

UMTS Forum response on to the public consultation on the draft RSPG opinion on EU spectrum policy implication on the digital dividend

UMTS Forum welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the draft RSPG Opinion on EU spectrum policy implication on the digital dividend. UMTS Forum supports the work undertaken by RSPG on the digital dividend.

The Forum represents a significant group of spectrum users, which are directly interested in the development of public mobile networks, including UMTS/IMT-2000 and, especially, the related spectrum topics. The UMTS Forum gathers many different players involved in third generation mobile systems, including equipment manufacturers, operators, administrations, service providers and software developers.

UMTS Forum supports the harmonisation of spectrum in the digital dividend across Europe. The digital dividend, as defined by the RSPG, is the spectrum that will be made available over and above that required to accommodate the existing analogue television services in a digital form, in VHF (band III: 174-230 MHz) and UHF bands (bands IV and V: 470-862 MHz). According the European Commission Communication COM(2005) 461¹ the size of the freed spectrum (i.e. digital dividend) would be 300 to 375 MHz. UMTS Forum supports RSPG definition of the digital dividend. .

The UMTS Forum believes that the Digital Dividend should be harmonised across Europe taking into account the following usage:

- **IMT-2000/UMTS:** The harmonisation of a minimum of 2x30 MHz in the lower part of the UHF band (preferably below 600 MHz) for IMT-2000/UMTS would facilitate a cost efficient extension of rural coverage and affordable infrastructure to provide IMT-2000/UMTS services in currently uncovered areas in Europe. UMTS Forum supports the identification of a minimum of 2x30 MHz for IMT-2000 and the addition of a Mobile Allocation in Region 1 in 470-862 MHz under WRC-07 Agenda Item 1.4.
- **Mobile Broadcasting:** Mobile TV is an important new service that will foster growth and innovation in Europe. As proposed by RSPG in its Opinion on Multimedia Services, adequate spectrum should be made available for two multiplexes per country. Mobile TV can be introduced in the UHF band within the existing RRC-06 plan but the harmonization of a UHF sub-band for mobile broadcast services would improve terminal performances, reduce network costs and improve compatibility with fixed reception broadcasting and increase spectral efficiency to provide mobile TV. UMTS Forum supports the RSPG request for urgent CEPT studies to address this issue.

¹ “ Radio spectrum availability in the context of the digital switchover and the upcoming ITU Regional Radiocommunication Conference 2006 (RRC-06)”



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UHF sub-band harmonisation and segmentation for terrestrial Fixed/Portable Broadcasting, Mobile Broadcasting and IMT-2000/UMTS may require frequency reshuffling.

In conclusion, UMTS Forum supports RSPG Opinion on EU spectrum policy implication on the digital dividend and recommends that the related CEPT studies identified in the Opinion should be conducted in ECC with urgency in order to define and adopt the appropriate technical harmonisation measures for the digital dividend, as mandated by the RSC.
