the provisions of ITU regulations and informing its broadcasters that uncoordinated stations are not entitled protection.

In response, Italy agreed to the principle that only coordinated stations are entitled to protection against harmful interference. However, it noted that some Slovenian stations, although

[2] Prior to the meeting, Slovenia circulated an email concerning harmful interference issues and related litigation cases. For ease of reference, this has been made available in the meeting folder on Circabc (https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/f5b44016-a8c5-4ef6-a0bf-bc8d357debcb/library/5e26b23a-e216-4a9c-9f51-6f7e0db401b5).

registered under the GE84 Plan, transmit at power levels such that their service areas extend into Italian territory. With specific reference to the Kuk case, Italy highlighted that the effective antenna height and radiation pattern are optimised towards Italy and suggested that emissions in that direction could be reduced.

Regarding the measurement campaign conducted in 2015, Italy clarified that it assumes that measurements of Slovenian and Croatian transmissions were carried out with Italian stations switched off. Italy also noted that regular measurements are conducted using fixed monitoring stations equipped with directional antennas aimed at foreign transmitters to assess field strength levels within Italian territory.

With regard to the maps presented, Italy stated that these were intended to illustrate the challenges in identifying feasible solutions. It considered Slovenia's proposal to switch-off stations prior to coordination as unrealistic, given the congestion in the FM band.

Slovenia responded that the inclusion of Italian territory within the service areas of some Slovenian GE84 registered stations reflects the bilateral agreement reached between Slovenia and Italy at the GE84 Conference. It noted that a similar situation applies to certain Italian stations and does not constitute a problem, as all such stations operate within their registered parameters.

Slovenia also argued that the maps presented by Italy, showing the number of Slovenian stations received in Italian territory, are misleading, as they likely represent aggregated measurement results across border areas. Italy acknowledged this interpretation.

Slovenia further explained that when conducting measurements of Italian stations, Slovenian stations are switched off, and multiple Italian stations (typically five to six) are detected on the same frequency, indicating significant congestion. It emphasised that most of these Italian stations are uncoordinated.

With regard to the Kuk case, Slovenia reiterated that the stations are coordinated and registered under the GE84 Plan, but expressed willingness to seek a compromise solution once the issue of Italian interference has been resolved.

Slovenia reaffirmed that a key element of any solution should be the switching-off of all uncoordinated FM and DAB stations. It also suggested migration from FM to DAB as a potential solution, as well as compensation mechanisms, which have previously proven effective in the UHF band.

Regarding migration from FM to DAB, Italy noted that, in addition to technical considerations, other important factors must be taken into account, including user impact and advertising markets.

Response by Croatia and discussion

Croatia aligned with many of the arguments presented by Slovenia and considered the Italian presentation concerning Croatia to be misleading. It stated that the discussion deviates from the principal issue, namely harmful interference caused by Italian stations.

Croatia observed that Italy's call for cooperation and the fair application of rules contrasts with the current situation in practice. Namely, neither one interference case (e.g. Biokovo 89.7 MHz) has been resolved by Italy, after more than a decade of discussions. Nevertheless, it expressed its willingness to enhance cooperation in order to achieve tangible results.

With regard to the frequency distribution arguments presented by Italy, Croatia considered these to be misleading. It indicated that, while Italy has approximately 4,000 to 5,000 stations registered under the GE84 Plan, it operates between 15,000 and 20,000 FM stations in practice. Croatia stressed that any discussion on achieving a balanced situation must take into account the actual number of stations in operation and their coordinated status, as well as the interference to GE84 coordinated stations. It noted that this discrepancy constitutes the core of the FM interference problem affecting all countries neighbouring Italy.

Croatia also referred to frequency coordination activities, stating that its coordination requests to Italy remain unanswered. It noted that this lack of engagement does not contribute to identifying or implementing solutions.

In conclusion, Croatia reiterated its view that Italy is not complying with the ITU RR and Article 45 of the European Electronic Communications Code. It urged Italy to focus on identifying and implementing concrete solutions to meet its obligations and, consequently, to resolve harmful interference issues.

