



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

**RSPG Secretariat**

Brussels, 03 October 2018

**RSPG18-034 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on European Spectrum Strategy**

## RPSG Working Group European Spectrum Strategy

### Progress Report to RSPG Plenary

October 2018

Since the last RSPG Plenary in early June 2018, the Working Group on European Spectrum Strategy (WG ESS) has had 2 group meetings and organised a Stakeholder Workshop.

#### **Working Group Meeting – 21st June 2018**

The WG meeting, held in London on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, was run as a brainstorm session on ‘innovation’ and ‘sharing’, two of the six previously identified key issues. These six issues are;

- Innovation
- Sharing
- Harmonisation
- The role of market mechanisms
- Meeting the needs of all spectrum users
- Receivers and Standards.

During the brainstorm on ‘innovation’ and ‘sharing’ the WG identified several recurring themes and some key questions to be addressed. Based on these, a set of questions and slide deck were prepared for the proposed Stakeholder Workshop.

#### **Stakeholder Workshop – Dublin, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018** (slides attached)

The WG organised the first Strategy Stakeholder Workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, kindly hosted by ComReg in Dublin. The workshop generated a great deal of interest from the Stakeholders and we had over 55 participants from a wide range of sectors of spectrum users.

Philip Marnick opened the workshop and introduced the stakeholders to the background and work of the Group. He went on to present slides on the six key issues already identified and then, in more detail, talked about the themes of the day – innovation and sharing. At this point, the workshop broke out into groups.

The WG had agreed that, in order to stimulate debate, we would organise the workshop in ‘cabaret’ style and place stakeholders on tables based on their sectoral interest, this ensured we had a mix of sector representatives at each breakout table. Each table was facilitated by a Member of the WG and was given a series of questions to debate on both themes (innovation and sharing). The results of these discussions were then shared with the wider workshop, where further debate took place.

Engagement was lively and frank with all stakeholders participating in the spirit of open debate. All tried to address the challenging questions and the proposed timeframe (we had asked them to look 10-15 years into future). We garnered valuable insights into the challenges stakeholders currently face and those that might occur in the near future.

We have received very positive feedback from participants and it was clear that all welcomed the opportunity to express their views and opinions and engage with a forward looking European Spectrum Strategy. Stakeholders particularly welcomed the opportunity to contribute to this work item at an early stage in the process and expressed interest in continuing to engage as the work progresses.

### **Working Group Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September**

The WG met immediately after the Stakeholder Workshop to digest the deliberations from the day before and consider next steps. The WG sought to identify emerging themes and discussed in more depth some of the opinions expressed and their possible roots. Additionally, we debated the role of spectrum management and, in response to calls from some Stakeholders that the spectrum management regime itself needs to be more innovative, we considered the current regulatory environment.

The WG undertook to take the information from the workshop forward and to move on to discuss the next two issues – harmonisation and the role of market mechanisms – at its next meeting.

### **Next steps**

- Co-Rapporteurs conference call to agree next steps and discuss possible form of output
- Next working group meeting to brainstorm ‘harmonisation’ and ‘the role of market mechanisms’
- WG to consider future stakeholder workshop(s)