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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group

on “Good offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

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Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group on

“Good offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

The “Good offices” Sub-Group (SG) held three meetings since the 66th Radio Spectrum Policy Group. The meetings held on the 26th March and 12th May focused on discussing the various open issues concerning cross-border coordination. The meeting held on the 22nd April addressed harmful interference problems caused by Ukraine to neighbouring countries in the 700 MHz band.

The reports of these meetings are annexed to this progress report and an executive summary of the key discussion points is provided below.

1. FM harmful interference around Italy

Voluntary compensation scheme

Italy confirmed that funds will be allocated towards a voluntary compensation scheme which is expected to provide an opportunity to release authorisations in the FM band and consequently to improving the FM harmful interference situation. A meeting had to take place on the 22nd May to finalise discussions on the scheme’s financial allocation. Based on the amount allocated, Italy will proceed with defining the scheme’s implementation rules. It is noted that, in line with national legislation, a portion of these funds will be directed to broadcasting stations.

No timeline was provided for the scheme, but based on the approach adopted for the 700 MHz band, tangible results from the compensation scheme are expected in 2026. Italy has committed to minimising timeframes as much as possible. It has also expressed confidence that certain FM operators holding a DAB licence are considering the opportunity presented by the voluntary compensation scheme as part of their cost-benefit assessment.

The affected Member States expressed their frustration that the Italian process was contributing to delays in implementing a potential solution. They also voiced scepticism regarding the effectiveness of the scheme, given that key details were still unavailable.

In this context the SG appealed to Italy to make available sufficient funds for the scheme and that the timeframes associated with its implementation are kept to a minimum. It also reaffirmed its position that Italy should actively pursue alternative measures to complement the scheme.

Studies being conducted by Italy to resolving certain FM interference cases

Italy has been conducting studies and held meetings with the operator responsible for the interference affecting Croatia at Biokovo on 89.7 MHz. Italy requested Croatia to carry out joint measurements as a means to adopt a robust approach in addressing the issue. However, Croatia considered the conduct of additional joint measurements unnecessary, arguing that it

would only lead to further delays in implementing a solution. The discussion recalled the deliberations of the SG in 2019, which validated Croatia's measurements and concluded that the only viable solution was to migrate the interfering Italian station to an alternative frequency that does not affect Croatia. Italy will continue its studies to identify a suitable replacement frequency.

With regard to Slovenia, at the March meeting, Italy presented its assessment of the interference case affecting the FM station Kuk on 90.8 MHz. While Slovenia provided clarifications on Italy's initial findings, this case may warrant bilateral talks to further address certain outstanding issues.

Slovenia emphasised the importance of Italy taking concrete steps to resolve the interference case affecting the Nanos station on 88.6 MHz. In relation to this case, Italy provided a brief overview of the civil court case between the Italian and Slovenian operators, noting the outcomes of the proceedings would need to be taken into account. Slovenia categorically denied the endorsement of the court expert opinion, clarifying that it is not directly involved in the litigation, nor does it accept the current situation. Furthermore, Slovenia reiterated that Italy is legally obliged to comply with the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), and reaffirmed that the Nanos station remains protected as it is duly recorded in the ITU Master Register.

It should be noted that Slovenia reiterated its call for intervention by the European Commission (EC) through legal means to address the FM interference cases. Croatia expressed its support for the EC's initiatives, recognising their potential to facilitate the resolution of harmful interference and encourage Italy's compliance with the EECC.

Other developments

Bilateral discussions between Italy and France have continued, with both parties making incremental progress on frequency coordination activities. France confirmed the ongoing harmful interference at Bonifacio on 88.3 MHz and proposed the use of 88.4 MHz at Monte Corbu as an alternative frequency. This French proposal was solely intended to address the interference issue and France emphasised that, should Italy deem the proposal unacceptable, it would operate on 88.3 MHz under its GE84 rights, without the presence of Italian interference. Italy still had to provide formal comments on France's technical proposal. France also raised a new interference case on 106.4 MHz originating from Porto Vecchio, which is currently under analysis by Italy through its Sardinia local office. The same office is also verifying a report submitted by an Italian national operator concerning harmful interference on 88.4 MHz, allegedly caused by a French station. For the Elba Island case, agreement appears close to finalisation, with France having updated the relevant annexes and Italy indicating the need to align the document with national network operator authorisations. Additionally, both administrations acknowledged discrepancies in the shared Italian station database, which they agreed to address progressively.

Croatia, Malta and Slovenia reported no improvement to their FM harmful interference situations.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

The Adriatic and Ionian group has made steady progress on DAB frequency coordination, with a series of meetings taking place.

Albania has played a central role, reporting resolution of incompatibilities with Greece and North Macedonia in principle, pending formalisation. Albania also engaged bilaterally with Italy and Montenegro to clarify technical parameters and resolve outstanding issues, particularly in relation to allotment 02D. Montenegro, while cautious about changes that might disrupt the regional balance, has indicated its readiness to provide conditional support for Albania's proposed use of Channel 8, provided interference concerns are addressed. In addition, Greece has accepted Albania's DAB assignments in principle, but flagged possible interference risks requiring bilateral dialogue.

North Macedonia continued its coordination efforts, advancing agreements with Greece and Bulgaria and transmitting its plans to Serbia. It underscored the importance of Albania's plan not affecting its own, especially after prior coordination success.

The SG noted the substantial progress and reaffirmed its readiness to assist with any unresolved issues, encouraging all parties to maintain a spirit of cooperation to reach a final agreement by late 2025.

3. DAB interference around Italy

The discussions focused on claims made by Croatia and Slovenia in past meetings concerning irregular use by Italy of various DAB frequency blocks. The use of the frequency blocks originated from legacy authorisations, with roadmaps established to guide the switch-off of transmissions on these blocks.