Croatia also supported the view that migration from FM to DAB should form part of the solution. While noting that this proposal was initially put forward by Italy, Croatia emphasised that work within the Adriatic-Ionian group should be accelerated to facilitate the deployment of new DAB stations.

Comments by the EC and discussion

The EC stated that, through its letter of formal notice sent to Italy in November 2025 initiating an infringement procedure, it has established a position regarding Italy's compliance with EU law. It confirmed that Italy's response to this letter has been received and reflects the verbal comments made by Italy during RSPG#69 (February 2026). The EC indicated that this response will be assessed in order to determine whether to proceed to the next phase of the infringement procedure.

Referring to the preceding discussion, and in particular to the responses provided by Member States to the allegations raised by Italy concerning non-compliance with applicable rules, the EC invited Italy to clarify its position. Specifically, Italy was asked to indicate whether it considers that other Member States are also in breach of EU law, or whether it contests the

allegation that it has infringed EU law. The EC noted that Italy's response could potentially lead to the initiation of additional infringement procedures against other Member States.

The EC further emphasised that the continuation of the infringement procedure alone will not resolve the harmful interference issues affecting the FM band. It stressed that efforts should focus on identifying and implementing practical and sustainable solutions to improve the interference situation.

In light of the discussion and noting the willingness expressed by Slovenia and Croatia to support an increase in the number of stations lawfully operating in Italy, the EC suggested that negotiations should focus on achieving a balanced number of stations in border areas. It proposed that an agreed plan should be developed, including a timeline. The EC acknowledged that solutions involving the switching off of Italian stations, followed by their reintroduction after successful coordination, could have economic implications.

Slovenia reiterated that the core of the problem lies in the operation of uncoordinated Italian FM stations. It stressed that, in order to obtain a clear understanding of the situation, Italy should provide a comprehensive map of all operating FM stations, including both coordinated and uncoordinated stations. Slovenia further noted that, given the congestion of the FM band, it is unrealistic to expect that all uncoordinated stations could be accommodated. As an initial step, Slovenia suggested that Italy align the technical parameters of its FM stations with those registered in the GE84 Plan. It expressed its readiness to cooperate once such alignment is achieved.

Croatia referred to previous solutions discussed within the Good Offices, including the voluntary compensation scheme, which were suspended by Italy following the initiation of the infringement procedure. Croatia also referred to the priority list which presents 40 out of 160 Croatian FM stations interfered by Italian stations, which had been agreed for prioritised resolution 10 years ago. Addressing these priority cases, as a first step, could facilitate more realistic coordination opportunities. It added that other potential solutions are not considered viable at this stage. Croatia also joined calls for Italy to share a comprehensive list of its transmitting stations with neighbouring countries.

France stated that it remains willing to engage in coordination with Italy, taking into account the stations currently in operation within Italian territory. It reiterated that the Bonifacio and Elba Island cases, as presented by Italy, do not constitute breaches of EU law. France also expressed the view that Italy's presentation of the number of stations in border areas is misleading. Nevertheless, it reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate fully with Italy, taking into account the existing operational situation. France also requested confirmation from Italy on whether it is prepared to resume bilateral discussions on the outstanding issues.

Italy confirmed that it is not contesting the infringement procedure and reiterated its commitment to identifying solutions to the harmful interference caused by Italian stations. Italy has pointed out, however, that compliance with the rules must be ensured by all parties involved, as it has been shown that other countries have also failed to comply with the regulations in certain cases. It also emphasised that the FM band is highly congested and that,

although its stations are authorised at national level, many are not coordinated internationally. Italy stressed that any viable solution should include an increase in the number of frequencies registered under the GE84 Plan. In this regard, it expressed support for the approach suggested by the EC.

With regard to the voluntary compensation scheme, Italy clarified that any such measure would require a legal basis at national level and would need to take into account compensation mechanisms in the case of mandatory measures. This was identified as the main reason for suspending the voluntary scheme. Italy further confirmed that the plan of action presented at RSPG#69 remains valid. However, no specific timeframe was provided at this stage regarding progress on the necessary legal framework.

