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Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

**RSPG Secretariat**

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**RSPG17-027 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the Spectrum aspects of the Digital Single Market**

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RSPG at its Meeting #42 (Brussels, 7 February 2017) approved the 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group (RSPG17-012). This described the establishment of a Peer Review platform accessible to all RSPG members (Member States and Commission).

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### **I. THE RSPG PEER REVIEW PLATFORM**

The purpose of the platform is to provide a forum for RSPG members to exchange experiences and views on spectrum awards and national assignment regulations of ECS spectrum. The RSPG Peer Review platform is based on three main sections:

- the **Library** section
- the **Peer assistance** section
- the **Contact point** section

The basic structure of the RSPG Peer Review platform was agreed at the RSPG Plenary on 9 November 2016. The aim of the platform is to enable RSPG members to learn from each other's experiences and to seek support, as appropriate, from peers on issues of spectrum management relating to ECS. The RSPG Peer Review platform is based on voluntary principles and is not intended to impose additional obligations for the members.

The Library section has been slightly modified and now is more user friendly. Its divided into two main parts:

- **Awards** – which consists of individual tabs for specific bands e.g. 450 MHz, 700 MHz, 1800 MHz etc.
- **Strategic documents** – which consist of main strategic documents referring to spectrum issues and other relevant plans (e.g. National Broadband Plans, 5G Roadmap etc.).

Member States were encouraged to provide contact information to the Rapporteurs so that access to the platform could be provided to these contact persons. Currently, the Peer Review platform consists of 39 members, from which 9 are leaders and 30 are contributors.

The platform is in full operation. Some Member States already initiated the peer assistance procedure which provides basic support for the members.

Moreover, the platform proved its value to facilitate scientific research activities.

The success of the platform will ultimately largely depend upon the information uploaded to it and the usability of the given capability of exchange of information online. RSPG members are encouraged to complete templates regarding planned auctions. We believe that the provision of such information will provide a basis for the sharing of experience, providing greater opportunity for individual experts from each Member State to ask questions of one another, consider areas of common challenge and identify issues that are being faced across different countries.

## **II. AREAS OF JOINT WORKING BETWEEN RSPG AND BEREC**

There are areas of common interest between RSPG and BEREC and the respective Chairs have in the past expressed interest in joint work between the two organisations. One particular area of common interest concerns coverage (both in terms of policy issues and the measurement of coverage) and the topic has been included on the BEREC Work Programme for 2017. The Work Programme also proposes the idea of joint work with RSPG.

BEREC held two Working Group meetings (9<sup>th</sup> of March and 11<sup>th</sup> of April), each including a joint BEREC/RSPG session. Issues discussed at these meetings and to be discussed at upcoming meetings (the next one is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> June) included:

- **Innovation** – the intention is to hold a joint BEREC/RSPG Workshop on spectrum and innovation, probably in early 2018. The initial plan is to involve industry in the workshop, both our usual stakeholders but also hopefully representation from new entrants and start-ups that may be the future drivers of innovation. It was suggested that a small task group, including representatives from both BEREC and RSPG, could be established to help take this initiative forward.
- **Coverage Policy** – the intention is to develop a joint BEREC/RSPG Report which will consider some of the challenges faced by countries in addressing coverage issues. The Report is expected to identify challenge areas (such as rural areas, indoor, transport networks, national parks etc) and set out some of the initiatives that have been developed within countries to address coverage in these challenge areas. It is hoped that the Report will be finalised before the end of 2017.
- **Measurement of Coverage** – BEREC is undertaking work which aims to develop a common position in relation to the measurement of coverage. The idea is to try to identify common ‘categories’ (such as objective, type of service (voice or data), quality of experience v technical measure, enforcement etc.) that need to be considered in the measurement of coverage. It was however emphasised that there are often good reasons for differences in approach to measuring coverage, for example to reflect different population densities and geographies between countries. This work item is expected to lead to a BEREC output later this year to which RSPG has opportunity to contribute.

We would welcome views from RSPG on this joint work between BEREC and RSPG (both on coverage and the Workshop on innovation). We are also seeking an RSPG candidate for the co-Chairmanship of the joint RSPG/BEREC Working Group.

### **III. PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION**

The RSPG Plenary Meeting #43 requests:

1. RSPG members that have not yet provided contact details from their Member State do so as soon as possible (this should cover name, organisation represented, role, country name, e-mail and phone number);
2. Member States continue to upload relevant information relating to spectrum awards to the Peer Review Platform and complete the templates in relation to upcoming awards – by 30 June 2017;
3. RSPG member are invited to share their views and opinions about the functionality of the peer assistance section in order to make it more reliable and user friendly for the future purposes.

Rapporteurs:

Chris Seifert, Chris Woolford, Aleksander Soltysik