Brussels, 10 February 2021

RSPG21-009 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Climate Change

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group
on "Climate Change"

The RSPG Working Group on "Climate Change[1]" (hereinafter: SG) held five Webex meetings since the last RSPG plenary (22 and 29 October, 24 November, 14 December and 1 February). Between meetings the material for topics within the draft report has been developed by email (The SG mailing list includes more than 40 subscribers). The group also provided a contribution to the Sub-Group on the RSPP before the end of November. The group obtained verbal approval from the RSPG chairman to postpone by a few months the publication of the Report.

1. Webex meetings

The meetings since the last RSPG plenary have had four focuses i) Providing an input contribution to the SG RSPP, ii) improving the material for each topic, iii) releasing a public questionnaire in relation to RSPG and climate change mentioned at the last RSPG Plenary and iv) Contribution on environmental aspects to the work of the Special Group of the Connectivity Toolbox. Work to complete the Report will continue during the next meetings.

2. Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management

The headings under which the SG is preparing its report include:
- Possible actions of the wireless sector to decrease the use of energy (in general) by wireless communications technologies
- Possibilities for wireless solutions to help sectors (other than communications) become more environmentally friendly
- Spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data.

The SG is considered a number of legal and administrative aspects in its report;
- The legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management.
- Possible issues associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.
- Possible administrative instruments for spectrum management and climate mitigation

3. Climate-related initiatives within the RSPG

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1. Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change

In addition to the topics related to the points mentioned in the work programme, the SG is preparing a guidelines document on possible climate-related initiatives within the RSPG:
- Making the work of the RSPG more eco-friendly?
- Use of web meetings to lessen our ecological footprints?
- More eco-friendly physical meetings, at least in terms of travel.

4.   Public Questionnaire

The SG released a public questionnaire on the RSPG consultation webpage in December. The consultation closed on 20 February. The group reviewed the response during its meeting on 1 February.

The SG will take into account the information gathered from the external stakeholders in order to continue drafting the material for each topic.

4.   Next steps

The next meeting will be a Webex meeting on at the end of February 2021, with further SG meetings planned for the beginning of April 2021. Final dates are to be determined at the next SG-meeting.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Climate change mitigation
Rapporteur/s	Robert Lindgaard, Danish Energy Agency, Rory Hinchy, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Rationale	Rationale Radio spectrum is the basis for electronic communications and broadband, but also key to important areas like climate change. Climate change is one of the predominant topics in European Union policies. In her political guidelines, the new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has prioritised a 'green deal' stating: "I want Europe to strive for more by becoming the first climate-neutral continent". The climate-neutral target for Europe is 2050. The RSPG shares the opinion that the fight against climate change and its negative consequences is of utmost importance. Therefore, the RSPG established a work item to focus on spectrum policy aspects which are closely related to the efforts of ensuring climate-neutrality.
Scope	Under the Climate Change work item, the RSPG will issue a debate within the Group, as well as with the relevant stakeholders, on how spectrum policy can help to combat climate change. To this end, questions that should be addressed are: • Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management; • How can spectrum management help to combat climate change? • What concrete actions should be recommended at EU-Level?
Planned deliverables and timing	RSPG Opinion(s) or Report(s) as seen appropriate. Public workshops Time schedule: • Report: ~~January~~ April 2021 • Opinion: October 2021
Analytical approach	Overall ambition for RSPG to communicate early about possible steps which can be taken to mitigate climate change in light of EU climate targets Identify the actions which could be taken to decrease green house gas emissions of wireless systems. Assess how wireless solutions could help other sectors becomre more environmentally friendly. Identify spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data and consider the need to protect these. Analyse the legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management. Identify administrative instruments for climate mitigation activities in

	spectrum management.
	Assess challenges associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.
Project plan	Phase 1 – Information gathering Phase 2 – Analysis and assessment (including stakeholder engagement) Phase 3 – Review conclusions Phase 4 – Conclude and report
Dependencies	This work is linked to the RSPG work item on RSPP and WRC *.*

Members, stakeholders and resources

Members	Austria, BMLRT CEPT, ECC and ECO Cyprus, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works Czech Republic, Czech Telecommunication Office Denmark, Danish Energy Agency EU, European Commission Finland, Ficora France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, Ministère des finances Germany, BNetza Germany, BMVI BUND Greece, EETT Hungary, NMHH Ireland, DECC Italy, AGCOM Malta, MCA Norway, KMD Norway, NKOM Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs Portugal, ANACOM Slovenia, AKOS Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, Minezk
Key stakeholders	Telecom operators Vertical industries Equipment suppliers
Other resources	

Work flow (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2020			
2 April (Webex)	First meeting of work group – discuss scope and plan following new *RSPG Work Programme* and new work item on *Climate Change mitigation*	Work group	

Date	Action / deliverable	**Internal** Work group only	**External** Plenary, Publication
6 May (Webex)	Second meeting of work group – discuss topics for inclusion in the report and identify contributors.	Work group	
2 June (Webex)	Third meeting of work group – discuss contributions received on topics.	Work group	
9 June	Progress of work presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
10 June (Webex)	Presentation at GSMA/RSPG roundtable.	Rapporteur	Roundtable participants
23 June	Fourth meeting of work group - further refine the text	Work group	
31 August	*- discussion on collated text and details of the workshop*	Work group	
18/21 September	Workshop with stakeholders	Work group Debriefing	Stakeholder workshop
7 October	Progress of work presented to Plenary. -	Rapporteur	Plenary,
22 October	Fifth meeting of work group – commence work on RSPP contribution	Work group	
29 October	Sixth meeting of work group -	Work group	
24 November	Seventh meeting of work group	Work group	
14 December	Eighth meeting of work group – agree consultations questionnaire	Work group	
Year 2021			
1 February	Ninth meeting of work group – consider a contribution to the connectivity toolbox discussion	Work group	
10 February	Progress of work presented to Plenary. -	Rapporteur	Plenary
( )	meeting of work group –	Work group	
( )	meeting of the group	Work group	
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of work progress			