In conclusion, Italy was encouraged to resume technical discussions at both bilateral level and within the RSPG Good Offices framework, in order to continue exploring solutions and facilitate the implementation of the necessary measures.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

As indicated at the previous Good Offices meeting, Albania has shared with neighbouring countries a list of transmitting sites together with their technical parameters. The comments received are currently being analysed, including any proposed technical adjustments. Albania is also reviewing frequency assignments submitted by North Macedonia and Greece, with a view to providing its comments in the short term.

North Macedonia stated that no outstanding issues remain with Greece regarding channel distribution in the VHF band. While the analysis of frequency assignments is ongoing, a general agreement has been reached. North Macedonia also shared a draft frequency coordination agreement for the FM band, which is expected to be signed once all outstanding matters are resolved. A general agreement has also been reached with Bulgaria on the VHF band, although minor technical issues (e.g. transmission power levels and antenna diagrams for certain sites) remain to be finalised and are expected to be resolved. Trilateral discussions are ongoing with Bulgaria and Greece, as well as with Serbia and Albania, with the aim of improving national coordination.

North Macedonia further reported that the technical parameters recently submitted by Albania are currently under analysis. It also noted that it is still awaiting comments on its frequency coordination request submitted in December 2025. North Macedonia indicated that Serbia has confirmed its readiness to review and submit comments on the North Macedonian plan following approval by the other administrations.

Croatia provided an overview of progress within the Adriatic and Ionian group since the previous Good Offices meeting. It reported that progress remains limited, with several key issues still under discussion. These include potential risks of interference from Slovenian and Croatian stations outside the coordination zones, alignment between the plan of the regional

agreement and the GE06 Plan, and the relationship between the DAB regional plan and the objective of addressing FM interference.

Regarding potential interference risks outside buffer zone ("potential zone of interference"), Croatia referred to its Učka transmission site, which is located within the exclusive zone, where stations can use dedicated channel without technical limitation as the same channel is not used at the other side of the Adriatic-Ionian Sea within the buffer zone. The technical parameters of this site have been shared with Italy for assessment. On alignment with the GE06 Plan, Croatia expressed the view that the entries in the GE06 Plan should be aligned with the Plan adopted under the Adriatic and Ionian regional DAB agreement. Regarding the relationship with FM interference, Croatia reiterated that one of the objectives of the regional DAB plan is to contribute to the mitigation of FM interference and that a degree of correlation between the two processes should be maintained. Croatia also noted that confirmation is still pending from San Marino regarding the use of channels on the eastern side of the Adriatic area.

Italy clarified that, while San Marino has already informally confirmed its position on frequency usage, San Marino intends to send its formal written confirmation. Italy further stated that the current formulation linking the DAB agreement to the resolution of FM interference cannot be accepted, particularly in light of the ongoing EC infringement procedure. Italy indicated that such a reference may no longer be appropriate in the current regulatory context. With regard to the Učka case, Italy provided technical clarifications and noted that the issue may also be linked to the expansion of the coordination zone.

Croatia clarified that the Učka issue concerns three channels. It indicated that it is willing to adjust the technical parameters of two of these channels. However, one channel is currently in operation, and its parameters reflect actual deployment conditions. Croatia expressed confidence that a mutually acceptable technical solution can be found. On the broader linkage to FM interference, Croatia confirmed its willingness to continue discussions, while maintaining that reference to FM interference should be retained in the agreement.

It was noted that no timeframe has been established for the conclusion of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement. However, additional meetings of the group are planned. Italy confirmed its interest in reaching an agreement on DAB, while noting that the infringement procedure takes precedence over discussions within the Adriatic and Ionian framework.

In conclusion, the Good Offices encouraged the Adriatic and Ionian group to continue discussions with the objective of finalising the agreement at the earliest possible stage.

