

EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity Radio Spectrum Policy Group RSPG Secretariat

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RSPG22-004 FINAL

# **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

**Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group** 

on "Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

### Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group on

### "Good offices" to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

The Good offices Sub-Group (SG) has held one web-meeting (18.01.2022) since the last RSPG Plenary meeting. The detailed meeting report is at Annex 1 and includes the list of participants at this meeting.

In the first instance it should be underlined that the SG received a letter from Slovenia concerning Italian harmful interference to Slovenian IMT systems. Slovenia, based on the first Italian roadmap, organised an auction and granted licenses to three mobile network operators and another licence to an M2M operator, and services were planned to be provided in early 2022. The high level of TV interference present in particular on channels 52 and 54 well within the Slovenian territory is preventing the Slovenian operators to start 5G operations in a considerable part of its national territory. Two mobile operators are suffering from harmful interference and are claiming to experience a financial loss up to  $\notin$ 60,000 per month. This situation is also causing economic damage to the country.

In view of commonalities of the interference problems, this letter was considered within the framework of the RSPG Opinion on the application of EECC Article 28(3) in relation to cross-border interference problems in the UHF band between Croatia and Italy.

### 1. <u>Implementation of the Croatia/Italy coordinated solution defined in the RSPG opinion</u>

Italy presented their progress on the implementation of the RSPG Opinion on the application of EECC Article 28(3) in relation to cross-border interference problems in the UHF band.

# a) Interference from Italian TV stations operating in the 700 MHz band, which will be authorized for use by mobile operators in Croatia in July 2021

Italy presented their plan for migrating digital terrestrial television (DTT) from the 700 MHz band and explained that for the areas of relevance to Croatia and Slovenia (i.e. Areas 2 and 3 for the North of Italy and Area 4 for the Adriatic and south of Italy), the migration of TV channels 50-53 will be taking place in the period between 3 January and 15 May 2022 at the latest (refer to Figure 1).

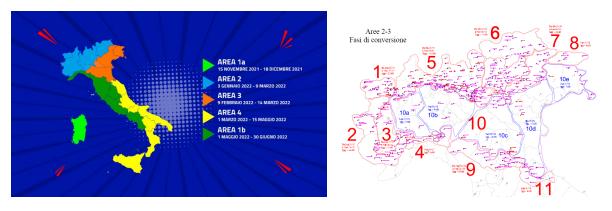


Figure 1 - Italian DTT refarming plan

In view of the delays in the execution of the coordinated solution, the SG proposed to change the order of releasing the specific parts comprising Areas 2 and 3 and to prioritise on the parts hosting the Italian TV transmissions which are causing the highest interference to the provision of IMT services in Croatia and Slovenia, i.e. to switch off TV in areas 2 and 3, parts 7, 8 and 10e, prior to 3 and 4.

Italy stressed that channels 51 and 53 and stations of high-tower high-power [HPHT] on channel 50 have already been switched off. Italy also noted that according to the EC decision on the UHF band, they have the right to operate TV up to mid-2022 and that the new Italian roadmap was set exactly to anticipate that deadline.

Croatia expressed its appreciation to the efforts made by Italy so far but was disappointed on the pace of resolving the interference problems and recalled point 3.2 of the RSPG Opinion which established mid-August 2021 for the release of TV channels 50-53. Both Croatia and Slovenia asked Italy to adopt measures which could expedite the process of switching-off TV channels since it was unacceptable that the interference will continue affecting the deployment of 5G services until May 2022.

In this respect representative of EC noted the efforts made by Italy and echoed the concerns expressed by the affected countries as regards the migration timeframes and pointed to the need to minimise harmful interference in line with Decision 2017/899/EU of the European Parliament and Council.

The SG requested Italy to use temporary channels as a measure to accelerate the migration process. This was not considered possible by Italy in view of the supply difficulties due to limited availability of equipment on the market, not to mention the big financial burden for broadcasters associated in particular, in procuring new additional equipment just for a few months. Italy however, emphasised that they will endeavour to explore the implementation of temporary measures which could lead to the implementation of the migration process before the dates stated in their roadmap.

The SG concluded that Italy should carry with the implementation of the RSPG Opinion, and to put again pressure on its broadcaster for mitigating the interference on channel 52, i.e.

accepting the temporary channel at least for HPHT transmitters or to reduce power of the most interfering stations.

