



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 25 October 2023

RSPG23-034 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030 in the EU

RSPG Secretariat, office L-51 05/DCS,
Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Telephone: direct line (+32-2)29.21.261, switchboard 299.11.11;
E-mail: cnect-rspg@ec.europa.eu
Website CIRCABC: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/f5b44016-a8c5-4ef6-a0bf-bc8d357debc>
Website : https://radio-spectrum-policy-group.ec.europa.eu/index_en

1. At the previous RSPG Plenary #61 (14 June 2023), the draft Opinion on the future of the 470-694 MHz band was approved for public consultation, which was held from 16 June to 25 August 2023.
2. At the end of the consultation, the subgroup created a restricted Drafting Group that prepared the text of the final Opinion. Subsequently, the subgroup held two meetings at which agreement was reached on the final text:
 - meeting #15, Wednesday 4 October;
 - meeting #16, Monday 9 October.
3. Regarding the public consultation, it is reported that 59 responses were received. The list of stakeholders who sent in contributions is attached to this report. The subgroup examined all the contributions received, taking due account of the suggestions and indications provided.
4. Contributions were received from stakeholders representing 9 Member States, as well as 3 non-EU countries (Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States). In addition, 11 contributions were received from organisations representing several countries.
5. The distribution of the stakeholders according to their interests was as follows: 20 comments were in support of PPDR, the majority of which came from various public bodies in Germany, expressing a coherent point of view on the subject; 18 were in support of broadcast; 14 in support of mobile services; 6 in support of PMSE (but it should be noted that support for PMSE was also present in several contributions in favour of broadcast).
6. Many of the comments received suggested additional aspects worthy of further investigation, thus offering useful material to effectively guide the possible continuation of the RSPG's work.
7. A summary of the contributions, highlighting the positions expressed by the various communities represented (broadcast, mobile, PMSE, PPDR) has been included in the text of the final Opinion, in section 6.
8. The final Opinion is submitted to the Plenary for approval at this stage.

Public consultation: list of participants

Participant	Country
ORF	<i>Austria</i>
ORS	<i>Austria</i>
TKK	<i>Austria</i>
Ceske Radiokomunikace (CRA)	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Czech Digital Group	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Digital Broadcasting	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Ministry of Industry and Trade	<i>Czech Republic</i>
ZPMS Czech Republic	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Nokia	<i>Finland</i>
Sanoma	<i>Finland</i>
Yle	<i>Finland</i>
Bouygues Telecom (CONFIDENTIAL)	<i>France</i>
APWPT	<i>Germany</i>
ARD	<i>Germany</i>
ASB Landesverband Hamburg	<i>Germany</i>
BDBOS	<i>Germany</i>
Bayerische Staatsministererium des Innern	<i>Germany</i>
Behörde für Inneres und Sport Hamburg	<i>Germany</i>
Bitkom	<i>Germany</i>
Brunswick Fire Department	<i>Germany</i>
Bund Deutscher Kriminalbeamter Landesverband Niedersachsen	<i>Germany</i>
Deutsche Telekom	<i>Germany</i>
Deutschen Roten Kreuzes–Landesverband Hamburg	<i>Germany</i>
Digitalfunk BOS	<i>Germany</i>
German Broadcasting and Cultural Spectrum	<i>Germany</i>
German Federal Ministry Interior Homeland	<i>Germany</i>
German Police Trade-Union	<i>Germany</i>
German Relief Organisations	<i>Germany</i>
German State Ministries of the Interior	<i>Germany</i>
Hessischen Polizeipräsidiums für Technik	<i>Germany</i>
Media Broadcast	<i>Germany</i>
Niedersächsischen Ministeriums für Inneres und Sport	<i>Germany</i>
Presidium for Technology Logistics and Services Baden-Württemberg Police	<i>Germany</i>
Sennheiser	<i>Germany</i>
Shure	<i>Germany</i>
United Internet (CONFIDENTIAL)	<i>Germany</i>
VAUNET	<i>Germany</i>

Participant	Country
ZVEI	<i>Germany</i>
RTE	<i>Ireland</i>
CRTV	<i>Italy</i>
Italian National Police	<i>Italy</i>
RAI	<i>Italy</i>
SOS	<i>Luxembourg</i>
Telefonica	<i>Spain</i>
BNE	<i>multicountry</i>
EBU	<i>multicountry</i>
ETNO	<i>multicountry</i>
EUTC	<i>multicountry</i>
EUWENA	<i>multicountry</i>
European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP)	<i>multicountry</i>
GSA	<i>multicountry</i>
GSMA	<i>multicountry</i>
TCCA	<i>multicountry</i>
Wider Spectrum Group	<i>multicountry</i>
ecta	<i>multicountry</i>
BEIRG	<i>non-EU</i>
FOCP CH	<i>non-EU</i>
Police and Information Technology CH	<i>non-EU</i>
Qualcomm	<i>non-EU</i>