3. Cross border activities with non-European Countries

(a) Albania

Albania provided an update on activities related to the release of the 700 MHz band for wireless broadband electronic communications services (WBB ECS) since the previous meeting.

Albania reported that an international expert engaged to support the migration process submitted his report in February 2026. The report provides a detailed assessment of the

migration of the 700 MHz band, including associated costs. The analysis takes into account key cost drivers such as equipment price increases, labour costs, and exchange rate variations.

The Albanian Media Authority (AMA) has shared the findings with the Ministry for Infrastructure and Energy, including updated estimates of migration costs and impacts. In parallel, the inter-institutional working group has been reactivated to continue the process and finalise the draft legislation, with work expected to resume shortly. Albania expects that this process will lead to a complete resolution of harmful interference issues in the UHF band affecting neighbouring countries, including Greece, Italy, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

Albania committed to keeping the Good Offices informed of further progress.

Regarding Croatia, Albania confirmed bilateral exchanges concerning measurement results and technical aspects of television interference. Croatia confirmed having sent interference reports in February relating to channels 23, 29, and 56. In April, Albania transmitted updated technical parameters of transmitters planned under the new frequency plan, which remain under analysis.

North Macedonia confirmed that harmful interference in the 700 MHz band from Albanian television transmissions persists, with signals detected on channels 51, 54, 55, and 57. It expressed the expectation that a solution will be identified in the short term.

Greece also confirmed the continued presence of harmful interference in the 700 MHz band affecting WBB ECS services and indicated that it will provide a detailed update at the next meeting.

(b) Ukraine

No information was received from Ukraine regarding measures to address harmful interference in the 700 MHz band.

The EC confirmed that no new developments are available regarding potential financial support measures for addressing interference in the Zakarpattia region.

Slovakia noted that efforts over the past four years to resolve harmful interference with Ukraine have not been successful and requested clarification on possible forms of assistance, highlighting the operational difficulties faced by its network operators.

In response, the EC acknowledged that the situation is problematic, as it affects the use of spectrum essential for 5G deployment in Europe. It also noted the specific context of Ukraine due to the ongoing war. The EC confirmed that possibilities for financial support to implement technical measures in the Zakarpattia region have been explored. However, existing EU funding frameworks do not allow direct allocation for such purposes, as financial assistance provided to Ukraine is managed under broader support mechanisms, and the EU cannot dictate how such funds are used.

At present, no legally feasible instrument has been identified to directly finance these measures. The EC therefore invited Slovakia to propose alternative solutions that could enable assistance in addressing the interference situation.

4. Date of next meetings

The Sub Group will hold its next meeting on 19 May 2026 (09:30-12:30hrs), to be conducted virtually.

List of participants

No. of participants: 38

Country	Organisation
Albania	Albanian Authority for Electronic & Postal Communications (AKEP)
	Authority for Audiovisual Media (AMA)
Austria	Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport
	Broadcasting Regulatory Authority (RTR)
Belgium	Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT)
Croatia	Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)
France	French National Frequency Agency (ANFR)
	French Regulatory Authority for audio-visual and digital communication
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance
	Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission
Hungary	National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)
Italy	Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT)
	Italian Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM)
Latvia	Ministry of Transport, Electronic Communications Department
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
Montenegro	Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Malta	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
North Macedonia	Agency for Electronic Communications
Slovakia	Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Slovenia	Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS)
	Ministry of Digital Transformation
Spain	Ministry of Digital Transformation and Digital Infrastructures
-	European Commission

ANNEX II

REPORT

RSPG SUB-GROUP

"Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

Web meeting, 19th May 2026

The co-chairs welcomed the participants to the meeting of the RSPG Sub-Group of the 'Good offices'. The draft agenda of the meeting was then considered and subsequently approved.