Italy confirmed that it has completed the migration of its DAB stations to alternative frequency blocks, in accordance with the parameters set out in its national DAB plan. To support verification efforts, Italy committed to sharing the updated list of DAB transmitters in electronic format with neighbouring administrations.

4. 700 MHz interference

The SG continued discussions on cases of harmful interference caused by Albanian television transmissions in the 700 MHz band, which are affecting wireless broadband electronic communications networks in Greece, Italy, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

At the March meeting, Albania confirmed that, under its revised national frequency plan approved in 2024, the 700 MHz band, currently used for broadcasting under the GE06 Agreement, is planned to be vacated by 31 December 2025. A technical assistance programme funded by the European Union is supporting both legislative alignment with the EECC and the development of a migration strategy. Albania also reported that frequency coordination with neighbouring countries had largely been completed by 2023.

However, the migration process has not commenced due to the pending adoption of a draft law that will include a financial compensation framework for broadcasters. Albania has been unable to implement effective interim interference mitigation measures, due to insufficient frequency resources. Nevertheless, operators have been encouraged to reduce transmission power and reorient antennas.

Despite these efforts, harmful interference continues to be reported by neighbouring countries, all urging swift resolution, especially before the summer period when propagation effects worsen. The EC expressed its dissatisfaction with the ongoing delays and reiterated the importance of complying with the 2017 Decision on the use of the 470-790 MHz band, particularly in avoiding cross-border interference.

At the May meeting, Albania reported no progress due to the national elections, though it reaffirmed its commitment to resume activities with the approval of the draft law. Albania also indicated its willingness to explore interim solutions and is in dialogue with national operators to address the interference until the band is formally vacated.

5. External related issues

Ukraine

A dedicated meeting was held with Ukraine, the affected Member States, Moldova, and the EC to discuss solutions to interference caused by Ukrainian broadcasting stations operating in the 700 MHz band.

Poland confirmed that the measures implemented by Ukraine in the first quarter of 2025 have been effective, resulting in a significant improvement in the harmful interference situation affecting its territory. Poland estimated that the interference was reduced by 60%.

Regarding the interference in the Zakarpattia region, which is impacting Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and parts of Romania, Ukraine presented a comprehensive plan to reconfigure six sites along the border, involving 18 combiners and 24 transmitters. Ukraine expressed its readiness to execute these actions by the end of 2025. However this was contingent on securing financial support amount to €120,000.

The resolution of other interference affecting Ukraine's borders with Romania and Moldova remains dependent on the evolving circumstances in the region.

Cyprus

The SG considered that the problems experienced by Cyprus with Türkiye were still ongoing despite the EC's efforts.

6. Date of next meeting

The SG will be holding its next meetings on the 18th September 2025 (09:30-12:30hrs.) in virtual format.

ANNEX I

REPORT

RSPG SUB-GROUP

“Good offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

Web meeting, 26th March 2025

The co-chairs welcomed the participants to the meeting of the RSPG Sub-Group of the ‘good offices’. The draft agenda of the meeting was then considered and subsequently approved.

1. **FM interference around Italy**

State-of-play of Italy’s actions on the resolution of FM harmful interference

Italy confirmed that the internal process leading to making available funds towards a voluntary compensation scheme was still ongoing. This process, which is led by the Ministry (MIMIT), was progressing and Italy reassured that the scheme will be adopted. No details were provided on the timeframes when the scheme is expected to be adopted and on the amount of funds to be allocated towards it. Italy stated that some evaluation was already made on the funds which may be allocated per operator and clarified that the funds must serve two objectives, namely (i) the voluntary compensation scheme, and (ii) compensation for the reconfiguration of the DAB networks to align with the national DAB plan as revised in line with the Adriatic and Ionian DAB agreement. The latter is an obligation stemming from Italian law.

Italy recalled that the scope of the voluntary compensation scheme has not changed and will provide an opportunity to release all authorisations an operator holds (i.e. releasing of the entire FM network). In the process, Italy will be considering who are the potential Italian interferers in case some ranking needs to be made. It expressed confidence that some FM operators holding a DAB licence are considering the opportunity offered by the voluntary compensation scheme as part of their cost-benefit assessment.

The EC informed the Sub-Group that in line with the information given at RSPG#66 (February 2025), the Commission services are considering proposing to the College the launching of infringement procedures, although no political decision has been taken as yet.

Slovenia commented on the general DAB situation as regards Italy’s continued use of uncoordinated channels. It stated that another uncoordinated channel was detected (7C) in addition to others detected in previous occasions (6A and 6B). The reports of harmful interference sent by Italy remained unanswered. Regarding the update provided by Italy, Slovenia expressed its disappointment on the lack of progress made.

Croatia reaffirmed its concerns expressed in previous meetings as regards the amount of funds to be allocated to the voluntary compensation scheme. Croatia requested information on the planned amount and on the actual amount which will be allocated. It stated that until this scheme is implemented, valuable time will continue to be lost to the detriment of those countries which are experiencing Italian interference.

In response to Slovenia's comments, Italy stated that it will be verifying the status of the reported uncoordinated stations and reminded that the use of uncoordinated DAB channels was temporary until such time when the Adriatic and Ionian agreement is adopted. The use of 7C and 7D was necessary to implement a temporary solution to resolve DAB interference in the region. In response to Croatia's comments, Italy stressed that the funds to be made available for the voluntary compensation scheme will not be sufficient to resolve all problems, but to provide a certain degree of flexibility to improving the FM interference situation and hence make more rational use of the FM frequencies.

