

## **EICTA response to**

### **The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Consultation on priorities and objectives for the Community in the World Radiocommunication Conference 2007**

EICTA (the European Industry Association for Information Systems, Communication Technologies and Consumer Electronics) fully supports and values the Radio Spectrum Policy Group's initiative to provide opinion and comments on the policy priorities and objectives to be pursued by the European Community at the next conference (WRC-07). This consultation gives the ICT and Consumer Electronics Industry an opportunity to underline our main interests concerning the issues included in the agenda of WRC07.

**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?**

#### **Agenda Item 1.4**

*“to consider frequency-related matters for the future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000 taking into account the results of ITU-R studies in accordance with Resolution 228 (Rev.WRC-03)”*

WRC-07 Agenda Item 1.4 is extremely important for the European Telecoms industry for the following reasons.

Currently 3G/IMT-2000 networks are being deployed in Europe in spectrum that was initially identified by WARC-92 (the core bands). The deployment was delayed due to e.g. economical difficulties experienced by operators in the past few years. In some Asian countries 3G/IMT-2000 is already in wide use utilising the WARC-92 core bands, while in several countries in Asia and the Americas 3G/IMT-2000 is deployed in WRC-2000 bands. In Europe it is widely expected that the mass market breakthrough of 3G/IMT-2000 will happen in the years 2005 - 2007.

WRC-2000 identified additional spectrum for 3G/IMT-2000 based on spectrum requirement calculations that extended to the year 2010. In Europe the bands identified by WRC-2000 are planned to become available in year 2008; and licensed based on the actual needs in each market.

EICTA believes in the growth of demand for public mobile communications due the increased use of information based services, database applications (Internet), position based applications as well as multicasting and broadcasting usage. This is expected to result in needs for higher data rates and ubiquitous coverage to meet user requirements. For this reason, EICTA encourages the RSPG to support the identification of additional spectrum for the future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000 at the WRC-07. This is particularly critical also in light of the fact that the preliminary WRC-10 agenda does not currently contain IMT-2000 spectrum issues.

Since WRC-2000 the ITU-R has continued its work in the framework of "further developments of IMT-2000 and systems beyond 2000" to address the expected evolvement of the user requirements, services and usage. As part of the process, new capabilities are foreseen that will greatly extend system capacity and bit rates compared to current capabilities. It is also foreseen that these new capabilities will need new spectrum. To meet those requirements key Asian countries have already been very active in research and in the ITU aiming at deploying a new generation of radio access technology soon after year 2010. They are very active in the preparatory work on Agenda Item 1.4 with a view of having new spectrum identified at the WRC-07.

Europe has only just started in the EC 6th Framework Program wide-ranging research aiming at defining a system concept that would fulfill the technical requirements of the new capabilities as defined in ITU-R Recommendation M.1645. Europe must also be active in the WRC preparations and for its part ensure that sufficient and suitable spectrum for European solutions is identified by WRC-07. Otherwise the possibility of global markets may be lost and the potential benefits for the European industry and users are lost.

Finally, it should be kept in mind that it has typically taken 8 to 10 years from the identification of common global spectrum in ITU until it has become widely available to operators. If WRC-07 would not identify the required spectrum and the process would be delayed until the following WRC, wide deployment of the new technology would not be possible even around year 2015.

The WRC-07 is also seen by some Administrations as the last WRC that will have an agenda item related to the IMT-2000; the possibility of continued discussions on spectrum for IMT-2000 systems and systems beyond IMT-2000 at the following WRC is therefore at risk. It is crucial that studies remain open in order to identify needs and solutions for all IMT-2000 and beyond technologies.

## **Agenda Item 1.20**

*“to consider the results of studies, and proposals for regulatory measures, if appropriate, regarding the protection of the Earth exploration-satellite service (passive) from unwanted emissions of active services in accordance with Resolution 738 [COM4/14] (WRC-03)”*

It is important that operations of active systems, both existing and future systems, will not be constrained by undue strict requirements.

## **Agenda Item 7.2**

*“to recommend to the Council items for inclusion in the agenda for the next WRC, and to give its views on the preliminary agenda for the subsequent conference and on possible agenda items for future conferences, taking into account Resolution **803**”*

The generic Agenda Item 7.2 is important in that it provides recommendation for future agenda items. From a European point of view, this is crucial to keep the European industry at the forefront of the telecom world.

**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?**

## **Agenda Item 1.4**

New spectrum should be identified in a manner which is suitable and sufficient from the European industry point of view.

The objective is to acquire an identification of spectrum in the Radio Regulations or to have a new Recommendation developed containing the spectrum bands and possibly spectrum arrangements.

Further studies on technical and operational issues relating to the future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000, and the development of required Recommendations should to the extent possible be handled in ITU-R WP8F.

Globally aligned spectrum should be the preferred objective to ensure global roaming, common and always available applications anywhere at any time, and equipment-cost reduction through economies of scale.

There is a need to apply the following requirements on new additional spectrum for future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000:

- Capacity: for new applications and services, e.g. full video applications;
- Coverage: cost effective coverage to provide service in remote or sparsely populated areas;
- Velocity: for access by users in high speed trains at speeds up to [500 km/h].

Spectrum for capacity enhancement should tentatively target bands above those currently allocated for IMT-2000, while spectrum for coverage and velocity enhancements should preferably be sought in bands below those currently utilized for IMT-2000. The consideration of the lower spectrum bands can be favourably influenced by the on-going switchover to digital broadcasting and the replanning of spectrum for such use.

These initial enhancements to the IMT-2000 technology, for which standards are already being developed, will be followed by further enhancements that could increase the peak aggregate useful data rate up to approximately 30 Mbit/s.

### **Agenda item 1.20:**

While the EESS (passive) operation is protected, it should be ensured that new limits will not be set for the active services to restrict their operation more than absolutely necessary.

**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?**

Potentially in Agenda item 1.20

Possibly in regard to agenda item 1.21

**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?**

The promotion should emphasise sufficient, globally harmonized spectrum bands and minimal fragmentation as the solution that would best facilitate global markets, economies of scale and global roaming.

**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?**

Spectrum identifications should be sufficient and suitable to allow deployment of competing networks using competing technologies, based on market needs. Regulatory transparency and certainty is facilitated by timely decisions at the WRC, allowing industry to decide on required development investments in time.

**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?**

The CEPT process employed in the previous WRCs should be supported on a political level by the EC.

**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.**

In general the arrangements are appropriate and well organised. Industry participation should be allowed in all levels of European preparations and negotiations, in order to fully utilize European support and competence in the work.

**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 (see the preliminary agenda proposed by WRC-03 in annex 3).**

Agenda item 2.8 in Resolution 803 (WRC-03) (development and regulatory requirements of terrestrial wireless interactive multimedia applications) is an important topic to the telecoms industry and should be kept on the agenda of the next WRC.

Also the Agenda Item 2.4, “to consider allocations to the mobile service in the band 806-862 MHz in Region 1, following the transition of analogue to digital TV” will be important, subject to the results of the RRC-04 and RRC-06.