# b) Coordinated solution for interference from Italian TV stations to Croatian TV channels

The SG observed the lack of development in the resolution of the reported cases of TV interference in accordance with paragraph 3.1 of the RSPG Opinion, where for the priority cases the Italian TV interference had to be resolved by 1 July 2021. Italy noted that they will act according to the approved roadmap and eliminate the interference by mid-May 2022 at latest, as the process of refarming TV channels is taking place together with the process of releasing the channels 50-53 and therefore follows the same timeline. Nonetheless, Italy committed itself to review the situation with the objective of expediting the implementation of measures to eliminate specific interference cases.

Croatia emphasised that the recommended solution according to the RSPG Opinion was not being followed. For all channels, there was no change in the interference situation and stated that this long-lasting interference should be solved urgently.

The SG concluded that, while recognizing the efforts made by Italy, Italy should identify the most interfering channels and find a way to reduce the interference by either using alternative channels or reduce the power for the interfering transmitters. This will lead to Italy's implementation of the coordinated solution set out in the RSPG Opinion.

### 2. <u>Review of other interference cases around Italy</u>

### VHF

Italy, Croatia and Slovenia explained that significant progress has been made in the development of the agreement for the Adriatic and Ionian region, for DAB. At the last meeting held in January 2022, the concerned countries agreed on the partitioning of the band and managed to consolidate most of the text of the agreement. Additional discussions are planned to be held in February 2022 and the parties, in recognition of the importance of this agreement, were confident to have the agreement signed prior to July 2022.

Slovenia and Croatia, as the countries which have previously reported Italian DAB interference on their frequencies (i.e. Slovenia: 12C and Croatia: 10A, 12A, 12B, 12C and 12D) informed the SG that no improvements were observed to the interference situation. Both countries stressed on the importance in resolving DAB interference in a timely manner, where some of the interference cases have been present for quite some time.

Italy considered that the aforesaid DAB agreement, which is the final stages of being adopted, will be key in resolving the cases of DAB interference. Subsequent to this agreement, AGCOM will be developing the Italian plan for the VHF band respecting the international

rights of the Italian neighbouring countries. As a result of the new AGCOM plan, the interference situations are expected to be completely resolved.

The SG noted the progress made as regards the agreement in the VHF band and encouraged Italy to consider adopting measures, even temporary ones, leading to the resolution of the interference cases.

## FM

The SG was pleased to note the approval by the Italian Parliament of a law (Decreto Legge No. 208/2021)<sup>1</sup> which includes provisions aimed to eliminating interference situations. Article 50 thereof states that:

10. The Authority shall adopt the national plan for the allocation of radio frequencies in analogue mode, taking into account the degree of development of digital radio broadcasting. Pending the effective diffusion of digital radio broadcasting and the development of the relevant market, the Ministry, in coordination with the Authority, may proceed with activities aimed at identifying and progressively rationalising the use of the frequency resources in analogue mode, in particular with a view to eliminating or minimising interference situations with neighbouring radio-electric countries, and encouraging the efficient use and management of the radio frequencies, safeguarding investments and promoting innovation.

The SG welcomed this development which once implemented will give the possibility to the Italian authorities to take action when cross-border harmful interference is present, including interference situations in the FM band.

The EC representative informed the meeting on a letter to the RSPG and the Radiocommunication Bureau of the ITU from an Italian law firm on behalf of a group of Italian radio networks pointing to the interference situations caused by broadcasting systems operating from Slovenia, to which the RSPG Chair responded, and to a letter from another Italian law firm to the Slovenian and Italian authorities making reference to a decision taken by the Italian courts in relation to interference caused by a Slovenian broadcaster.

The Italian court decided that both parties (i.e. the Italian and Slovenian broadcasters) had to apply corresponding measures to eliminate the interference. Slovenia stated that its station is registered with the ITU and operating in accordance with the GE84 plan. Slovenia reiterated that the problem in this specific case is that the Italian courts do not recognize the fact that the Slovenian station is operating in accordance with international law. The meeting noted this exchange of views.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/12/10/21G00231/sg</u>

### Croatia and Slovenia

Croatia and Slovenia did not report any improvement to the harmful interference situation. Both countries expressed their disappointment and frustration to the fact that despite having identified the priority cases of FM interferences and submitted the relevant interference reports several years ago, no meaningful progress has been registered.