1. FM interference around Italy

The co-chair provided a summary of the intensive discussions held at the Sub-Group meeting in April. It was stressed that the infringement procedure would address compliance with EU law but would not, as such, resolve the underlying interference issues. Against that background, emphasis was placed on the need for the Good Offices to remain focused on the identification of technical solutions through dialogue and cooperation. In that regard, the following measures were proposed:

a) To re-engage in bilateral and multilateral technical discussions, including within the Good Offices, with a view to restoring constructive cooperation.
b) For Italy to share comprehensive and up-to-date information on its FM stations, including both coordinated and uncoordinated installations in the areas concerned, so as to facilitate technical discussions.
c) To work towards a jointly agreed roadmap, with clear timelines and milestones, for the progressive reduction of harmful interference and the improvement of spectrum coexistence in border areas. Possible actions identified in this context include alignment of the parameters of Italian coordinated FM stations with those recorded in the GE84 Plan, reductions in the power of interfering stations (as suggested by Italy in January), and finalisation of the agreement concerning Elba Island.

Italy welcomed the effort to identify a way forward and reiterated its view that the discussion should focus on realistic and technically workable solutions. Italy stressed the importance of clarifying the European Commission's role, both in relation to the overall handling of the matter, and in ensuring a balanced application of the relevant rules to all parties concerned. It also stated that, for Italy, the objective was to have the opportunity to register some FM stations and noted that it did not consider realistic a scenario in which it would switch-off all of its uncoordinated stations causing harmful interference. It expressed the view that solutions should be developed through a progressive optimisation of spectrum use in the affected border areas, taking into account the needs of all administrations concerned agreed in the frame of bi-lateral

and tri-lateral meetings. It suggested that the issues bordering Slovenia and the relevant areas of Croatia should first be addressed through a repartitioning of the band.

Italy expressed willingness to share data corresponding to its licensed FM stations, including uncoordinated stations, and suggested that neighbouring administrations should likewise share corresponding information in order to support a common technical assessment. This would provide opportunities to identify redundancies and situations where the spectrum may not be used efficiently in bordering areas.

Italy also referred to the infringement letter's reference to the use of uncoordinated DAB frequency blocks. In that connection, Italy explained that the frequency blocks concerned (i.e. 7C and 7D) had been introduced on a temporary basis with a view to minimising, as far as possible, any impact on existing transmissions pending completion of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement. Italy further indicated that it was carrying out studies and evaluations to determine whether it would be possible to discontinue the use of these temporary uncoordinated blocks, in particular in north-eastern Italy, through a reconfiguration of the current national DAB plan.

Slovenia delivered a presentation on the FM interference situation along the Italy-Slovenia border, outlining its view that the difficulties stem from severe spectrum congestion in the affected border areas and from the extensive use in Italy of a very large number of uncoordinated FM frequencies, including assignments operating with parameters differing significantly from the GE84 planning framework[3]. The presentation contrasted the relatively orderly use of the FM band in the Ljubljana area with the reported overcrowding observed in the Trieste-Koper and Gorizia-Nova Gorica areas, where high noise floor levels and a very large number of signals were said to be present.

Slovenia further referred to frequency coordination under the GE84 Agreement, arguing that coordination should be based on compatibility with the existing plan, reciprocity, and respect for previous agreements and responses exchanged between administrations. It also referred to long-standing harmful interference cases, noting that 160 of such cases had been recorded and no harmful interference had yet been eliminated despite numerous reports submitted over the years. On that basis, Slovenia argued that priority should be given to the immediate elimination of harmful interference, starting from the top of the priority list, and to a significant reduction in the number of FM frequencies in use in Italy. It also expressed the view that, in the current circumstances, broader structural solutions, such as the complete shutdown of FM radio services in Italy with DAB servicing as the alternative platform, may need to be considered. Any discussion on the optimisation or coordination of new FM frequencies would remain of limited value unless the current congestion is first addressed.