Slovenia was doubtful on the effectiveness of the compensation scheme and that the scheme will not eliminate the FM interferences. It was hopeful that the EC will be taking legal action against Italy.

Croatia stated that initially it had reasonable expectations to resolving FM interferences but was sceptical on the effectiveness of the scheme since important details (e.g. amount of funds that had to be made available through the budget law) were not provided. This reaffirms the appeals made by the Good Offices to Italy to adopt regulatory measures additional to the compensation scheme.

As regards the Biokovo case on 89.7 MHz, Italy clarified that the broadcaster was Radio Play Capital, whilst the holder of the concession was Radio Delta 1. Following a meeting between the Italian Regional Offices and Radio Delta 1, Radio Delta 1 indicated that its antenna system was modified in 2009 and a further reduction would compromise the operativity of the station. In this regard Italy requested Croatia to provide information on the authorisation documentation of the Croatian station at Biokovo and to perform joint measurements.

Croatia confirmed the receipt of the Italian request, and recalled that a similar request was also received in the past. The technical data of the Biokovo station is duly recorded in the GE84 plan. In line with previous requests Croatia requested Italy to provide: (a) the details of all Italian interfering stations identified by Croatia as causing interference to Biokovo, (b) information on the modifications effected by Radio Delta 1 to the antenna system in 2009. As to the carriage of joint measurements, Croatia reiterated that its measurements are conducted as per the applicable ITU recommendations and Appendix 10 interference reports are compiled and sent to Italy. Based on measurements conducted in 2024, Radio Play Capital was received from two measurement points with levels of 63.6 dB μ V/m and 65.9 dB μ V/m (co-channel interference). Reference was also made to the assessment made by the RSPG Good Offices in 2019 on this specific case which concluded that the only solution was to switch-off the Italian interfering station or to migrate it to another FM frequency.

Italy clarified that the purpose of the joint measurements is to have a robust approach, and acknowledged that based on the presented levels the solution will be limited to migrating the Italian station to an alternative frequency. Studies need to be conducted to identify a suitable frequency.

Slovenia highlighted that discussing field strengths will not lead to a solution. Given that the Italian station is uncoordinated and hence not GE84 registered, the Italian station needs to be switched-off. The operation of stations not in accordance with ITU rules constitutes a breach to EU law.

Italy indicated that it started analysing the most recent FM harmful interference reports submitted by Slovenia where Nanos was not included in these reports. This process determined that out of the 48 investigated interference reports, 21 respected the required protection ratio and for Italy these were not deemed to constitute harmful interference. Italy presented its assessment of the interference case affecting the FM station at Kuk on 90.8 MHz. It noted some divergence between what is registered in the GE84 and the actual parameters (i.e. site location, antenna directivity, transmit power) which have changed the interference scenario for this case. It was also highlighted that this interference case was also treated in Italian civil courts and the court decisions must be taken into account. These findings pose challenges in making a strong case with the concerned Italian operator and in the circumstances Italy suggested to have the opportunity to discuss the Kuk case with Slovenia.

Regarding the interference affecting Nanos, Italy still needs to start analysing this case, but highlighted that this case was also subject to rulings by Italian courts, which must also be considered.

Italy still needs to verify the status of the Italian stations causing the interference to determine whether they are GE84 registered or otherwise.

Slovenia considered that it was not appropriate to base the assessment on the individual reports and C/I ratio since its measurements were limited to representative locations. The measurement results should only be used to provide an indication of the harmful interference situation. Regarding changes to the transmit power, this was implemented as a temporary measure to mitigate the effects of the Italian interference signal and the situation will be normalised once the interference is eliminated. The increase in transmit power corresponds to the level of the interference signal. As regards the difference in the transmission location of the Kuk stations, the variation from the GE84 plan is within the permitted 15 km limit, the effective heights were correct and the antenna pattern is based on past agreements. On the 48 reports interference reports submitted in 2024, Slovenia reiterated that these were additional reports, complementing the reports submitted in previous occasions. It suggested that Italy should firstly consider the cases of the priority list with a focus on Nanos on 88.6 MHz.

In conclusion, the Good Offices reaffirmed the importance for Italy to make available sufficient funds, in order to make the voluntary compensation scheme effective towards resolving the FM interference problems and that other measures complementing the scheme should also be put in place in a timely manner.

The Good Offices also encouraged the holding of bilateral talks between Italy and Slovenia in addressing the specific interference cases under investigation to clarify matters and reach a common understanding on the divergent views.

Italy-France

It was reported that the bilateral discussions between Italy and France continued, and technical files were shared which are contributing to the studies being undertaken to resolving the Bonifacio interference case. In October 2024, a methodology was agreed on the treatment of this interference case as well as France's frequency coordination requests.

France reported that the interference at Bonifacio on 88.3 MHz is still present. Given that Italy has not been able to mitigate the interference, France proposed an alternative adjacent frequency of 88.4 MHz at a distant site Bonifacio Monte Corbu. France has also reported to Italy a new interference case on 106.4 MHz from Porto Vecchio, and Italy committed to investigate this new case.

The pending French coordination requests which are objected by Italy continue to be discussed during meetings. As regards to the Elba island case, the draft agreement is in the final stages to be adopted. France also confirmed the receipt of the database containing the details of Italian stations of interest to France. Italy had acknowledged that the database has anomalies and inconsistencies (few cases) which shall be updated with time. In case France finds any further inconsistencies, these will be addressed as appropriate.

Italy confirmed that they are analysing the new interference case at Porto Vecchio. Regarding the Bonifacio case, Italy stated that recently the national operator RAI complained about harmful interference on 88.4 MHz caused by Radio Nostalgie. The interference complaint still needed to be verified by Italy (local offices).

