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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Spectrum Sharing – Pioneer initiatives and bands

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Progress Report to the Plenary of the sub-group on Spectrum Sharing

Following the mandate in the RSPG Work Programme, the main activity of the working group has so far concerned the definition of the overall structure of the Opinion on Spectrum Sharing and the initial drafting of some sections of the document.

In particular, the working group has firstly tried to frame spectrum sharing in the various aspects and dimensions, considering not only the technical features but also the different angles in defining spectrum sharing, e.g. technical and regulatory. The group has also started to consider the approaches and technologies which can be used to enable frequency sharing, focusing also on innovative sharing mechanisms able to facilitate broader and more sophisticated coexistence solutions. The group started to collect the main experiences across Europe on implementing spectrum sharing solutions for both inter-service sharing (i.e. between users of different types of services, such as governmental and commercial users) and intra-service sharing (i.e. between users of the same type of services, e.g. frequency sharing among MNOs).

The group should now deepen the investigation of the 'state-of-the-art' of the various technologies, and consider the possible types of spectrum sharing approaches (e.g. multi-tier shared access, etc.) leveraging on such technologies as well as taking into account the concrete national experiences, in order to start reflections on the possible policies and recommendations for increased spectrum sharing and key pioneer initiatives and bands.

An exchange of views session is foreseen in the GSMA roundtable scheduled on the day after the RSPG Plenary. We expect to collect some suggestions from the audience.

The work has been carried out so far by AVC meetings and written comments and ideas have been exchanged electronically. Actually the sub-group on Spectrum Sharing was the first to experience the new set up at the beginning of the closures following the spread of Covid pandemic in early March. Despite AVC meetings cannot perfectly substitute the physical meetings, the results have been so far acceptable. Furthermore the AVC eased the participation of more people than the typical average. We would like to thank the Commission for making the virtual rooms available and the support provided. We expect that considerable work should still be done by electronic exchanges in the coming months.

Please refer to the Annex for more details of the work.

Next steps

The ongoing and planned drafting activities will continue to proceed further with the elaboration of the Opinion. Next meeting of the work group is scheduled for 25 June 2020 at 10:00 in AVC. Another meeting should be held in September 2020.

The Rapporteurs

Mauro Martino
Julia Inmaculada Criado Casado

Annex

RSPG sub-group: Spectrum Sharing	
Work item	Spectrum sharing - Pioneer initiatives and bands
Rapporteurs	Mauro Martino (AGCOM, Italy), Julia Criado Casado (MINECO, Spain)
Rationale	<p>Today, spectrum sharing is rather static and, in some cases, overly conservative. As also highlighted by the results of the working group on European Spectrum Strategy, spectrum sharing needs further action, especially regarding its potential to achieve more efficient use of radio spectrum, and to give incentives for innovation. The promotion of the shared use of radio spectrum is also a key objective of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), as in Articles 45 (2e) and 46 (1).</p> <p>New technologies create new opportunities for more dynamic and efficient spectrum sharing. However, before such new technologies can be introduced on a wider scale, there is a need to build trust among users as well as Member States. Strategically, it is therefore important to facilitate trials, exchange of experiences and collaboration among Member States. A proof of concept helps facilitate a change in the mind-set.</p> <p>Therefore, the means to improve spectrum sharing and to implement innovative sharing solutions should be investigated, especially by promoting trials (sandboxes), pioneer scenarios/bands, new forms of licensing and a strategic focus on take-up of methods using databases and LSA. In addition, the development and market opportunities for methods, including Artificial Intelligence, should be studied with a view to making concrete proposals for coordinated actions at EU level that bring added value to the Member States.</p>
Scope	Building on the rationale and the previous relevant works from RSPG as well as taking into account different spectrum sharing options, this activity aims at investigating more dynamic spectrum sharing options, developing a roadmap for increased spectrum sharing and identifying key pioneer initiatives and bands.
Planned deliverable and timing	<p>RSPG Opinion.</p> <p>Time schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Opinion: January 2021; • Final Opinion: June 2021.

Members, stakeholders and resources

Members and Observers	Austria, RTR Austria, BMLRT Belgium, BIPT Czech Republic, CTU Denmark, ENS European Commission Finland, TRAFICOM France, ANFR France, ARCEP Germany, BNETZA Germany, BMVI Greece, EETT Hungary, NMHH Ireland, DCCA
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	Italy, AGCOM Latvia, SAM Malta, MCA Norway, KMD Portugal, ANACOM Romania, ANCOM Slovenia, AKOS Spain, MINECO Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, MINEZK Turkey, BTK
Key stakeholders	
Other resources	CEPT ECC ETSI

Work flow (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2020			
6 th March (AVC meeting)	First meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: – scope and plan following the work item on Spectrum Sharing included in the new RSPG Work Programme; - organisation of the work for 2020; - draft index of the opinion; - collection of ideas on the main propositions of the opinion. Number of participants: 15 from 11 MS + EC	Work group	
7 th May (AVC meeting)	Second meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: – overall structure of the circulated draft opinion; - draft text section-by-section. Number of participants: 26 from 15 MS + 1 Obs + EC	Work group	
9 th June (Brussels, AVC)	Progress of the work presented to Plenary	Rapporteurs	Plenary
25 th June (AVC meeting)	Third meeting of the work group – agenda to be defined.	Work group	
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of the work plan			