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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-group on Strategic Spectrum Matters

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The RSPG sub-group on ‘Strategic Spectrum Matters’ has been established by the European Commission further to the adoption of the RSPG work program at the last Plenary. Members of this sub-group include representatives from 16 Member States, Norway, Montenegro, Ukraine, ECO and the European Commission.

Further to the publication by the European Commission of its White Paper on “*How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?*”, the sub-group agreed to develop an Opinion in order to contribute to the relevant public consultation.

The Sub-group met five times remotely and developed the Opinion on “*How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?*” to be considered as the response from the RSPG to this public consultation. The draft Opinion has been subject of number of improvements between sub-group meetings on the basis of comments received.

In this Opinion, the RSPG refers back to previous relevant Opinions as well as adding elements to respond to issues raised in the current 2024 consultation. The contents of these previous Opinions are still highly valid. Three Opinions that are highly relevant are

- RSPG Opinion on “*the targeted consultation on the 2030 Digital Compass*”, RSPG21-037
- RSPG Opinion on “*the future of electronic communications sectors and its infrastructure*”, RSPG23-016 and its addendum RSPG23-044
- RSPG Opinion on “*a Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP)*”, RSPG21-033

The recommendations put forward in these three Opinions shall be seen as integral parts of this Opinion.

In developing this Opinion, the RSPG has taken due consideration of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), relevant national legislation, the geopolitical context, the need to support EU interests and digital sovereignty, development of investments, European competition policy and European economic growth.

In this Opinion, the RSPG highlights in particular,

- its role supporting European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament
- the European Spectrum Governance model as a strategic asset serving EU interests
- Technical challenges: Benefits of EU spectrum harmonisation and supported by European standardisation
- the support to Single Market
- and others strategic areas: increasing investments in satellites services and new challenges, spectrum coordination with third countries

During the finalisation of the draft Opinion, the European Commission shared to the sub-group its draft request for Opinion on the EU-level policy approach to satellite Direct-to-Device (D2D) connectivity and related Single Market issues. No objection has been raised on this initiative in the sub-group.

The RSPG plenary is invited to consider and adopt for publication this RSPG Opinion on “How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?”. The European Commission is invited to consider this input as RSPG response to the public consultation on its White Paper on “How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?”.

Co-chairs:

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