

Ericsson response to the public consultation on the draft RSPG opinion on EU spectrum policy implications of the digital dividend

Ericsson welcomes the opportunity to respond to the public consultation on the draft RSPG Opinion on EU spectrum policy implications of the digital dividend. Ericsson commends the open approach taken by the RSPG on the digital dividend.

Ericsson supports the harmonization of spectrum in the digital dividend, as defined by the RSPG, across Europe.

Ericsson believes that the Digital Dividend should be harmonized across Europe taking into account the following new usage opportunity that would benefit consumers, society at large, including areas underserved by communications services, and industry:

- The harmonization of a minimum of 2 x 40 MHz in the lower part of the UHF band, preferably below 600 MHz, for IMT-2000/UMTS and its evolutions, would facilitate a cost efficient extension of rural coverage and affordable infrastructure to provide IMT-2000/UMTS mobile broadband wireless access (BWA) services in currently uncovered areas in Europe.
- Ericsson therefore recommends the identification of a minimum of 2 x 40 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. Such an identification and allocation would provide sufficient spectrum to enable competitive, i.e. by more than one operator, provision of mobile high-bandwidth multimedia/voice/data services to areas and user groups that would otherwise not be economical to serve. Such service availability will be critical in creating an all-inclusive information society.

UHF sub-band harmonization and segmentation for terrestrial IMT-2000/UMTS use may require frequency reshuffling of broadcasting channels. The consumer and societal benefits of the improved spectrum efficiency resulting from such an activity will clearly justify the costs incurred.

In conclusion, Ericsson supports the 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 harmonization measures for the digital dividend, as mandated by the RSC.

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