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RSPG Secretariat

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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Subgroup on Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU

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1. The RSPG Working Group on “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” (hereafter: the **UHF SG**) continued to work on its assigned tasks, holding three more meetings since the last report provided for the RSPG plenary #67:
 - Meeting #16, on 8 October 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #17, on 17 October 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #18, on 27 October 2025, virtual.
2. The participants registered in the **UHF SG** represent the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Representatives from Montenegro, Norway, Türkiye and Ukraine, as well as representatives of the European Commission and CEPT/ECO are also registered. An average of around 30 people attended the virtual meetings.
3. Following plenary meeting #67, the approved draft report was made available for public consultation from 23 June to 31 August. Fifty responses were received from various entities representing the different sectors interested in the future use of the 470-694 MHz band.
4. The responses were collected and analysed, also with the help of AI tools. The coordinators prepared a summary of the results of the public consultation and submitted them to the **UHF SG** for consideration.
5. The **UHF SG** assessed that the inputs received from respondents did not require changes to the main text of the report, but that they deserved to be collected in an appendix, given the value of the comments and considering that they provided additional information useful for understanding the state of use of the band and the wishes of stakeholders.
6. During the three meetings held in October, the **UHF SG** reviewed the text of the appendix and consolidated the report into its final version.
7. The Final Report entitled “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” is submitted to the Plenary for approval at this stage.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU
Rapporteur/s	Andreas Agius, Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, Greece Umberto Mascia, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy
Rationale	<p>The RSPG in its “Opinion on the strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030” contributed with a strategic vision for sub-700 MHz spectrum use, exploring the potential of the flexibility defined in Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2017/899 and at the same time the current implementation constraints, and identifying some possible scenarios beyond 2030. It is considered as the background for the report on the usage of sub-700 MHz required by the Decision (EU) 2017/899 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union.</p> <p>The RSPG noted that the evolution of UHF band broadcasting reception during the current decade, including factors such as the number of programs, the content format and technological advancements (T2, HEVC, 5G Broadcast) plays an important role in shaping any timeline post 2030. The RSPG considers that any later EU choice or decision on the European legal framework in this band will take due account of the needs of the Member States, respecting the flexibility offered by the ITU Radio Regulations in the use of spectrum.</p> <p>A notable finding of the Opinion is the recognition of the possibility that in the next decade, 2030-2040, a single scenario may not be applicable to all Member States. In order to continue the work undertaken with the above-mentioned Opinion, the RSPG considers that there is added value in exploring how different scenarios can coexist in EU.</p> <p>Further, the RSPG recognises the role of the PMSE and the need to preserve sufficient spectrum for PMSE needs, particularly audio-PMSE which make extensive use of the sub-700 MHz band, including for the long-term development.</p>
Scope	<p>The RSPG should continue to monitor EU Member States initiatives on the future usage in their frequency band 470-694 MHz.</p> <p>In consequence, based on its recent Opinion on UHF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The RSPG should carry out an assessment of the prospects for the use of the sub-700 MHz band in the decade 2030-2040 by the different Member States, seeking information from relevant institutional stakeholders. 2. RSPG should also collect lessons from early initiatives from Member States introducing other usages than broadcasting to address audio PMSE long term developments in order to preserve sufficient spectrum for audio PMSE needs, taking also into account the transition of audio PMSE towards new spectrum efficient technologies.

	The RSPG also should gather information from industry stakeholders on expected technological developments in both mobile and broadcasting platforms.
Planned deliverables and timing	<p>RSPG Report on the future usage of sub – 700 MHz band in the EU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Report for public consultation: June 2025 • Final Report: October 2025 <p>RSPG Questionnaire/workshops as appropriate.</p>
Project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Questionnaire. To be completed by the end of 2024. • Step 2: Workshop. To be held by April 2025. • Step 3: production of the Report.
Dependencies	No dependencies identified at present.