France remarked that the migration of this station to 88.4 MHz was only intended to resolve the interference case. It stated that if 88.4 MHz is not deemed feasible for Italy, France will be reverting to the original configuration on 88.3 MHz, in line with its GE84 rights with the elimination of interference caused by the Monte Limbara station operating on 88.2 MHz.

The bilateral discussions will resume on the 15th April where the above issues will continue to be discussed.

Italy-Malta

No progress reported.

Malta indicated that it received a request from Italy to provide the details of its FM stations and to share the results of the monitoring activities. Malta indicated that it plans to carry out additional measurements in April, and a reply will be provided following this activity.

Italy-Slovenia

No progress reported but urged Italy to start resolving the reported interference problems.

Italy-Croatia

No progress reported but urged Italy to start resolving the reported interference problems.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

The Adriatic and Ionian countries convened three times since the Good Offices meeting held in January. Although additional progress was made, the group still needs to agree on certain parts of the agreement. The process is expected to be finalised in Q3/Q4 of 2025.

Albania reported that it carried out a reallocation of the DAB channels to resolve incompatibilities with neighbouring countries. Following bilateral meetings, the problems with Greece and North Macedonia have been resolved in principle, and this approval will be formalised once the respective assignments will be shared and analysed. A bilateral meeting was also held with Italy to clarify pending technical parameters.

Albania is also coordinating allotment 02D with Montenegro, where a new assignment has been proposed. Montenegro confirmed that they are discussing Albania's proposals as part of frequency coordination activities started in 2019. It stated that as a result of a complex process, it was possible to identify 7 DAB frequency blocks per allotment in the Eastern side of the Adriatic region and the situation remained stable until end 2024. Montenegro was not prepared to easily accept modifications to plan repartitions neighbouring Montenegro and which are not in accordance with the compatibility matrix. It urged Albania to consider the use of frequency blocks that have been agreed at the Adriatic and Ionian group, designated as allotment area no. 2. As a measure to assist Albania in the process, Montenegro expressed its willing to replace one of its frequency blocks subject to not impacting other countries. Montenegro suggested the holding of bilateral discussions with the objective of reaching a conclusion in May. The assistance of the Good Offices may be sought if no satisfactory solution is reached. Albania expressed confidence that a solution will be found on this matter.

North Macedonia held bilateral meetings with Greece and Bulgaria with the aim to resolve the remaining open issues, where significant progress was made. The most recent version of North Macedonia's plan for DAB and DVB-T was approved at an allotment and assignment level. It expects that a written agreement is signed with these administrations. North Macedonia confirmed that the updated version of Albania's DAB plan was not received and stressed that the updated plan of Albania should not affect their plan in view of the satisfactory outcome of frequency coordination discussions with the other neighbouring countries. A meeting was also planned with Serbia, where Serbia emphasised that it will consider the final version of the plan only after it is approved by North Macedonia's other neighbouring countries.

Albania clarified that its revised DAB allotment plan does not affect the allotments neighbouring North Macedonia and Greece. This implies that the plan shared with these countries in previous occasions remains relevant. The only pending matter focuses on the need to share the assignments of Albania, but this process is still underway.

Croatia added that Italy sent a communication to San Marino as regards the channels that San Marino would like to retain in the GE06.

In conclusion, the Good Offices noted the progress made by the Adriatic and Ionian group and the neighbouring countries and encouraged to keep a good spirit of cooperation in order to finalise any remaining open issues. The Good Offices also extended its availability to support as may be required.

3. DAB interference around Italy

Reference was made to the claims made by Croatia and Slovenia concerning irregular use of DAB frequency blocks by Italy in some regions and to Italy's roadmaps towards regularising the situation.

Italy confirmed that the process of migrating the concerned stations to alternative frequency blocks in line with the provisional national DAB plan was progressing and the licenses will be aligned with the Adriatic and Ionian region once finalised. The migration process took place in the following timeframes and regions:

- December 2024: Emilia Romagna, Marche and Umbria
- February 2025: Friuli Venezia-Giulia, Veneto, Abruzzo and Molise

Croatia requested Italy to share information on their timetable together with the details on the frequencies concerning the relevant areas. Italy committed to share this information.

4. 700 MHz interference

Albania explained that based on national rules, spectrum management related responsibilities are vested on national regulatory bodies. AKEP (Authority for Electronic & Postal Communications) is the regulatory body responsible for electronic communications and AMA (Authority for Audiovisual Media) is responsible for broadcasting.

The 700 MHz band is licensed by AMA for use by broadcasting transmissions according to the GE06. The relevant Ministry initiated a technical assistance programme, funded by the EU, to align national legislation with the EECC and to prepare the strategy for migrating DVB-T from the 700 MHz band. In parallel, AMA conducted frequency coordination activities with neighbouring countries.

A high level intra-institutional working group was established on all other aspects of the 700 MHz band, and a draft law was prepared which included a financial compensation mechanism. In 2024, Government approved revisions to the national frequency plan and as regards the 700 MHz band, the plan determined that the 700 MHz band will be vacated from broadcasting transmissions by the 31st December 2025.

Albania was clarified that the frequency coordination activities and reallocation plan have been completed in 2023. The implementation of the 700 MHz migration process could not commence since the draft law on the release of the band including the framework of the financial compensation mechanism still needs to be adopted by Government. In the interim, Albania will continue working on any remaining frequency coordination activities with neighbouring countries.

The EC representative expressed disappointment that after several years of discussions under the accession negotiations, the process is not completed as yet. The importance of implementing the 2017 Parliament and Council Decision on the 470-790 MHz band was highlighted including obligations on the avoidance of cross-border harmful interference. The EC expects that the reported interference problems are resolved soon, but before end 2025.