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030 in the EU
Rapporteur/s	Elena Nanou, Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, Greece Umberto Mascia, Ministry of Economic Development, Italy
Rationale	<p>In 2015, the RSPG published its Opinion on a “long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) in the European Union”. In addition to recommendations regarding the availability of the 700 MHz band for mobile, the RSPG also expressed its vision about the long term use of the band 470-694 MHz, in particular in its recommends 7, 8, 9 and 11.</p> <p>In 2017, this RPSG Opinion and the Lamy report recommended the main elements of the compromise which was the basis of the EU Decision 2017/899 on “the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union”. This Council and European Parliament Decision is providing legal certainty until 2030 to terrestrial broadcasting and PMSE in the frequency band 470-694 MHz.</p> <p>Article 4 of EU Decision 2017/899 establishes that Member States shall ensure availability at least until 2030 of the 470-694 MHz (‘sub-700 MHz’) frequency band for the terrestrial provision of broadcasting services, including free television, and for use by wireless audio PMSE on the basis of national needs, while taking into account the principle of technological neutrality. Member States shall ensure that any other use of the sub-700 MHz frequency band on their territory is compatible with the national broadcasting needs in the relevant Member State and does not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, the terrestrial provision of broadcasting services in a neighbouring Member State. Such use shall be without prejudice to obligations resulting from international agreements, such as cross-border frequency-coordination agreements. By mid 2021, the European commission launched a one year study “to examine latest developments and trends that are relevant for the current and future use of the 470-694 MHz band”, in response to Article 7 of this decision.</p> <p>As an element of context, WRC-23, on the basis of the review of the spectrum use and spectrum needs of existing services in the frequency band 470-960 MHz, will consider possible regulatory actions in the 470-694 MHz band in Region 1 based on the results of the studies foreseen in Resolution 235 (WRC-15). It has to be noted that, regardless of any decision made at WRC-23, it does not impact EU Decision 2017/899 and does not create any obligation on the EU after 2030 to change the current harmonised use in the band 470-694 MHz.</p> <p>Therefore, in order to support the European Commission to respond to Article 7 of the EU decision 2017/899, there is a need for the RSPG to contribute, from an EU perspective, with a strategic vision for sub-700 MHz spectrum use, including an analysis of latest developments with a review of the background and recommendations of the 2015 RSPG Opinion, and the consideration of possible post-2030 scenarios, taking into account what is established in Article 4 of the EU Decision 2017/899.</p>

Scope	<p>Building on the 2015 RSPG opinion, RSPG will investigate the latest development, as underlined in Article 7 of the EU decision 2017/899, relating to the band 470-694 MHz and develop a strategic vision for sub-700 MHz spectrum use beyond 2030. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the background and recommendations of its first opinion. • Discuss how the flexibility set out in Article 4 could be implemented in practice. • Develop/Describe possible technically feasible scenarios concerning development of use in this frequency band with relevant key assumptions and conditions, including potential consequences in terms of EU harmonisation framework in this band, in particular for post-2030, and taking into account the links with content regulation. <p>This activity will not address WRC-23 agenda item 1.5 which remains to be addressed solely under the activity regarding the preparation of EU position for WRC-23.</p> <p>This activity will be the first step for RSPG to support the European Commission in its response to Article 7 of the Decision. The priority of RSPG will be to address bullet 2 above. RSPG intends to develop subsequent opinions if necessary, in a timely manner.</p>
Planned deliverables and timing	<p>RSPG Opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Opinion for public consultation: February 2023 • Final Opinion: June 2023
Analytical approach	<p>Sharing a common knowledge base and discussions with an open mindset, in a think-tank style, in order to envisage societal and technical developments in the distant future (10 years and beyond).</p> <p>Use of the principles and some techniques of Strategic Foresight.</p>
Project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 – "diverge" phase, creating choices to hypothesise more possible futures. • Phase 2 – "converge" phase, describe appropriate choices compatible with the various hypothesised futures.
Dependencies	<p>No dependencies identified at present.</p>