Croatia welcomed the presentation delivered by Slovenia, which it considered to provide a realistic picture of the underlying problem. Croatia stressed that the issues under discussion had been raised for many years without sufficient concrete implementation of the conclusions previously identified. It underlined the need for Italy to identify all stations operating outside

[3] A copy of the presentation is filed in the RSPG Good offices repository in Circabc.

coordinated parameters, including both uncoordinated stations and stations operating with materially different characteristics from those recorded under the GE84. It considered that this information should be compared with the interference reports already submitted in order to identify the stations responsible for the harmful interference. Croatia further stressed that priority harmful interference cases should be addressed first, in line with the long-standing prioritisation approach, and that only thereafter could broader discussions take place on possible coordination or regularisation of additional stations. It also emphasised the need for a clear action plan and timeline, noting that previous initiatives, including the voluntary compensation scheme, had not led to tangible progress despite having been under discussion for several years.

France stated that, on the basis of data previously shared by Italy, it had reached similar conclusions to those stated by Slovenia concerning the high degree of saturation of the Italian FM network. It recalled that, in its own coordination practice, it had sought both to coordinate its own requests and to assist Italy in regularising certain uncoordinated stations within the GE84 framework and stressed that bilateral coordination and negotiation remained the most effective way forward. France also strongly supported the need for a clearer timeline, observing that many of the same ideas had been revisited repeatedly without sufficient concrete implementation. In France's view, harmful interference cases should be treated first as a matter of priority, after which it should be possible to examine the coordination or regularisation of certain uncoordinated Italian stations.

France further expressed concern regarding the handling of coordination requests, referring to delays, lack of replies, and cases where assignments that had previously been agreed, such as the MENTON CAP MARTIN SEMAPHORE 99,8 MHz, were later objected to at the registration stage without providing any justified explanations. It underlined that neighbouring administrations had already made considerable efforts over many years to adapt technically to the interference situation and stressed that more systematic engagement and clearer indications from Italy were now necessary. France concluded by reaffirming its willingness to contribute constructively to a coordinated technical solution.

In response to the comments made, Italy reiterated that the exchange of information on operating stations was essential in order to establish a sound basis for negotiation between the administrations concerned and considered that, if possible, such information should also include details concerning the networks to which stations belonged, so as to facilitate an assessment of possible redundancies and optimisation options. With reference to the Slovenian proposed solutions Italy considered that activities to optimise spectrum use and resolve harmful interference should be addressed as part of the same broader process, rather than as two entirely separate stages, and maintained that any realistic solution would need to take account of the continued operation of Italian networks alongside those of neighbouring countries. It considered that the overcrowding of the FM band was not limited to the Italian territory but was also present in neighbouring jurisdictions.

Italy also commented on the proposal advanced by Slovenia concerning a complete shutdown of FM radio services and migration to DAB, describing this as unrealistic in practical terms and stressing the complexity of the situation in sensitive border areas such as Gorizia/Nova Gorica. In the same context, Italy reiterated that approximately 4,400 stations were registered under the

GE84 framework, while around 16,000 stations were currently authorised nationally, and underlined that the relevant assessment for the purposes of the Good Offices should focus on the specific border areas concerned.

Italy further referred to cases in which earlier agreements had later been followed by objections at the registration stage, suggesting that in some instances this could be explained by the lapse of time, changes in circumstances, or difficulties in tracing earlier exchanges within the administration.

France mentioned that during a bilateral meeting, it raised the delay issues to which Italy recalled that it was not a party to the Hannover 1985 agreement and stated that in its view, objections submitted at the ITU stage should be understood as part of the coordination process rather than as a failure to respect the applicable rules. France stated that such undue objections further delay the registration process and cause significant loss of time. Furthermore, Italy's objections to previously approved stations generate additional delays in the GE84 Plan modifications.

Italy further stated that the infringement procedure had changed the overall context of the discussions and considered that this now required the identification of more stable and durable solutions.

In the subsequent discussion, Slovenia, France and Croatia challenged several aspects of Italy's position. Slovenia reiterated its concerns regarding several cases in which prior written Italian agreement had later been followed by objections and stressed that such cases undermined confidence in the coordination process. France likewise argued that delays in registration often resulted from the coordination process itself and should not justify subsequent objections where agreement had already been given. It recalled that while the Hanover Agreement had been designed to facilitate and expedite coordination among the administrations party to it, Italy is not a signatory to that agreement, and the pre-coordination arrangement could not therefore be applied. At the same time, France indicated that, in its view, the systematic raising of objections at the ITU stage did not constitute a constructive approach to coordination and risked further prolonging the process.