In the short term, Italy stated that they will progress on the priority cases and will be providing an update at the next meeting.

The SG stressed that in accordance with the EECC Italy has the obligation to comply with ITU regulations, to manage and use radio spectrum efficiently and to prevent cross-border harmful interference.

### Malta

No improvement was noted to the harmful interference situation.

### France

France confirmed that the new Italian proposal for their station in Bonifaco on frequency 107.8 MHz was unacceptable since this frequency was in use in the area of Porto Vecchio.

France noted that its FM station on 88.3 MHz from Monte Corbu was still in operation but was experiencing harmful interference from Italy. However, based on measurements, France observed that frequency 88.4 MHz was not interfered in Sardinia and requested Italy to assess the possibility for France to use this frequency. Italy committed to study this request and will be providing some options to France in due course.

### 3. <u>Updated information was provided on several EU borders:</u>

Updated information was provided on the status of cross-border coordination activities with third countries:

• <u>Russian Federation</u>: The representative of the European Commission informed the meeting that on 6 December 2021 discussions took place with the Russian Federation, where spectrum coordination issues were included in the agenda. The Russian Federation was open for discussion as regards the use of the 700 MHz band for mobile services. Consequently, the migration of TV broadcasting services from this band was envisaged although no concrete dates were provided. In accordance with their legislation, it was not possible for the Russian Federation to use the 3.6 GHz band for 5G since it was designated for use by fixed-satellite services. The next meeting was planned to take place in May/June 2022.

- <u>Ukraine</u>: On 14 December 2021 a decision was adopted which formalized Ukraine's commitment on releasing the 700 MHz band for mobile use by end 2022.<sup>2</sup>
- <u>Belarus:</u> It was confirmed that in accordance with their plans, Belarus completed the switch-off of its broadcasting stations operating in the 700 MHz band along the Lithuanian border.
- <u>Moldova:</u> No updates.
- <u>Balkans</u>: Bosnia and Herzegovina started to switch-off the remaining analogue transmitters in the 700 MHz band which could interfere with Croatia. This process is still ongoing.
- <u>Serbia</u>: Serbia has already switched-off TV in 700 MHz band.
- <u>North Africa</u>: Italy and Malta reported that they were planning to participate in meetings organized by the ITU on the optimization of the GE84 plan for the African region. These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss cross-border frequency related issues with the concerned North African neighbouring countries.
- <u>Cyprus</u>: The EC representative informed the meeting that on 16 December 2021, it was confirmed that the Turkish-Cypriot community vacated channel 53 from its analogue TV transmissions and this positive development permits Cyprus to implement WBB ECS in the 700 MHz band. This was confirmed by Cyprus who thanked the EC for their efforts in solving this difficult situation. Nonetheless, it was noted that Turkey still objects to any notifications submitted by Cyprus for the registration of sub-700MHz TV stations under the Geneva 06 plan. In the context of the request for "EU Assistance", by Cyprus, the EC confirmed that it will be providing further assistance to Cyprus on this issue.

The EC representative also provided updated information on the status of the Regional Spectrum Agreement (RSA) for the Eastern Partnership Countries. It was noted that 4 countries were ready to sign but Ukraine and Armenia are still discussing issues which are not of substance. Signature of the agreement by all the countries was deemed imminent.

### 4. <u>C band</u>

No updates

### 5. <u>Date of next meeting</u>

The next SG meeting is planned as a web-meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March (9H30-12H30).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/2219/oj</u>.

### ANNEX 1

# REPORT

# RSPG SUB-GROUP « GOOD OFFICES » Web-meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The draft agenda of the meeting was presented and amended to consider a letter sent by Slovenia to the RSPG Good offices requesting support in resolving interference problems caused by Italian TV stations operating in channels 50-54 and 57 to Slovenian IMT systems.

