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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on WRC

Progress Report of RSPG SG WRC

1.

The Group met 4 times electronically and developed the draft Report on the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), with the participation of representatives from numerous MS (Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Luxembourg, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, Poland, Hungary, Denmark) and the European Commission.

The Group held one Hearing with stakeholders on April 15th to collect views and comments on the preparation process of the Union, the negotiations at and the results of WRC-23. Representatives from 13 stakeholders provided views, comments and answered additional questions.

The Co-Chairs would like to express their sincere thanks to all members of the group for their very active support and work inside and outside the meetings, which allowed not only the presentation of the Draft for adoption in the timeline set by the Work Programme, but also the hearing of stakeholders.

2.

The draft Report (see Annex) addresses – as outlined in the Work Programme – the result of those WRC-23 Agenda items for which an EU position has been established by the Council. It compares the results with the EU position and analyses the reasons for deviations, if any. Moreover, the Report describes the negotiation experiences at WRC-23 including the EU coordination and provides lessons learned. The Report ends with proposed conclusions by the RSPG.

2.1 The Reports is structured in the following Chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Results of the identified Agenda items, 3. Stakeholder views, 4. Lessons learned and 5. Conclusions.

2.2 The following sub-structure for each identified Agenda item in Chapter 2 has been applied in separate paragraphs:

1. Description of the Agenda item
2. Relevant EU Position
3. Result(s)

2.3 The Group analysed the overall EU Position and concluded that two additional issues (Agenda item 1.7 and Protection of GNSS) have been included compared to the final RSPG Opinion on WRC-23. Both are consequently also addressed.

2.4 On the results of Agenda item 1.2, 3 400-3 800 MHz in Region 2, Denmark, the Netherlands and France reminded the Group about specific situation(s) regarding the applicability of EU law. In consequence, the WRC-23 result on this issue has been included for completeness of information in a footnote due to the specific situation with regards to Greenland, French and Dutch oversee territories in Region 2.

3.

The involvement of stakeholders into the analysis of the results of WRC-23 has resulted to be a very successful step forward for RSPG. All stakeholders welcomed the opportunity to provide their views, comments and expectations to conclude the working process of one specific WRC. Specific comments on Agenda items and follow up actions have been compiled in Chapter 3. The group decided also to put special emphasis on comments regarding the preparatory process which can possibly be implemented within the future work on WRC-27.

One general element of concern was again on the transparency during WRC negotiations and the ways and means how conclusions have been drawn. This aspect is more dedicated to the Member States in their capacity being ITU members, nevertheless further considerations within RSPG on a strategic approach to support an identified objective within CEPT and ITU could be beneficial.

Some stakeholders also made further suggestions directly to RSPG (e.g. to continue public briefing sessions).

4.

In terms of the lessons learned and the conclusions on WRC-23 the following aspects are to be mentioned:

- The established preparatory process works well.
- The cooperation between the EU Presidency and the EU Commission before and at WRC-23 could be a role-model for future conferences.
- The timely availability of the final RSPG Opinion and the EU position plays an important role for successful negotiations in EU interests.
- Overall, the EU positions on specific WRC-23 Agenda items have been reached with limited deviations: WRC-23 was for the EU a success!

The SG will further consider these conclusions within its upcoming work on WRC-27.

Recommended action for RSPG:

1. Adopt the draft Report on WRC-23 (see Annex).
2. Note this Progress Report.

Annexes: 1