RSPG public consultation on the objectives of WRC-07

1) What are the agenda items at WRC-07 (to be specified by the respondent) which potentially could have a significant positive or negative impact on common European policies and on important pan-European industrial sectors?

Adequate radio spectrum for aeronautical use is a key factor for the success of the European Union's Single Sky policy. It impacts safety of life services, air traffic capacity and security. Agenda item 1.6 is therefore important in that a successful outcome would have a significant positive impact on European aviation policies and the future of the industry. Agenda item 1.5 is also important for the research,development and testing of new aircraft and systems.

2) Which are the broad objectives which Europe could set itself for these agenda items, bearing in mind that many technical constraints are not yet clarified, and the fact that non-European interests might not support such objectives during the negotiations?

Promote the flexible use of aeronautical radio spectrum for both safety and non-safety services to optimise cost effective adoption of new systems.

3) Is it currently foreseeable that there could be contrasting requirements for different Community policies which would need to be interpreted preferably before the WRC-07 negotiations? If so, where?

The flexible use of aeronatical radio spectrum would significantly enhance the synergies between Community policies concerning Transport, Information Society, Space, Environment, and Research and Development. Obviously, safety and security requirements have absolute priority over non-essential services.

4) How to effectively promote at the conference and within ITU the Common Proposals on spectrum selected by Europe in other regions of the world, in order to enable European industry and consumers to benefit from lower barriers to trade and greater economies of scale?

In the case of aviation, it is a matter of integrating European requirements into international requirements.

Aviation is a global industry that makes an enormous economic and social contribution to the world. It carries a total of 1.6 billion passengers per year, 40% of the world's manufactured goods and 28 million jobs are directly or indirectly provided by the industry.

In Europe, it is estimated that direct, indirect and induced employement created at European airports is 4,000 jobs per million passengers served.

Being a global industry, aviation has close links with all regions of the world and European institutions cooperate closely with EUROCONTROL, IATA, ICAO and other regional and international bodies when developing aviation policies.. . The Commission should continue its close association with aviation's Spectrum Frequency Consultation Group and exploit its worldwide contacts.

5) How to ensure that generic regulatory principles enshrined in Community legislation for various spectrum-using sectors are supported in the WRC-07 process, and notably the principles of technology neutrality, fair competition, regulatory transparency, non-discrimination and proportionality, as well as the optimisation of spectrum use?

Optimisation of aeronautical spectrum has always been a top priority when developing aviation policies and it continues to be for WRC 07.

6) What should be the strategy approaches before and during the conference for European delegations to optimise the possibility to reach the above-identified common European objectives? Should some European Common Proposals be mandatory for EU members?

European aviation is developing its common position that reflects the current ICAO position for WRC 2007. This common position should be integrated into the European Common Proposals and supported at State level .

7) Are the current procedural arrangements for the European WRC preparations, such as participation to and scheduling of meetings, drafting of European Common Positions and Briefs, availability of information, etc., appropriate? If not, please suggest ways to improve this process.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group should invite major sectors to present their co-ordinated positions for consideration before the European Common Positions are finalised.

8) If applicable, please indicate your early views on issues Europe could propose to be included in the agenda for the next conference after WRC-07.

Agenda item 2.,3 concerning the aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service, and agenda item 3.1, concerning the 5091-5150 MHz band, are important issues for aviation and their inclusion in the WRC-2010 agenda should be supported.