### 6. Implementation of the Croatia/Italy coordinated solution (article 28 opinion)

Italy presented their progress on the implementation of the RSPG Opinion on the application of EECC Article 28(3) in relation to cross-border interference problems between Italy and Croatia in the UHF band. After making reference to their roadmap, Italy explained that for the areas of relevance to Croatia and Slovenia (i.e. Areas 2 and 3 for the North of Italy and Area 4 for the Adriatic and south of Italy), the migration of TV channels 50-53 will be taking place in the period between 3 January and 15 May 2022 at the latest.



Figure 2 - Italian DTT refarming plan

Specifically, for the North part of Italy (Areas 2 and 3), the area was divided in 11 parts. Italy confirmed that the process of switching-off TV channels commenced in parts 1, 2 (west part of county) and is planned to move smoothly to part 4 towards the south and later moving to the east part of country in parts 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. It is planned that these areas, called area 1 and 2 will be released from TV channels 50-53 by mid-March. The last part 10, which is affecting most the IMT systems of Slovenia and Croatia is planned to be released until

14 March. It was observed that channels 51 and 53 and stations of high-tower high-power [HPHT] on channel 50 have already been switched off.

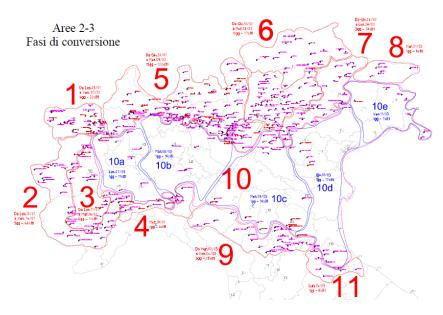


Figure 3 - Migration plan in North Italy (Areas 2 and 3)

It was proposed to change the order of releasing these parts and to prioritise on the areas hosting the Italian TV transmissions which are causing the highest interference to the provision of IMT services in Croatia and Slovenia, i.e. to switch off TV in areas 7, 8 and 10e, prior to 3 and 4. Italy clarified that the new roadmap was approved by the Italian Government and the specific dates of switching off TV stations in each region were defined by the ministry responsible for communication in 2021. Italy stressed that according the EC decision on the UHF band, they have the right to operate TV up to mid-2022 and that the roadmap was set exactly to anticipate that deadline.

Croatia expressed its appreciation to the efforts made by Italy so far but was disappointed on the pace of resolving the interference problems. It recalled point 3.2 of the RSPG Opinion which established mid-August 2021 for the release of TV channels 50-53. Both Croatia and Slovenia asked Italy to adopt measures which could expedite the process of switching-off TV channels since it was unacceptable that the interference will continue affecting the deployment of 5G services until May 2022.

In this respect representative of EC noted the efforts made by Italy and echoed the concerns expressed by the affected countries as regards the migration timeframes and pointed to the need to minimise harmful interference in line with Decision 2017/899/EU of the European Parliament and Council.

The meeting requested Italy to use temporary channels as a measure to accelerate the migration process. This was not considered possible by Italy in view of the supply difficulties due to limited availability of equipment on the market, not to mention the big financial burden

for broadcasters associated in particular, in procuring new additional equipment just for a few months. Italy however, emphasised that they will endeavour to explore the implementation of temporary measures which could lead to the implementation of the migration process before the dates stated in their roadmap.

The good offices concluded that Italy should carry with the implementation of the RSPG Opinion, put again pressure on its broadcaster for mitigating channel 52 interference, i.e. accepting the temporary channel at least for HPHT transmitters or to reduce power of the most interfering stations.

The Slovenian representative briefly presented their letter to the Good offices sub-group concerning Italian harmful interference to Slovenian IMT systems. Slovenia, based on the first Italian roadmap, organised an auction and granted licenses to three mobile network operators and another licence to an M2M operator, and services were planned to be provided in early 2022. The high level of TV interference present in particular on channels 52 and 54 well within the Slovenian territory is preventing the Slovenian operators to start 5G operations in a considerable part of its national territory. Two mobile operators are suffering from harmful interference and are claiming to experience a financial loss up to  $\in$ 60,000 per month. This situation is also causing economic damage to the country.

Croatia noted that the interference levels reach a field strength up to 77 dB $\mu$ V/m at a height of 10 m and noted that even on channel 50 where all the HPHT stations were migrated, they are still measuring an interference level up to 47 dB $\mu$ V/m (in the winter time) in the Istria region, see measurement results in Annex1. Italy was requested to investigate and to take corresponding measures to reduce this interference. Croatia agreed to share its measurement data with Italy.