France further stated that, unlike Italy, it had no gap between coordinated assignments and stations in operation. It explained that, in practice, assignments were brought into use on the basis of the GE84 framework following coordination with the administrations concerned before submission to the ITU. France therefore stated that, while it had no objection to sharing its database, the related discussions should remain focused on resolving the harmful interference issues and should not be framed as a broader assessment of whether the concerned countries use FM frequencies efficiently. Slovenia and Croatia expressed similar positions, indicating that their own stations were coordinated and that they did not face a comparable situation involving uncoordinated stations.

Croatia further underlined that the discussion should remain focused on the stations responsible for harmful interference and should continue to be addressed within the existing legal and regulatory framework, notably GE84 and the ITU Radio Regulations, rather than through new

or informal approaches. On that basis, Croatia did not support the suggestion that neighbouring administrations should suspend their own planning activities pending progress by Italy.

Italy clarified that, in the context of the proposed exchange of information, it was seeking not only data on the frequencies in use but also information concerning the networks to which individual stations were assigned. Italy explained that such information would, in its view, be relevant for assessing possible redundancies within existing networks and for identifying scope for optimisation, including the possible release of certain frequencies without undermining the coverage objectives of the network concerned. Slovenia clarified that its own stations were already optimised and that they constantly perform checks for efficient use of spectrum. France, Croatia and Slovenia each stressed that national planning decisions and the efficient use of spectrum are matters falling within national competence and should therefore remain the responsibility of the administration concerned.

Slovenia also stressed that for the compatibility analysis all administrations including Italy should use the stations from the GE84 plan and the names of the networks using the frequencies in this regard are not needed. Slovenia is asking for the Italian stations only because they are not contained in the GE84 plan and this data is missing in order to properly illustrate the congested spectrum in Italy. Slovenia also explained that some frequencies are still in the pipeline to be assigned via public tender procedures as there is still huge demand for them. Slovenia is protecting all the frequencies in the GE84 plan and they are committed to efficient use of spectrum but reserve the right to manage frequencies on their territory. Consequently, Slovenia expects that Italian efforts will be concentrated on the Italian stations and elimination of the interferences and not on the attempts to manage spectrum in other countries.

Italy further stressed that administrations have the right to submit coordination requests under the existing framework and that such requests cannot simply be set aside. Italy also reaffirmed its commitment to process incoming requests, while indicating that their examination would need to be considered in the context of the wider effort to address interference and improve spectrum use.

At the close of the discussion, the co-chair drew together the principal elements emerging from the exchange as follows:

a) Efforts should remain focused on finding solutions towards eliminating the various cases of harmful interference problems around Italy.
b) The administrations concerned should exchange accurate, complete and up-to-date information on the stations in operation, before the next plenary meeting in June. If deemed appropriate, this information may also be complemented by information on the name of the network using the frequency.
c) Bilateral and multilateral technical engagement should resume with a view to addressing matters of principle and identify technical solutions on resulting the outstanding FM harmful interference cases. A technical measure that has been underlined includes the alignment of Italian FM station parameters with the GE84.
d) National planning and the efficient use of spectrum fall within the direct competence of each administration, who are responsible for ensuring that radio spectrum is used efficiently without causing harmful interference to neighbouring administration. The

guiding frameworks include the EECC (article 45 in particular) and ITU regulations including the Radio Regulations and the GE84 Agreement.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

The co-chair reported that Albania and North Macedonia were unable to participate in the meeting. However, according to their written communications, no progress had been reported. North Macedonia indicated that its review of the technical parameters submitted by Albania was still ongoing and that it was still awaiting comments on its coordination requests.

