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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 32nd meeting of RSPG on 12 November 2013. 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 an RSC meeting on 11-12 December 2013 (RSC#46). The following topics were addressed:

Spectrum inventory: The Commission presented document (*RSCOM13-77rev1*) which provides an overview of the progress of the inventory initiative and includes details on specific points raised by Member States at the last RSC. The most important issues detailed in the document are the following:

- Obligations of the Commission and of Member States that have been fulfilled and that are planned in the future;
- The inventory tool itself including how the tool will function, the data required and the physical and IT security measures taken to ensure the safety of the data;
- An update of the data collection process from EFIS and from Member States directly as well as additional input that will be used to feed the inventory tool with information that will not be available via EFIS or via Member States directly.

Mandate on 1.5 GHz band: The Commission services presented a document containing a draft mandate to CEPT (*RSCOM13-67*) for identifying suitable spectrum and developing technical conditions for wireless broadband use in the frequency range 1350-1518 MHz. The mandate puts a particular focus on the protection of and sharing spectrum with incumbent services in this frequency range for which future spectrum demand has been identified.

Mandate on 2.3 GHz band: The Commission services presented preliminary considerations on a draft mandate to CEPT (*RSCOM13-73*) to develop harmonised technical conditions for the 2300-2400 MHz ('2.3 GHz') frequency band in the EU for the provision of wireless broadband services.

3.6 GHz band: The Commission services presented for discussion a summary document on the comments received from the RSC members and observers on the approach for an amendment to Commission Decision 2008/411/EC on the 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency band (*RSCOM13-65*) as well as a draft amending Commission Decision containing new harmonised technical conditions for wireless broadband electronic communication services in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band (*RSCOM13-66*) based on CEPT Report 49. The Commission services stressed the importance of this large frequency band for high-speed wireless broadband and provided clarifications on concerns raised by Member States on the approach to migrating existing licences and the protection of incumbent services such as fixed satellite or fixed services. A stable draft of the amending Commission Decision

was agreed. The Commission plans to request the opinion of the RSC on the draft amending Commission Decision in an examination procedure at the next RSC meeting.

Short-range devices (SRD): The Commission services presented at the RSC#45 meeting a draft amending Commission Decision (*RSCOM13-49*) regarding the 5th update of Decision 2006/771/EC for discussion with a view to requesting the opinion of the Committee. Following the discussion, it was decided to introduce further changes in the draft Decision and to postpone the request for opinion of the RSC possibly via a written procedure before the next RSC meeting.

Programme making and special events (PMSE): The Commission services presented to the delegates a document (*RSCOM13-52*) containing considerations and preliminary elements for a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the technical conditions for radio spectrum use by wireless microphones and associated applications for programme making and special events (wireless audio PMSE equipment) in the European Union. In the context of this document a representative of JRC presented preliminary results of the JRC measurement session of 13-15 November on PMSE-LTE coexistence. Member States commented the elements of the document and were invited to provide written comments. The Commission announced its intention to hold a workshop in February that would discuss the results of the measurements and possible follow up with Member States and stakeholders.

Ultra wideband (UWB): The Commission services presented a draft amending Commission Decision (*RSCOM13-53rev1*) regarding the second amendment to Decision 2007/131/EC on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in a harmonised manner in the Community. Member States commented on the draft text and suggested improvements. Following some modifications to the technical annex, the RSC agreed on a stable text.

3. HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

High Level Group on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz): A High-Level Group on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) chaired by Mr Pascal Lamy has been convened by the Vice-President of the Commission Neelie Kroes and met for the first time on 13 January 2014¹. The Group comprises top executives from Europe's broadcasters, network operators, mobile companies and related associations, including the PMSE sector, who have been given six months to deliver a strategic advice to the European Commission on how to use the UHF spectrum band (470-790 MHz) most effectively in the long-term taking into account technological, business and cost implications.

4. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Joint EC-CEPT workshop on "EU Policy Objectives for the World Radio Conference 2015" on 10 December 2013: The workshop gathered 180 stakeholders

¹ See related press release at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-14_en.htm

providing input into the development of the EU policy objectives for WRC-15. The presentations and a summary report from the event are publicly accessible².

PMSE Stakeholder Workshop on 18 February 2014³: The workshop focuses on the issue and challenges associated with harmonised technical conditions for radio spectrum used by wireless audio PMSE equipment in the European Union. In the workshop the European Commission's JRC will present the outcome of the LTE-PMSE coexistence tests and the Commission will present the preliminary elements for a draft Commission decision. The workshop will give stakeholders the opportunity to share their views on the JRC testing results and on the considerations and preliminary elements presented by the Commission.

Launch of the study "Challenges and opportunities of broadcast-broadband convergence and its impact on spectrum and network use" (SMART 2013/0014)⁴: The study team is composed of consultants from Plum (leader) and Farncombe. The goal of the Study is to explore future developments of the delivery of audio-visual (media) and internet (or data) services and the related implications for the evolution of terrestrial wireless access networks (platforms), related business models and spectrum management, in particular in the frequency range below 1 GHz. The study should take particular account of the competing demand for sub-1GHz spectrum by DTT and WBB, which has last resulted in the co-primary allocation of the 700 MHz band in the EU also to the mobile service at WRC-12. The study team will organise three public workshops, the first of which is planned for the end of March 2014. The report should be available in December 2014.

Launch of the study "Use of commercial mobile networks and equipment for mission-critical high-speed broadband communications in specific sectors" (SMART 2013/0016)⁵: The contract was awarded to SCF Associates Ltd and the Study was launched in January 2014. The objective of the Study is to determine whether use of commercial mobile networks and equipment for 'mission-critical' high-speed broadband communications in the following sectors is viable: for Public Protection and Disaster Response (PPDR) services, utilities and intelligent transport safety and management services (ITS). A stakeholder workshop is planned in Brussels on 30th April (subject to final confirmation). RSPG members and observers will be invited to attend this workshop. The report should be available in October 2014.

Calls for Tender for 2 Studies: The Commission is planning to launch in the first half of 2014 the selection procedure for awarding the contracts to conduct the following Studies: i) The socio-economic benefits of network sharing (SMART 2014/0024) and ii)

² Information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/cept-eu-stakeholder-workshop-preparations-world-radiocommunication-conference-2015-wrc-15>

³ Information is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/pmse-stakeholders-workshop>

⁴ Information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-challenges-and-opportunities-broadcast-broadband-convergence-and-its-impact-spectrum-an-0>

⁵ Information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-use-commercial-mobile-networks-and-equipment-mission-critical-high-speed-broadband-0>

Research of the market with spectrum-dependent ICT equipment operating in unlicensed frequency bands (SMART 2014/0012).