### Coordinated solution for interference from Italian TV stations to Croatian TV channels

The good offices observed the lack of development in the resolution of the reported cases of TV interference in accordance with paragraph 3.1 of the RSPG Opinion, where for the priority cases the Italian TV interference had to be resolved by 1 July 2021. Italy noted that they will act according to the approved roadmap and eliminate the interference by mid-May 2022 at latest, as the process of refarming TV channels is taking place together with the process of releasing the channels 50-53 and therefore follows the same timeline. Nonetheless, Italy committed itself to review the situation with the objective of expediting the implementation of measures to eliminate specific interference cases.

Croatia emphasised that the recommended solution according to the RSPG Opinion was not being followed. For all channels, there was no change in the interference situation and stated that this long-lasting interference should be solved urgently.

Italy agreed that there was no progress in migrating the interfering transmitters to alternative temporary channels and reminded that, with the existing national law, the Courts often decide in

favour of the broadcasters. Italy stressed once again on the potential difficulties encountered by broadcasters: supplying difficulties, cost of reconfiguration, broadcasters may need to buy some equipment while some of them will simply become content providers at the end of the process.

The good offices concluded that, while recognizing the efforts made by Italy, Italy should identify the most interfering channels and find a way to reduce the interference by either using alternative channels or reduce the power for the interfering transmitters. This will lead to Italy's implementation of the coordinated solution set out in the RSPG Opinion.

### 7. <u>Review of other interference cases around Italy</u>

### VHF

Italy, Croatia and Slovenia explained that significant progress has been made in the development of the agreement for the Adriatic and Ionian region, for DAB. At the last meeting held in January 2022, the concerned countries agreed on the partitioning of the band and managed to consolidate most of the text of the agreement. Nonetheless, it was noted that there are still some open issues concerning: (a) when a country asks for a new assignment, and (b) aspects concerning the border areas with third countries, such as Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia. Additional discussions are planned to be held in February 2022 and the parties, in recognition of the importance of this agreement, were confident to have the agreement signed prior to July 2022.

Slovenia and Croatia, as the countries which have previously reported Italian DAB interference on their frequencies (i.e. Slovenia: 12C and Croatia: 10A, 12A, 12B, 12C and 12D) informed the group that no improvements were observed to the interference situation. Both countries stressed on the importance in resolving DAB interference in a timely manner, where some of the interference cases have been present for quite some time.

In addition, Slovenia explained that although during last meeting it was agreed that Italy will move some transmitters from 12C to 7C, the interference is still present, (i.e. there are other transmitters using 12C which would need to be migrated temporarily to 7C). As regards the interference on frequency block 10A, Slovenia noted that the migration of the Italian station from 10A to 10D is still pending.

Italy informed the group that they haven't started the relocation process but are going to do so following discussions with the broadcasters on such course of action. The discussion will also consider the possibility of reducing the power of most interfering stations operating on channel 12C or to move to channel 7C.

Italy considered that the aforesaid DAB agreement, which is the final stages of being adopted, will be key in resolving the cases of DAB interference. Subsequent to this agreement, AGCOM will be developing the Italian plan for the VHF band respecting the international rights of the Italian neighbouring countries. As a result of the new AGCOM plan, the interference situations are expected to be completely resolved.

The good offices noted the progress made as regards the agreement in the VHF band and encouraged Italy to consider adopting measures, even temporary ones, leading to the resolution of the interference cases.

### FM

The good offices was informed that the Italian Parliament approved a law (Decreto Legge No. 208/2021)<sup>3</sup> which includes provisions aimed to eliminating interference situations. Article 50 thereof states that:

10. The Authority shall adopt the national plan for the allocation of radio frequencies in analogue mode, taking into account the degree of development of digital radio broadcasting. Pending the effective diffusion of digital radio broadcasting and the development of the relevant market, the Ministry, in coordination with the Authority, may proceed with activities aimed at identifying and progressively rationalising the use of the frequency resources in analogue mode, in particular with a view to eliminating or minimising interference situations with neighbouring radio-electric countries, and encouraging the efficient use and management of the radio frequencies, safeguarding investments and promoting innovation.

