RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 37th meeting of RSPG on 11 June 2015. The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. UHF PROPOSAL

On 2nd February the Commission adopted a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council on the use of the 694-790 MHz ('700 MHz') band in the Union[1]. The Commission proposes that the 700 MHz band should be assigned to wireless broadband by 30 June 2020 at the latest in all EU countries. This will be in line with the deployment of 5G, foreseen as from 2020. To meet this deadline, Member States will need to adopt and make public their national plans for network coverage and for releasing this band by 30 June 2017. They will need also to conclude cross-border coordination agreements by the end of 2017. Such plans will smooth the transition and ensure good network coverage that will help to bridge the digital divide and create the necessary coverage conditions for connected vehicles or remote health care.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

3.1. Since the last RSPG meeting, there was one RSC meeting on 9th December 2015 (RSC#54)   the following topics were addressed:

Implementation of EU law on spectrum:

The Commission services presented a document (RSCOM15-57rev1) summarising the results of the questionnaire submitted to Member States in document RSCOM15-45 concerning the implementation of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/641/EU of 1 September 2014 on harmonised technical conditions of spectrum use by wireless audio PMSE equipment in the Union. The questionnaire also included two questions related to the reallocation of the 700 MHz band and requested for observations on the legal and/or operational aspects relevant to wireless audio PMSE. During the meeting three Member States who had not responded to the questionnaire provided information and their input will be included in a revised version of the document. With regard to the questions on expected constraints for wireless audio PMSE use in case of reallocation of the 700 MHz

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[1] COM (2016) 43 Final

band and possible need for action at EU level, 11 Member States indicated that they do not expect constraints and one Member State indicated a need for action at EU level. The RSC concluded that at this stage there is insufficient support for opening a discussion on a revision of Decision 2014/641/EU.

Although discussions specifically related to the 700 MHz frequency band are still ongoing, the RSC recognised that attention for a broader long term strategy on PMSE would be useful.

700 MHz band

The Commission presented a revised draft of the Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonised use of the 700 MHz band for wireless broadband and a list of national options for use of parts of the 700 MHz band (duplex gap and guard bands) for audio PMSE, SDL, PPDR and the Internet of Things (RSCOM15-42rev2), which was accompanied by an explanatory note (RSCOM15-58rev1). There was a broad support for harmonising spectrum for wireless broadband electronic communications services based on a frequency arrangement which offers the opportunity of nearly global harmonisation. The discussion focussed on the need and format of including national options for spectrum use of the duplex gap and the guards bands within the 700 MHz band for public protection and disaster relief, programme making and special events and the 'Internet of things'. As no consensus could be reached on that matter, a further meeting will be scheduled in 2016 with the goal to achieve a stable text.

2 GHz bands:

The Commission services presented two documents on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonisation of the 2010-2015 MHz frequency band for video PMSE. In an explanatory document (RSCOM15-59) the Commission informed about the outcome of the internal consultation procedure and the consequent revisions in the draft Decision. The final update of the draft Commission Implementing Decision on video PMSE in the 2010-2025 MHz band (RSCOM15-48rev3) was then discussed. After taking into account some editorial comments, the meeting agreed to the revised version of the text. The Implementing Decision in the meanwhile has been translated and been submitted for a vote of the RSC (examination procedure) in January/ February 2016, resulting in a positive opinion. Currently the Implementing Decision on video PMSE is in the process of being approved by the Commission

GSM-R:

The European Railway Agency (ERA) presented a working document of the Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee (RISC) about the way forward concerning interferences to GSM-R. The aim was, after the validation of railway aspects made by the RISC, to validate the document also from the spectrum side. The document, destined to Member States, contains suggestions and best practices. The presentation was followed by a discussion and several delegations promised to send comments. A joint RSC-RISC meeting to be held at the occasion of RSC meeting in July 2016 is also being considered.

3.2. TCAM activities

On 4 February 2016 TCAM (#42) and TCAM Working Group (#8) meetings were held. Information was provided on the ongoing implementation process resulting from the Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU (RED) and a draft of an implementing act on the restriction of use of radio equipment has been presented and commented. Specific talks took place on Software Defined Radio (SRD) and Airborne (radio) Equipment. The compliance of home appliance with radio modules has been discussed, also in relation to the Electro-Magnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD) and the Internet of Things. The chairman of ADCO presented the results of a market surveillance campaign on RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems). In its progress report ETSI reported that work is continuing the review on EN 300 328 for wireless access systems in the 2.45 GHz band.

4. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mapping of Broadband Services in Europe – SMART 2014/0016

In January 2016, the Commission started the Mapping Study on Broadband Coverage in Europe and, thus, initiated the deployment of the EU Integrated Platform whose ultimate goal is to map the fix and mobile broadband services in Europe (http://www.broadbandmapping.eu/). The platform will be fed by Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE) measurements of individual MS.

On 10 February 2016, the Commission and contractor TÜV Rheinland presented the project at the BEREC WG on Net Neutrality and asked for NRAs engagement and collaboration.

The project consists of a Steering Committee and Technical Review Panel that provides advice on data collection and the setup of the mapping platform. The Tech Review Panel includes representatives of BEREC, NRAs, National Ministries, Research Centres, NGOs and International Organizations. Its next meeting is scheduled on 1 March.

Final Report of the C-ITS Platform (adopted in January 2016)

The Platform for the Deployment of Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems in the European Union (C-ITS Platform) was created by the European Commission services (DG MOVE) in November 2014. Stakeholders, within several working groups, addressed the main technical (frequencies, hybrid communications, (cyber-) security and access to in-vehicle data) and legal issues (such as liability, data protection and privacy). The platform also covered standardisation, cost benefit analysis, business models, public acceptance, road safety and other implementation topics, international cooperation, etc.

Within working groups dedicated to these issues, the C-ITS Platform developed policy recommendations and proposals for action for the Commission and also for other relevant actors along the C-ITS value chain.

The C-ITS platform concluded that currently neither ETSI ITS-G5 nor cellular systems can provide the full range of necessary services for C-ITS. Consequently a hybrid communication concept is therefore needed in order to take advantage of complementary technologies. It is therefore essential to ensure that C-ITS messages can be transmitted independently from the underlying communications technology (access-layer agnostic) wherever possible. The C-ITS Platform recommends that for short-range communications in the 5.9 GHz band initially the communication system to be used is IEEE802.11p/ETSI ITS-G5, and to study whether geographical coverage obligations can be introduced to increase coverage of C-ITS services through existing cellular communications infrastructure, and therefore foster uptake of C-ITS services.

Another major achievement of the C-ITS platform has been to agree on mitigation techniques to ensure coexistence between 5.8 GHz tolling DSRC and 5.9 GHz ITS applications.

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/doc/c-its-platform-final-report-january-2016.pdf

EU High level Dialogue on Spectrum-related issues

On 3rd February 2016, the Commission organised a "High level Dialogue on Spectrum-related issues", which was opened by the European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Günther H. Oettinger. There were over 200 registered participants and presentations by various EU stakeholder representatives. Discussions highlighted in particular the future challenges posed by 5G and the "Internet of Things".