



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 23 November 2022
DG CNECT/B4/RSPG Secretariat

RSPG22-037 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

**Request for an Opinion on the future of the EU-level regulatory framework
on Mobile Satellite Services beyond 2027**

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Rationale

The EU regulatory framework on Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) consists of EP and Council Decision 626/2008/EC, Commission Decision 2009/449/EC, Commission Decision 2011/667/EC, Commission Decision 2007/98/EC and the EP and Council Directive (EU) 2018/1972 .

Pursuant to the MSS framework, two operators were selected to provide MSS in the European Union in the EU-harmonised 1 980 - 2 010 MHz and 2 170 - 2 200 MHz (“2 GHz”) frequency band until mid-2027.

The expiry of the current licenses in 2027 concurs with important recent technological and market developments in the satellite sector in Europe and worldwide. This necessitates and also provides the timely opportunity to assess at the EU level the current and future use of the 2 GHz MSS frequency band, in order to maximise its efficient use and socio-economic impact across the EU in a coordinated manner. In this context, every effort should be made to avoid a fragmented situation in the Union concerning the use of the MSS frequencies after 2027.

Scope of RSPG activity

RSPG is invited to assess different possible scenarios for the use of the 2 GHz MSS frequency band beyond 2027 considering, inter alia:

- the existing licenses and the current use of that band for MSS in the EU and in other countries,
- the latest technological developments in satellite communications and trends in the provision of satellite services,
- relevant EU policies, including the (soon to be adopted) Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 and the (space) Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027, the green deal, etc.

Following the above assessment, the RSPG should provide recommendations as to the most appropriate way forward taking into consideration the efficient and effective use of the 2 GHz MSS frequency band for the period after 2027 in line with the EU-level policy priorities.

Planned type of deliverable

RSPG opinion

Time schedule

Draft opinion for public consultation: October 2023

Final opinion: February 2024