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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

Electronic Communications Networks and Services
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

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RSPG20-019 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Climate Change

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on “Climate Change”

The RSPG Working Group on “Climate Change¹” (hereinafter: SG) held three Webex meetings since the last RSPG plenary (2 April, 6 May and 2 June 2020). The list of topics for consideration has been developed by email (The SG mailing list includes more than 35 subscribers).

1. Webex meetings

At the first meeting of the SG it was decided to concentrate on the development of the report. Brainstorming and input contributions provided lead to a number of topics under the first two points. The second meeting allowed for further development of the topics. Contributions continue to develop text for the report.

2. Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management

The SG proposed a number of aspects under this topic;

- Identify the actions which could be taken to decrease greenhouse gas emissions of wireless systems.
- Assess how wireless solutions could help other sectors become more environmentally friendly.
- Identify spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data and consider the need to protect these.

3. Climate change-related aspects within spectrum management

The SG proposed a number of aspects under this topic;

- Analyse the legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management.
- Identify administrative instruments for climate mitigation activities in spectrum management.
- Assess challenges associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.

4. Climate-related initiatives within the RSPG

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1. Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change

In addition to the topics related to the points mentioned in the work programme, the SG proposed a number of aspects regarding possible climate-related initiatives within the RSPG:

- How can the RSPG make its own work more eco-friendly?
- Are web meetings a way to lessen our ecological footprints?
- When holding physical meetings, would it be possible to travel in a more eco-friendly way? Could the RSPG establish guidelines in that respect?

The SG will report on any conclusions on this activity to the Plenary for further consideration as appropriate.

4. Next steps

The next meeting will be a Webex meeting on 2 June 2020, and the SG further plans to meet in the beginning of July and to gather information from relevant stakeholders before the RSPG Plenary Meeting in October 2020.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Climate change mitigation
Rapporteur/s	Robert Lindgaard, Danish Energy Agency, Rory Hinchy, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Rationale	<p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p>Radio spectrum is the basis for electronic communications and broadband, but also key to important areas like climate change. Climate change is one of the predominant topics in European Union policies. In her political guidelines, the new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has prioritised a ‘green deal’ stating: “I want Europe to strive for more by becoming the first climate-neutral continent”. The climate-neutral target for Europe is 2050. The RSPG shares the opinion that the fight against climate change and its negative consequences is of utmost importance. Therefore, the RSPG established a work item to focus on spectrum policy aspects which are closely related to the efforts of ensuring climate-neutrality.</p>
Scope	<p>Under the Climate Change work item, the RSPG will issue a debate within the Group, as well as with the relevant stakeholders, on how spectrum policy can help to combat climate change. To this end, questions that should be addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management; • How can spectrum management help to combat climate change? • What concrete actions should be recommended at EU-Level?
Planned deliverables and timing	<p>RSPG Opinion(s) or Report(s) as seen appropriate. Public workshops</p> <p>Time schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: January 2021 • Opinion: October 2021
Analytical approach	<p>Overall ambition for RSPG to communicate early about possible steps which can be taken to mitigate climate change in light of EU climate targets</p> <p>Identify the actions which could be taken to decrease green house gas emissions of wireless systems.</p> <p>Assess how wireless solutions could help other sectors become more environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Identify spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data and consider the need to protect these.</p> <p>Analyse the legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management.</p> <p>Identify administrative instruments for climate mitigation activities in</p>

	spectrum management. Assess challenges associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.
Project plan	Phase 1 – Information gathering Phase 2 – Analysis and assessment (including stakeholder engagement) Phase 3 – Review conclusions Phase 4 – Conclude and report
Dependencies	This work is linked to the RSPG work item on RSPP and WRC .

Members, stakeholders and resources

Members	Austria, BMLRT CEPT, ECC and ECO Cyprus, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works Czech Republic, Czech Telecommunication Office Denmark, Danish Energy Agency EU, European Commission Finland, Ficora France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, Ministère des finances Germany, BNetzA Germany, BMVI BUND Greece, EETT Hungary, NMHH Ireland, DCCA Italy, AGCOM Malta, MCA Norway, KMD Norway, NKOM Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs Portugal, ANACOM Slovenia, AKOS Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, MinezK
Key stakeholders	Telecom operators Vertical industries Equipment suppliers
Other resources	

Work flow (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2020			
2 April (Webex)	First meeting of work group – discuss scope and plan following new <i>RSPG Work Programme</i> and new work item on <i>Climate Change mitigation</i>	Work group	

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
6 May (Webex)	Second meeting of work group – discuss topics for inclusion in the report and identify contributors.	Work group	
2 June (Webex)	Third meeting of work group – discuss contributions received on topics.	Work group	
9 June	Progress of work presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
10 June (Webex)	Presentation at GSMA/RSPG roundtable.	Rapporteur	Roundtable participants
(July)	Fourth meeting of work group	Work group	
	<i>Future dates and actions to be decided in light of work progress.</i>		
(September/Oc tober)	(Workshop with stakeholders if possible)		
October	Progress of work presented to Plenary. -	Rapporteur	Plenary,
()	meeting of work group	Work group	
Year 2021			
January (Brussels?)	Progress of work presented to Plenary. - Report submitted for publication	Rapporteur	Plenary, Report submitted for publication
()	meeting of work group –	Work group	
()	meeting of the group	Work group	
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of work progress			