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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND  
TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
**RSPG Secretariat**

Brussels, 25 October 2023

**RSPG23-037 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Climate Change**

The RSPG Sub Group on “Climate Change<sup>1</sup>” (hereinafter: SG) held one Webex meeting since the last RSPG plenary (14 June), where the report presented for approval at this meeting was discussed. The report gathers information from the public questionnaire, the workshop, and other studies and reports which the sub group have noted. In advance of the meeting, a draft was prepared and shared with some members for their comments prior to discussion with the whole group at the meeting. The meeting finalised most points and agreed to continue any further discussions by correspondence. The document was also shared with the co-chairs of BEREC with a request to verify or correct the text relating to their work.

#### **1. Webex meetings**

The group has never held physical meetings since its establishment at the RSPG plenary. During the September web meeting the sub group worked to achieve a near final text of the Report presented to this meeting.

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

## 2. Next steps

As described in the draft report submitted to the Plenary, the wireless sector is implementing a number of actions in order to reduce its climate impact, and regulators are starting to monitor and assess the energy consumption/efficiency of wireless technologies. This work is the first necessary step to be able to understand the relationship between spectrum use and climate impact. The work is progressing in the right direction but more steps need to be taken before the sub-group can analyse the role of spectrum policy in sufficient detail.

Given this situation, it is proposed that the RSPG SG CC be put on hold. The co-chairs have participated in the work on the new RSPG work programme in order to reflect this proposal. The co-chairs further invite MS to continue informing on their approaches regarding the monitoring and assessment of energy consumption, possibly under the auspices of another RSPG group.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
<b>Work item</b>	Climate change mitigation
<b>Rapporteur/s</b>	Víctor Fernández López, Danish Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure, Rory Hinchy, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland
<b>Rationale</b>	<p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p>The RSPG Opinion on the Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change provides a series of recommendations to the European Commission, Member States and stakeholders to continue the path towards a more environmentally-friendly society through the use of wireless technologies.</p> <p>The Opinion suggests further avenues in terms of spectrum regulation, harmonisation, voluntary initiatives, information gathering, etc. It is also recognised that the relationship between sustainability and electronic communications is also covered elsewhere. For example, the work in the BEREC Working Group on Sustainability should be followed closely in order to avoid a potential overlap.</p> <p>Two particular points raised by the Opinion fall into the purview of activities of the RSPG and it is therefore proposed to continue working on those points in the RSPG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The need for a common set of methodologies in order to understand and assess the impact of ECS wireless technologies on climate change, involving ECS stakeholders and all interested parties, and with a particular focus on the ECS radio component.</li> <li>2) The importance of having accurate information on emissions and energy efficiency related to spectrum use on a national level (e.g. reports from network operators).</li> </ol>

	These activities will help Member States and the EC to take appropriate regulatory actions within the spectrum area in order to combat climate change.
<b>Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying methodologies to assess the energy efficiency of wireless technologies, including the influence of variables such as the frequency band, type of access technology, etc. Input from stakeholders (e.g. through a workshop) may be required.</li> <li>Collecting practices from Member States on how energy efficiency is measured and managed nationally in relation to the spectrum area, including how data to assess the energy efficiency is collected.</li> <li>Assess how efficient spectrum policies can facilitate a green digital transition of Europe, to reduce carbon emissions.</li> </ul>
<b>Planned deliverables and timing</b>	A report, to be delivered in October 2023.
<b>Analytical approach</b>	To be determined.
<b>Project plan</b>	To be determined.
<b>Dependencies</b>	To be determined.

### Members, stakeholders and resources

Members to be updated with additions based on latest excel file	Austria, BMF CEPT, ECC and ECO Cyprus, Department of Electronic Communications Czech Republic, Czech Telecommunication Office Denmark, Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure EU, European Commission Finland, Finnish Transport and Communications Regulatory Authority (TRAFICOM) France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, French Ministry of Economy and Finance Germany, BNetzA Germany, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport Greece, Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT)
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	<p>Hungary, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)</p> <p>Ireland, DECC</p> <p>Ireland, ComReg</p> <p>Italy, AGCOM</p> <p>Italy, Ministry of Economic Development</p> <p>Malta, Malta Communications Authority (MCA)</p> <p>Netherlands, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (Minezk)</p> <p>Netherlands, Rijksinspectie Digitale Infrastructuur</p> <p>Norway, KMD</p> <p>Norway, NKOM</p> <p>Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs</p> <p>Portugal, ANACOM</p> <p>Slovenia, AKOS</p> <p>Sweden, PTS</p>
Key stakeholders	<p>Telecom operators</p> <p>Vertical industries</p> <p>Equipment suppliers</p>
Other resources	