Albania clarified that it was not possible to, in the immediate term, implement solutions to resolve the reported harmful interference problems due to a lack of frequency resources which are necessary for the migration process. The frequency resources will become available when the aforesaid draft law will be adopted. In the interim period, AMA interacted with its operators to reduce the transmit power and re-direct the antenna, but these measures were not sufficient.

No date could be provided when the draft law is expected to be adopted, particularly due to the forthcoming national elections to be held in May 2025. However, efforts will be made to expedite the process.

The email sent by Greece confirming the continued presence of harmful interference in Western Greece and Corfu from TV transmissions of Albania on channels 51, 52, 53 and 57 was introduced, and Greece has once requested to have this problem resolved.

Montenegro reiterated the importance to resolving the harmful interference problem as soon as possible, but before the summer period since the interference will be more severe due to propagation conditions. The situation is damaging mobile operators, especially in the coastal regions.

Croatia referred to reports made in past meetings regarding TV interference on channels 21, 22, 28 and 45 and confirmed that liaison is taking place with Albania.

North Macedonia confirmed that the 700 MHz interference is still present and that mobile operators requested compensation from Government. It requested Albania to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

5. Cross border activities with non-EU countries

Ukraine

A meeting will be held with Ukraine in April, to continue discussing 700 MHz interference problems. Regarding the Zakarpattia region, it was clarified that the proposal being considered by Ukraine to replace six stations is expected to resolve the interference problems affecting Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The associated costs are estimated to be €120k.

Poland announced that Ukraine finalised the frequency retuning process of six stations (in 5 cities) and testing will be carried out by Poland to confirm the effectiveness of the process. This was an important development even in view of the 700 MHz auction process which has been concluded. Poland will be providing information on the funding approach towards the migration.

The EC representative indicated that Moldova is also experiencing harmful interference caused by television transmissions of Ukraine.

Cyprus

It was considered that the problems experienced by Cyprus with Turkey were still ongoing despite EC efforts.

6. Date of next meetings

The Sub Group will be holding its meeting on 12 May 2025 (09:30-12:30hrs), virtually.

List of participants

No. of participants: 39

Country	Organisation
Albania	Albanian Authority for Electronic & Postal Communications (AKEP)
	Authority for Audiovisual Media (AMA)
	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
Austria	Broadcasting Regulatory Authority (RTR)
Croatia	Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)
Finland	Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (TRAFICOM)
France	French National Frequency Agency (ANFR)
	French Regulatory Authority for audio-visual and digital communication
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance
Hungary	National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)
Italy	Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT)
	Italian Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM)
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
Montenegro	Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Malta	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
North Macedonia	Agency for Electronic Communications
Poland	Ministry of Digital Affairs
	Polish Permanent Representation
Sweden	Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS)
Slovenia	Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS)
	Ministry of Digital Transformation
Slovakia	Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Spain	Ministry of Digital Transformation and Digital Infrastructures
-	European Commission

ANNEX II

REPORT

RSPG SUB-GROUP

“Good offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

Harmful interference caused by Ukraine to neighbouring countries
in the 700 MHz band

Web meeting, 22nd April 2025

The RSPG Sub-Group of the ‘good offices’ (SG) organised a dedicated meeting to continue discussing cross-border harmful interference issues caused by the terrestrial television networks of Ukraine (UA) to the wireless broadband electronic communications (WBB) networks of neighbouring EU member states, namely Poland (PL), Slovakia (SK), Hungary (HU) and Romania (RO), and of Moldova (MD). The list of participants is attached in Annex 1.

1. Update on measures undertaken to resolve the interference in Poland

In March 2025, UA concluded a project that led to a substantial improvement in the harmful interference situation in the 700 MHz band in Poland. As a result of the measures implemented, the interference was reduced by at least 60%.

The project was completed within a period of 3 months and involved the replacement of combiners and retuning of channels. The works were undertaken entirely by UA’s technical experts of the broadcasting company, without the need for external measurement equipment. The public communication campaign was limited. These factors contributed to keeping the implementation costs low, which were €32,000. Donors provided the necessary financing.

Location of Combiners		Power	Old TV Channel	New TV channel
1	Pidbuzh	200 W	50	21
2	Pidbuzh	200 W	51	44
3	Brody	100 W	50	22
4	Horokhiv	200 W	52	29
5	Kovel	1000 W	52	22
6	Liubeshiv	100 W	62	22

Table 1: List of the changed combiners

Those combiners which could potentially have a domino effect on the broadcasting transmissions in UA or of neighbouring countries were excluded from this phase of project.

Based on measurements, PL confirmed that the measures implemented by UA were effective, leading to a significant improvement to the harmful interference situation. PL looks forward to the implementation of measures in the Zakarpattia region to address the remaining cases of harmful interference.

2. Proposed measures to resolve the remaining cases of harmful interference in the 700 MHz band

UA provided an overview of its roadmap aimed at mitigating harmful interference in the 700 MHz band, along its borders with HU, PL, RO, SK and MD. The roadmap is structured into four steps as outlined below:

- ***Step 1: Border with PL***
Area: Lviv, Volyn, Rivne regions
Timeline: Q4.2024 - Q1.2025
Details: This has been implemented as detailed in Section 1 above.
- ***Step 2: Border with HU, SK and parts of RO***
Area: Zakarpattia region
Timeline: Q2.2025 - Q4.2025
Details: Preliminary approach involves the reconfiguration of 6 locations along the border, consisting of 18 combiners and 24 transmitters.
- ***Step 3: Remaining border with RO and MD***
Timeline: 2026 - End of martial law
- ***Step 4: All of UA***
Timeline: 2026 - End of martial law

For PL, the timeline for Step 1 was considered optimal as it aligned with the conclusion of the auction process for the 700 MHz band.

