



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

Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 15 February 2023

RSPG23-008 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the work item on mobile technology evolution – experiences and strategies

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Mobile technology evolution – experiences and strategies
Rapporteur/s	Heidi Himmanen, Traficom, Finland, Bo Andersson, PTS, Sweden (until January 2023), Tassos Lyratzis, EETT, Greece
Rationale	Over the course of the next 5-10 years many of the core bands and licenses are up for re-awards or reallocation in many member states. This comes in conjunction with the phasing out of both 2G and 3G technologies. There are some questions in relation with the implication of the technology neutrality principle, also in the context of the GSM Directive. Sharing experiences, lessons learned and strategies on an RSPG level will be a valuable tool for enabling and preparing for this mobile technology evolution.
Scope	<p>In the June 2021 RSPG Opinion on a Radio Spectrum Policy Programme⁷ this topic was introduced with the following wording:</p> <p>“6.1. Migrating regulatory service obligations to the latest technologies The RSPG recommends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the European Commission, when deviating from the principle of technology neutrality, to promote a particular wireless technology supporting services responding to EU public policies (i.e. e-call), to analyse the possible impact and respond to arising challenges. Such an analysis has to take note of the different stages of development of wireless technologies in Member States including the reasoning behind, like their support of national policies (i.e. 4G coverage, 5G coverage). • European Commission and Member States should anticipate any impact of possible future phasing out of some legacy systems (2G, 3G, and 4G) in the next decade.” <p>This work item would be a relevant initiative for carrying the issue forward, with a focus on the latter bullet.</p>
Planned deliverables and timing	<p>Strategic stakeholder workshops Report on practices, strategies and sharing experiences. Possibly, RSPG Opinion</p> <p>Time schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire to countries spring 2022 • Stakeholder workshop September 2022 • Report (Public Consultation): November 2022 • Final Report: February 2023
Analytical approach	Sharing experiences, lessons learned and strategies on an RSPG level will be valuable for enabling and preparing for this mobile technology evolution.

Project plan	Phase 1 – Information gathering (including stakeholder engagement) Phase 2 – Analysis and assessment Phase 3 – Review conclusions (including stakeholder engagement) Phase 4 – Conclude and report
Dependencies	We plan to have regular discussions with the rapporteurs for other relevant work items and possibly joint meetings / workshops to ensure we share information and align the work as appropriate.

Members, stakeholders and resources

Members	Austria, RTR Austria, BMF Croatia, HAKOM Czech Republic, CTU Cyprus, DEC DMRID Denmark, SDFI EU, DG CNECT Finland, Traficom France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, Ministere des finances Germany, BNetza Germany, BMVI BUND Greece, EETT Greece, Ministry of Digital Policy Hungary, NMHH Ireland, DECC Ireland, COMREG Italy, AGCOM Italy, MISE Latvia, VASES Luxembourg, SMC Malta, MCA Norway, NKOM Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs Portugal, ANACOM Serbia, RATEL Slovenia, AKOS Spain, Minetur Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, Minezk The Netherlands, Radiocommunications Agency Turkey, BTK
Key stakeholders	Telecom operators Vertical industries Equipment suppliers
Other resources	
Other work items	

Work flow (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Sub-group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2022			
29 March (Webex)	First meeting of sub-group – discuss scope and plan following new <i>RSPG Work Programme</i> and new work item on <i>Mobile technology evolution – experiences and strategies</i>	Sub-group	
16 May (Webex)	Second meeting of sub- group – discuss draft questionnaire to member states on mobile technology evolution and experiences in member states. - discuss draft plan for workshop.	Sub-group	
7 June	Progress of work presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
20 Sept	External stakeholder workshop – Hybrid meeting in Brussels	Sub-group	Stakeholders
22 Sept	Third meeting of sub- group – discuss outcome of workshop - discuss steps forward and first draft on report on mobile technology evolution	Sub-group	
19 Oct (Webex)	Fourth meeting of sub- group – discuss first draft on report on mobile technology evolution and experiences	Sub-group	
2 Nov (Webex)	Fifth meeting of sub- group – finalise draft on report on mobile technology evolution and experiences	Sub-group	
23 Nov	Progress of work and first draft of report on mobile technology evolution and experiences presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
Year 2023			
7 Jan	End of Public Consultation on the draft doc Comments received by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Competitive Telecommunications Association (ECTA) • Elettronica Industriale S.p.A. – Media for Europe group • European Telecommunications Network Operators (ETNO) • Finnish Energy • GSMA • MVNO Europe • TechSverige • Confindustria Radio Televisioni 	Sub-group	
15 Feb	Final version of the report submitted to the Plenary for publication, including contributions from MS with updates to annex I (2G /3G phase out status) The report was adopted in the meeting	Rapporteur	Plenary
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of work plan			