The meeting welcomed this development which once implemented will give the possibility to the Italian authorities to take action when cross-border harmful interference is present, including interference situations in the FM band.

The EC representative informed the meeting on a letter to the RSPG and the Radiocommunication Bureau of the ITU from an Italian law firm on behalf of a group of Italian radio networks pointing to the interference situations caused by broadcasting systems operating from Slovenia, to which the RSPG Chair responded, and to a letter from another Italian law firm to the Slovenian and Italian authorities making reference to a decision taken by the Italian courts in relation to interference caused by a Slovenian broadcaster.

The Italian court decided that both parties (i.e. the Italian and Slovenian broadcasters) had to apply corresponding measures to eliminate the interference. Italy remarked that they do not intend to enforce the Court's decision on the Italian broadcaster since Slovenia does not intend to take any measures against its broadcaster. Slovenia stated that its station is registered with the ITU and operating in accordance with the GE84 plan. Slovenia reiterated that the problem in this specific case is that the Italian courts did not recognise the fact that the Slovenian station is operating in accordance with international law. The meeting noted this exchange of views.

### Croatia and Slovenia

Croatia and Slovenia did not report any improvement to the harmful interference situation. Both countries expressed their disappointment and frustration to the fact that despite having identified the priority cases of FM interferences and submitted the relevant interference reports several years ago, no meaningful progress has been registered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/12/10/21G00231/sg

Italy presented the status of their ongoing studies in addressing the interference to the Croatian station at Biokovo. It indicated the difficulty in identify a suitable frequency to allow for its station to migrate to another frequency when taking into account other national and cross-border frequency assignments. Italy committed to continuing its efforts towards identifying a suitable solution. Nonetheless, due to the complexity of the issue, no date could be committed by when a concrete solution could be presented.

Slovenia expressed their disappointment to the fact that Italy opposed to the registration of Slovenian stations in the MIFR, following application of the plan modification procedures under the GE84 agreement. Slovenia requested a clarification towards this position as Italy is exercising rights from the international agreements but it is ignoring the obligations from the same agreements. Italy explained that they experience a lack of resources to follow all issues but committed to provide Slovenia with the reasoning supporting their objections.

In the short term, Italy stated that they will progress on the priority cases and will be providing an update at the next meeting.

It was stressed that in accordance with the EECC Italy has the obligation to comply with ITU regulations, to manage and use radio spectrum efficiently and to prevent cross-border harmful interference.

#### Malta

No improvement was noted to the harmful interference situation.

### France

France confirmed that the new Italian proposal for their station in Bonifaco on frequency 107.8 MHz was unacceptable since this frequency was in use in the area of Porto Vecchio. It was also confirmed that the registration of the station using this frequency under the GE84 agreement was in progress and is expected to be published by the ITU in January 2022.

France noted that its FM station on 88.3 MHz from Monte Corbu was still in operation but was experiencing harmful interference from Italy. However, based on measurements, France observed that frequency 88.4 MHz was not interfered in Sardinia and requested Italy to assess the possibility for France to use this frequency. Italy committed to study this request and will be providing some options to France in due course. Italy will also be providing the results of the measurements that it had to undertake concerning the use of frequency107.9 MHz in Sardinia.

### 8. Updated information was provided on several EU borders:

Updated information was provided on the status of cross-border coordination activities with third countries:

- <u>Russian Federation</u>: The representative of the European Commission informed the meeting that on 6 December 2021 discussions took place with the Russian Federation, where spectrum coordination issues were included in the agenda. The Russian Federation was open for discussion as regards the use of the 700 MHz band for mobile services. Consequently, the migration of TV broadcasting services from this band was envisaged although no concrete dates were provided. In accordance with their legislation, it was not possible for the Russian Federation to use the 3.6 GHz band for 5G since it was designated for use by fixed-satellite services. The next meeting was planned to take place in May/June 2022.
- <u>Ukraine</u>: On 14 December 2021 a decision was adopted which formalized Ukraine's commitment on releasing the 700 MHz band for mobile use by end 2022.<sup>4</sup>
- <u>Belarus:</u> It was confirmed that in accordance with their plans, Belarus completed the switch-off of its broadcasting stations operating in the 700 MHz band along the Lithuanian border.
- <u>Moldova:</u> No updates.
- <u>Balkans:</u> Bosnia and Herzegovina started to switch-off the remaining analogue transmitters in the 700 MHz band which could interfere with Croatia. This process is still ongoing.
- <u>Serbia:</u> Serbia has already switched-off TV in 700 MHz band.
- <u>North Africa</u>: Italy and Malta reported that they were planning to participate in meetings organized by the ITU on the optimization of the GE84 plan for the African region. These meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss cross-border frequency related issues with the concerned North African neighbouring countries.
- <u>Cyprus</u>: The EC representative informed the meeting that on 16 December 2021, it was confirmed that the Turkish-Cypriot community vacated channel 53 from its analogue TV transmissions and this positive development permits Cyprus to implement WBB ECS in the 700 MHz band. This was confirmed by Cyprus who thanked the EC for their efforts in solving this difficult situation. Nonetheless, it was noted that Turkey still objects to any notifications submitted by Cyprus for the registration of sub-700MHz TV stations under the Geneva 06 plan. In the context of the request for "EU Assistance", by Cyprus, the EC confirmed that it will be providing further assistance to Cyprus on this issue.

The EC representative also provided updated information on the status of the Regional Spectrum Agreement (RSA) for the Eastern Partnership Countries. It was noted that 4 countries were ready to sign but Ukraine and Armenia are still discussing issues which are not of substance. Signature of the agreement by all the countries was deemed imminent.

### 9. <u>C band</u>

No updates

### 10. Date of next meeting

The next RSPG "good offices" meeting is planned as a web-meeting on 23<sup>h</sup> March (9H30-12H30).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/2219/oj</u>.

Name	Country			
Ernst Cerny	Austria			
Danijel Vidakovic	Croatia			
Danijel Vlahovic	Croatia			
Luka Vujevic	Croatia			
George Komodromos	Cyprus			
Paul Lippens de Cerf	European Commission			
Varnaite-Kamstra Julija	European Commission			
Abdelhak Fodil	France			
Guillaume Delaire	France			
Elena Nanou	Greece			
Emília Ulelay	Hungary			
Donato Margarella	Italy			
Marco Vari	Italy			
Umberto Mascia	Italy			
Mindaugas Žilinskas*	Lithuania			
Adrian Galea*	Malta			
Amadeo Vella	Malta			
Igor Funa	Slovenia			
Janja Varsek	Slovenia			
Miljenko Pintar	Slovenia			
	* Co-chairs			

# List of participants

\* Co-chairs

### ANNEX1

Measurement in Allotment	Channel	Frequency HR,ITA (MHz)	Bearing intererence	Interference level (dbµV/m)	Cell ID	Date of measurment:	GPS: (WGS84)	Location of Measurement
D05	50	706	290	47,2	12D	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D07	50	706	240	46,0	12D	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj
D05	52	722	290	60,2	12D	29.12.2021	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D05	52	722	270	77,7	12D	29.12.2021.	013E3850 45N2430	Buje

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D07	52	722	230	58,0	12D	4.1.2022.	018E1726	KMP Veliki
D05	54	738	270	73,2	13A2	29.12.2021.	42N3150 013E3850	Bokolj Buje
D05	54	738	320	64,4	1771	29.12.2021.	45N2430 013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D07	54	738	250	53,0	2B1E	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj
D05	55	746	270	76,4	13A2	29.12.2021.	013E3850 45N2430	Buje
D05	55	746	310	62,3	1771	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D05	55	746	270	59,8	13A2	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D07	55	746	210	65,0	32D6	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj
D05	56	754	270	76,4	12D	29.12.2021.	013E3850 45N2430	Buje
D05	56	754	310	65,2	12D	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D07	56	754	220	49,0	12D	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj
D05	57	762	270	54,9	54D9	29.12.2021.	013E3850 45N2430	Buje
D05	57	762	10	42,4	D8	29.12.2021.	013E3850 45N2430	Buje
D05	57	762	320	41,2	0	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D05	57	762	270	40,2	54D9	29.12.2021.	013E3736 45N0924	Vrsar
D07	57	762	200	53,0	54B9	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj
D07	58	770	205	45,0	7D2	4.1.2022.	018E1726 42N3150	KMP Veliki Bokolj