It was clarified that Step 2 presents a higher level of complexity compared to Step 1, since all technical changes must be implemented concurrently and the implementation of an information campaign is required given that the changes will impact the entire Zakarpattia region. Furthermore, it was emphasised that the execution of the roadmap is entirely dependent upon the availability of adequate financial and technical resources.

UA explained that the Zakarpattia region is configured into 6 geographical sites with 4 multiplexes for each site, resulting in 24 transmitters. In their majority these transmitters operate in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands.

A solution based on re-planning the television band is shown below. It is expected to resolve the harmful interference affecting HU, PL, and SK.

	Name	Current TV Ch	Power (W)	Planned TV Ch
1	VELYKYI BEREZNYI	53	50	27
2	VELYKYI BEREZNYI	55	50	44
3	VELYKYI BEREZNYI	56	50	33
4	UZHGOROD	36	200	44
5	UZHGOROD	53	200	27
6	UZHGOROD	56	200	33
7	SVALIAVA	44	100	33
8	SVALIAVA	53	100	27
9	MUKACHEVE	53	100	27
10	MUKACHEVE	55	100	44
11	MUKACHEVE	56	100	33
12	ROKOSOVO/KHUST	53	500	27
13	ROKOSOVO/KHUST	56	500	33
14	ROKOSOVO/KHUST	61	500	42
15	RAKHIV	55	50	22
16	RAKHIV	60	50	27
17	RAKHIV	61	50	42

Table 2: Reconfiguration of the TV channels in the Zakarpattia region

It was confirmed that the quotation provided in 2024, amounting to approximately €120k for the execution of the necessary works in the Zakarpattia region remains valid. However, this amount may be subject to slight adjustments to include expenses related to an information campaign, as the effects of the reconfiguration will impact a significant number of citizens in the Zakarpattia region.

Steps 3 and 4 are interrelated, and their respective timelines will depend on the prevailing circumstances at the time of implementation, with priority (including in terms of financial resources) being given to security-related measures. Furthermore, it was noted that in addition to television broadcasting services, the 700 MHz band is also used by security forces, and migration of such services will not be feasible for the duration of the martial law. The implementation dates for Steps 3 and 4 may be anticipated should the martial law be lifted prior to 2026. Work on these steps may only commence following the completion of Step 2.

With respect to resolving or mitigating the interference affecting MD, it was noted that identifying a viable solution presents significant technical challenges due to the domino effect that any potential intervention may trigger. More than 50 of the 160 transmitters deployed across UA are believed to be contributing to this interference. It was further clarified that the necessary measures can only be implemented following the end of martial law.

UA emphasised that national funds are currently unavailable to finance this project, noting that such funds are typically assigned to security-related expenditures.

Reference was also made to previous discussions in which the European Commission had indicated the possibility of providing financial assistance, subject to the fulfilment of certain criteria. UA explained that a solution is still being sought on how to channel the necessary funds for implementing the project. Discussions in this regard are ongoing, with a decision expected to be finalised shortly.

UA committed to promptly implement Step 2 of the roadmap aimed at eliminating the harmful interference in the Zakarpattia region, immediately upon the availability of the necessary funding. In addition, a detailed schedule for Step 2, along with structured material will be provided by end May 2025. At the same time, it is crucial to note that the details of the plan depend on how quickly sources of financing are found for the conversion.

In conclusion, the European Commission requested that all relevant information from UA be submitted directly in a structured format. It was clarified that, within the framework of the Ukraine Plan, there are certain indicators relating to radio spectrum. However, bilateral discussions may be required to clarify certain matters, including the mechanisms through which funds may be transferred to the private company.

List of participants

No. of participants: 19

Country	Organisation
Hungary	National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
Malta	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
Moldova	National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Moldova (ANRCETI)
Poland	Ministry of Digital Affairs
Slovakia	Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Ukraine	National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine
	National Commission for the State Regulation of Electronic Communications, Radio Frequency Spectrum and the Provision of Postal Services
	Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
	Broadcasting, Radiocommunications & Television Concern (BRT)
	Ukrainian State Centre of Radio Frequencies
	Zeonbud LLC
-	European Commission

ANNEX III

REPORT

RSPG SUB-GROUP

“Good offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between Member States

Web meeting, 12th May 2025

The co-chairs welcomed the participants to the meeting of the RSPG Sub-Group of the ‘good offices’. The draft agenda of the meeting was then considered and subsequently approved.

1. **FM interference around Italy**

State-of-play of Italy’s actions on the resolution of FM harmful interference

Italy confirmed that a decision has been made regarding the allocation of funds to the Ministry (MIMIT) for the voluntary compensation scheme, as well as to another Italian entity. An inter-ministerial committee is scheduled to meet on 22 May to finalise discussions on this financial allocation. Following this process, and based on the funds allocated to the compensation scheme, work will begin on defining the scheme’s implementation rules. Italy clarified that in accordance with national legislation, a portion of the allocated budget must be directed to broadcasting stations to support specific programmes.

With regard to the implementation timeline for the scheme, Italy indicated that based on the approach adopted for the 700 MHz band, tangible results from the compensation scheme are expected in 2026. However, Italy has committed to minimising the timeframe as much as possible.

Croatia expressed the view that the ongoing Italian process related to the compensation scheme is contributing to delays in implementing a potential solution. In line with the conclusions of previous Good Offices meetings, Croatia reiterated the importance of identifying alternative solutions beyond the voluntary compensation scheme.

Regarding the studies being conducted for specific cases, Italy emphasised the importance of establishing a robust procedure to minimise the risk of objections from operators. In relation to the Biokovo case, and in light of a request from the Italian operator, Italy requested Croatia to carry out joint measurements. Croatia was also requested to provide a list of potential frequencies for the migration of the Italian station responsible for the harmful interference.