Italy provided an overview of progress within the Adriatic and Ionian group since the previous Good Offices meeting. It reported that the last meeting of the group was held on 15 May and that discussions focused mainly on the annexes to the agreement, in particular the Italian part of those annexes. These were carefully reviewed by Croatia and Italy provided clarifications on points previously considered unclear. Italy further noted that part of the coordination area covered by the draft agreement overlapped with areas already subject to other long-standing coordination arrangements, such as that concerning Bolzano and Austria, and therefore stressed the need to ensure compatibility between the different agreements. Italy added that the provisions of the agreement itself had also been reviewed, while some divergent views on certain points remained.

As regards San Marino, Italy stated that, from its perspective, the issue was stable and recalled that it had received a letter indicating that San Marino would respect the outcome of the agreement and would raise no objection to the registration of Croatian and Slovenian assignments under the GE06.

Croatia reiterated the need for firm official confirmation from San Marino, noting that the letter referred to by Italy could not, in its view, be regarded as sufficient closure of the issue. Croatia also underlined that the agreement still contained a few open points and should not be treated as pending solely on the San Marino aspect. In addition, Croatia reported that, alongside the multilateral meeting, a bilateral meeting had taken place with Italy at which the pending case concerning the Učka site had been resolved.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Adriatic and Ionian group was planned for July.

3. Cross border activities with non-European Countries

(a) Albania

The co-chair introduced the item by recalling that Albania was not participating in the meeting and that the discussion would therefore be limited to updates provided by the affected administrations on developments relating to the release of the 700 MHz band and DTT interference. The co-chair also noted that written information had been received, in which Albania confirmed that work on releasing the 700 MHz band was still ongoing, while North Macedonia confirmed that harmful interference affecting mobile services was still being detected on channels 51, 54, 55 and 57.

As regards the interference reported by Croatia affecting its DTT services on channels 23, 29 and 56, Croatia recalled that harmful-interference reports had been sent to Albania and stated that Albania appeared to be working on the reported cases. Croatia added, however, that it had not received any update confirming that the cases had been resolved and therefore considered that the matter remained open.

Greece reported that based on measurements carried out in Corfu, interference on channels 51, 53 and 54 persists. It added that this interference is affecting the provision of mobile LTE services.

Italy stated that it had not received new information from its regional offices concerning the status of the 700 MHz mobile interference and indicated that, at present, the situation was not considered critical.

Montenegro reported that a bilateral coordination meeting with Albania had taken place on 29 April and had produced progress on the detailed technical parameters needed for replanning and the complete release of the 700 MHz band in Albania. Montenegro stated that a bilateral agreement on DTT use below 700 MHz was expected by the June-July period and added that Albania had indicated its readiness to include a precise date by which no DTT transmissions would remain in the 700 MHz band. Montenegro further stated that a draft agreement text would be circulated shortly and expressed the expectation that, if the common understanding reached at the bilateral meeting was maintained, the agreement could be concluded in the near term. It added that, if the agreement were signed before the next meeting, the Good Offices group would be informed in writing.

Montenegro further clarified that Albania's assignments in the UHF band did not contradict the channel distribution plan contained in the 2017 Adriatic agreement. Montenegro also observed that Albania had indicated its intention to carry out similar coordination actions with other countries in the near future and stressed that the work needed to be completed quickly given the broader importance of securing long-term broadcasting use below the 700 MHz band.

(b) Ukraine

No new information was made available to the Sub-Group.

4. Date of next meetings

The Sub Group will hold its next meeting on 30 September 2026 (09:30-12:30hrs), to be conducted virtually.

List of participants

No. of participants: 30

Country	Organisation
Albania	Albanian Authority for Electronic & Postal Communications (AKEP)
Austria	Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport
Croatia	Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)
France	French National Frequency Agency (ANFR)
	French Regulatory Authority for audio-visual and digital communication
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance
Hungary	National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)
Italy	Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT)
	Italian Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM)
Latvia	Electronic Communications Office of Latvia
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
Montenegro	Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Malta	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
Poland	Ministry of Digital Affairs
Slovakia	Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Slovenia	Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS)
	Ministry of Digital Transformation
-	European Commission