



## **Digita Oy comments to the RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP Draft RSPG Opinion on a Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP)**

Digita oy appreciates the opportunity to comment on the RSPG Draft Opinion on a Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP). Digita Oy is terrestrial network operator for both broadcasting and mobile networks.

According to the *Draft Opinion*:

- It is crucial that a new RSPP benefits the internal market, EU economy and society as a whole;
- Audio-Visual Media has been identified as one of the policy initiatives to which Member States shall, in cooperation with the Commission, ensure sufficient spectrum is available based on spectrum needs.

Digita shares these opinions.

Digita recognizes benefits of the latest developments of 5G technology, and appreciates RSPG support for the frequency harmonization, especially enabling new applications for needs of industry.

As part of the European Audio-visual Media ecosystem, Digita is of the opinion that there is a need for a political regulatory roadmap for the post 2030 scenario for UHF frequencies in the *Draft Opinion*. European Audio-visual Media including PMSE and its terrestrial distribution are essential for upholding European values, they benefit the European internal market, the EU economy and society as a whole. They are vital for the European Content and Cultural industry for the foreseeable future, including beyond 2030.

Further, it is becoming increasingly important to take into account that the broadcasting technologies – be it DVB or 3GPP standards – are by definition the *most efficient means* to deliver linear mass media to large audiences. This means also that the optimisation of media delivery in regards to energy efficiency will act an increasingly important role in the fight against the climate change.

### **Digita comments on section 2.2:**

Digita shares the view of RSPG for the need of local licensing for ECS harmonized bands and appreciates recognition of need for flexible network solutions and topologies. These local networks can be used as complement to nationwide mobile networks, which are providing valuable services for public needs. Local private network solutions can be optimized for specialized needs of industry, for example, taking full benefits of new possibilities of the latest 5G developments.

### **Digita comments on section 3.4:**

- Digita regrets that the draft opinion has not taken the opportunity to provide additional certainty for European Audio-Visual Media Sector for UHF frequencies beyond 2030. Such a statement would give more clarity in the RSPG long term strategy, which Digita believes is missing in the Draft Opinion.
- The reference for the new RSPP being the UHF Decision, Digita thinks it is important in that aspect to reuse the wording that has been agreed in the UHF Decision, and add 'at least' in the sentence: "*The current Council and European Parliament Decision<sup>6</sup> is providing legal certainty until **at least** 2030 to terrestrial broadcasting<sup>7</sup> including conditioned national flexibility<sup>8</sup>*".
- Digita proposes to reorder the bullet points as follows:
  - *The current Council and European Parliament Decision<sup>6</sup> is providing legal certainty until **at least** 2030 to terrestrial broadcasting<sup>7</sup> including conditioned national flexibility<sup>8</sup>.*
  - *The UHF 470-960 MHz band is on the agenda for the upcoming WRC23 conference and RSPG intends to provide a recommendation to the EC on an EU position accordingly in its opinion towards WRC23.*
  - *The RSPG is of the view that the future of broadcasting and PMSE in regard of the UHF Band 470-694 MHz shall not be subject of a new RSPP (see also section 6.6)*

Such an ordering gives the current reference situation followed by the ITU ongoing process and separately the RSPG position on RSPP.

### **Digita comments on section 6.6**

In section 6.6, the *Draft Opinion* indicates its support for a smooth transition to new technologies and a convergence of services. Digita believes that a one fits all technology/network is not realistic, feasible or desirable. A cooperation taking the best available appears more efficient, it will allow different services to provide what they do best for the benefit of citizens/customers.

Looking at market reality, citizens have become accustomed to a variety of complementary platforms where they appreciate increasingly convergent services. Free TV is one of the key services for most Europeans. In freeTV, the advertising based television is the most important commercial model when offering these services to citizens. As the internet based audio visual (and other services) have become increasingly important, also the market position of European audio visual companies has weakened as European Parliament stated in the resolution in 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 on strengthening media freedom.

Moreover, distorting competition in the European Audio visual media market by weakening terrestrial broadcasting via a regulatory decision would end up with fewer services, fewer European services and less value for citizens. On the contrary, the general interest is better ensured by network diversity and the redundancy and reliable communication services needed for emergencies, as the pandemic has demonstrated, and by fostering competition between TV distribution platforms to give citizens the best value.

As the *Draft Opinion* and the article 7 of the UHF decision recognize, we believe that European policy makers should take into account the social, economic, cultural and international aspects affecting the use of the sub-700 MHz frequency.

Our proposal would be to have a second bullet point revised as follow:

- *The RSPG supports smooth transition to new technologies, cooperation between networks and convergence of services to benefit consumers in the respect of the Audio Visual media Policy*

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