In response, Croatia stated that a joint measurement campaign had been conducted in 2011, followed by calculations in 2019, both of which confirmed the validity of the measurements and the accuracy of the calculations. Croatia expressed the view that additional joint measurements were unnecessary, as they would only contribute to further delays in implementing a solution namely, the migration of the interfering station to an alternative frequency.

In this context, Croatia did not consider it appropriate to propose a new frequency for the Italian station. Instead, it emphasised that any frequency registered under its name in the GE84 Plan is actively used and must be protected.

With regard to the Slovenian cases, Italy requested confirmation from Slovenia as to whether the Nanos station should be prioritised, noting that it was not included in the most recent reports of harmful interference. Italy also noted that certain interference cases between Slovenia and Italy were subject to proceedings in Italian civil courts, and that documents considered in these cases are of relevance. Specifically, Italy referred to a case involving Radio Maria (Italy) and RTE (Slovenia) concerning interference on 88.6 MHz at the Nanos site. During the appeal process, the court-appointed expert concluded that the interference was not harmful, as the broadcasting service was adequately maintained by multiple transmitters along the border by both parties. The expert recommended that no changes be made. This recommendation was accepted by the Slovenian side in January 2024.

In response, Slovenia strongly reaffirmed that the Nanos station remains a priority in the list of interference cases and called on Italy to take concrete action to resolve the issue. Regarding the legal case referred to by Italy, Slovenia noted that the Italian station operates on the same frequency (88.6 MHz) just across the border with an effective radiated power exceeding 100 kW, resulting in significant interference within Slovenian territory. It confirmed that the Nanos station continues to be protected as it is recorded in the ITU master register and categorically denied both any endorsement of the court expert's recommendation and any direct involvement in the litigation proceedings or acceptance of the current situation. Furthermore, Slovenia reiterated its call for intervention by the European Commission through legal mechanisms to address the FM interference cases.

The EC requested that information on the budget for the compensation scheme be shared once a decision is finalised, along with the court ruling referred to by Italy. The Good Offices were also informed that the infringement procedure remains ongoing but is expected to conclude soon. The EC echoed the call for Italy to explore and develop alternative solutions beyond the voluntary compensation scheme.

In conclusion, the Good Offices reaffirmed the importance of Italy minimising the timeframes associated with the implementation of the voluntary compensation scheme and of actively pursuing alternative measures to complement the scheme.

Italy-France

Italy and France continued their discussions regarding the interference cases and the French coordination requests based on the agreed methodology.

France reported that Italy has recently lifted its objections to some of the coordination requests, enabling progress to be made on this matter. However, no advancements have been made in relation to the interference cases involving Bonifacio (88.3 MHz) and Porto Vecchio (106.4 MHz).

For the long-standing Bonifacio case, France suggested changing the frequency to 88.4 MHz but Italy is yet to provide comments on the technical files presented by France. France expressed its openness to considering suggestions of technical modifications to its proposition by Italy. In the event of a disagreement, France has invited Italy to propose feasible alternative solutions otherwise it intends to utilise its GE84 rights of Bonifacio on 88.3 MHz without the presence of interference. Regarding the Porto Vecchio interference case, France has provided its technical report and requested that Italy share any updated information. Concerning the claims made by Italy at the March Good Offices meeting concerning the interference reported by the Italian operator RAI, France has not received any new information. As for the Elba Island case, France has updated the annexes to the draft agreement for Italy's review and expects this matter to be finalised at the next bilateral meeting scheduled for 5 June 2025.

On the pending interference cases (Porto Vecchio and RAI), Italy stated that it is still awaiting verifications to be made by the Sardinia local office. Regarding the Elba Island case, Italy noted that the agreement needs to align with the specific authorisation to be issued to the network operator but expressed confidence that the issue will be resolved shortly.

In relation to the Porto Vecchio case, Italy clarified that the French report corresponds to measurements conducted at a specific location, including field strength levels for both the victim and the interfering station. These parameters were used to simulate the stations, and while the simulated values for the French (victim) station aligned with the measurements, no correlation was found for the interfering station. The discrepancy between the measured and simulated values for the interfering station was significant. Italy will request confirmation from its local office regarding whether the Italian station is operating in accordance with the authorisation. France has expressed its willingness to provide any additional information that Italy may require for its assessment.

Italy-Malta

No progress reported.

Malta referred to Italy's request concerning the submission of information regarding the harmful interference situation. Malta confirmed that additional measurements have been conducted, and the relevant information will be provided in due course.

Italy-Slovenia

No progress reported.

Referring to previous discussions, Slovenia emphasised the importance of Italy publishing a document that outlines a common understanding of the ITU rules. Slovenia also referenced the legal opinion from the ITU on the matter, which has been shared with Italy. Slovenia expressed the hope that the publication of this document will provide clarity on the rights and obligations of all stakeholders in accordance with the GE84 agreement.

No specific date has been set by Italy for the publication of such a document. With regard to the ITU document, Italy will review this document legally to ensure alignment with the provisions of national law.

Slovenia stressed that national law should be aligned with international agreements and the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) and not vice versa.

Italy-Croatia

No progress reported.

Croatia expressed its support for the EC's initiatives, noting that they could facilitate the resolution of harmful interference and encourage Italy's compliance with Article 45 of the EECC.

2. Update on the development of the Adriatic and Ionian regional agreement for DAB

Albania provided an overview of the latest developments. It reported that at the last meeting of the Adriatic and Ionian Group, Montenegro agreed that, should Albania be unable to use alternative channels, it would be willing to accept Albania's proposed plan, subject to certain conditions aimed at preventing harmful interference on Montenegro's territory. Following that meeting, Albania continued its efforts to identify a more suitable channel but found no technically feasible alternatives. Albania reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the proposed use of Channel 8 in allotment 02D will not cause interference to Montenegro. It confirmed that all relevant parameters will be adhered to, and that the transmitted power will be adjusted if in the unlikely event, harmful interference is detected. Albania has also submitted to Montenegro the corresponding assignments, which, according to the conducted simulations, demonstrate that they will not impact Montenegro. Subject to Montenegro's acceptance of this proposal, Albania considers that all outstanding matters related to DAB will be resolved.

Albania provided the technical parameters to North Macedonia and will be sharing same with Greece and other neighbouring countries.

North Macedonia stated that there have been no significant developments since the previous Good Offices meeting. Based on Albania's confirmation that their modifications will not affect the North Macedonia plan, the plan and notice files have been sent to Serbia. Serbia confirmed

that it will review the final version of the plan once it has been approved by the other administrations. Meetings with neighbouring countries are planned for the upcoming period.

Montenegro (MNE) stated that it has planned its DAB plan in 4 iterations conducted by the Adriatic and Ionian coordination group over the last 5 years and has coordinated it with all neighbouring countries, and that during that period Albania had no objections. After Albania conducted coordination with North Macedonia and Greece at the end of 2024, such solutions were proposed that are not compatible with the MNE plan. Further changes to the MNE plan are not possible because they would lead to a domino effect, potentially impacting other countries in the Adriatic and Ionian group, as well as Serbia. Montenegro explained that it must exercise caution when assessing the Albanian proposal, considering that in Montenegro there is a flat territory with an altitude of 20 to 40 meters above sea level and in Albania a mountainous region with altitudes of around 2000 meters, the fact that more than 60% of the population falls within the affected area, and the widespread propagation of Albanian FM transmissions across the country. Montenegro stressed that this is also a political issue, given that half a century ago, channel 6 was broadcasted from the Kukes location in Albania, which at that time caused interference in the wider area of Montenegro. Nevertheless, Montenegro indicated a willingness to consider modifying certain small allotments (12A) in order to achieve a positive outcome. However, further discussions are needed regarding Channel 8, as well as allotments 9A and 10B. Regardless of the fact that calculations with various recommendations show a negligible impact on the territory of Montenegro, it is necessary to have additional evidences such as specific data on stations currently operating at the locations in question in Albania so that measurements can be carried out in Montenegro. Therefore, Montenegro haven't agreed to the proposal of Albania, but expressed willingness to consider various options based on clear evidence that solutions proposed by Albania are only possible solution and additional measurements to be conducted by MNE based on parameters of operational transmitting sites in the relevant area of concern (FM) to be provided by Albania.

Albania stated that, since it has not yet implemented DAB, no realistic measurements can be carried out to verify the calculations. As an alternative, to better assess the impact of allotment 02 on Montenegro, Albania offered to share information regarding its operating FM stations. Montenegro expressed support for this proposal, believing it will provide a clearer understanding of the potential impact on its territory.

Greece confirmed its acceptance of the DAB assignments from Albania, with a formal confirmation to be sent in due course. However, based on a preliminary analysis, Greece noted the potential risks of harmful interference on its territory. As a result, the associated parameters of the concerned assignment will need to be discussed bilaterally. Albania committed to verifying the technical parameters and engaging in further bilateral discussions on the matter.

3. **DAB interference around Italy**

Italy has completed the process of migrating its DAB stations to alternative frequency blocks, in accordance with the provisional national DAB plan. As part of this process, Italy shared with Croatia the list (in PDF) of all DAB transmitters located within the buffer zone.

Italy confirmed that it will send the same list to Croatia and other concerned countries, preferably in ITU format, to facilitate the necessary verifications.

4. **700 MHz interference**

Albania reported that no developments have occurred since the last Good Offices meeting due to national elections. Activities related to the 700 MHz band will resume, beginning with the approval of the draft national law. This legislative step will enable the release of the 700 MHz band, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

The EC emphasised the importance of Albania implementing temporary technical measures to mitigate the effects of interference. Albania expressed its intention to expedite the process and to explore additional solutions. Active discussions are ongoing with operators, with the aim of identifying interim solutions ahead of the planned release of the 700 MHz band.

5. **Cross border activities with non-EU countries**

Ukraine

A general overview was provided on the outcomes of the dedicated meeting held with Ukraine, during which it was highlighted that resolving the situation in the Zakarpattia region is contingent upon securing the necessary financing.

The EC noted that a meeting had taken place between Ukraine and the EC's unit responsible for providing financial support. Work on this financial and technical matter is still ongoing.

Cyprus

No updates.

6. **Date of next meetings**

The Sub Group will be holding its meeting on 18 September 2025 (09:30-12:30hrs), virtually.

List of participants

No. of participants: 31

Country	Organisation
Albania	Albanian Authority for Electronic & Postal Communications (AKEP)
	Authority for Audiovisual Media (AMA)
Austria	Broadcasting Regulatory Authority (RTR)
Croatia	Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM)
France	French National Frequency Agency (ANFR)
	French Regulatory Authority for audio-visual and digital communication
Greece	Ministry of Digital Governance
Italy	Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT)
	Italian Communications Regulatory Authority (AGCOM)
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT)
Montenegro	Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services
Malta	Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
North Macedonia	Agency for Electronic Communications
Poland	Ministry of Digital Affairs
	Polish Permanent Representation
Slovenia	Agency for Communication Networks and Services (AKOS)
	Ministry of Digital Transformation
Spain	Ministry of Digital Transformation and Digital Infrastructures
-	European Commission