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Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Chairman's Report of RSPG #62 on 25 October 2023

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

At the outset of the meeting, the RSPG held a minutes' silence in memory of Mr Onno Mantel, the Dutch representative to the RSPG, who had sadly passed away during the summer.

The Plenary meeting was Chaired by RSPG Chair Eric Fournier (France) who welcomed Moldova and Bosnia and Hercegovina as new RSPG observers.

During the meeting, the RSPG agreed to publish for public consultation:

- a draft *Opinion on assessment of different possible scenarios for the use of the frequency bands 1980-2010 MHz and 2170-2200 MHz by the Mobile Satellite Services beyond 2027*, subject to removal of confidential information, and
- a draft *RSPG Work Programme 2024 and beyond*.

The RSPG agreed to adopt:

- *Opinion on a Strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030 in the EU*,
- *Report on the role of radio spectrum policy to help combat climate change*,
- *Opinion on 5G developments and possible implications for 6G spectrum needs and guidance on the rollout of future wireless broadband network*, and
- *Addendum to RSPG Opinion RSPG23-016 on "The future of the electronic communications sector and its infrastructure"*.

The RSPG also received an update on recent initiatives from the European Commission representative as well as progress reports from the co-chairs of the various RSPG Sub Groups.

The Group elected Aleksander Soltysik from Poland to serve as the RSPG Chair for the period 2024 to 2025. The Deputy Chair will be elected in the written procedure by the end of 2023.

The Group and the European Commission expressed their gratitude to Eric Fournier for his service to the Group as RSPG Chair and former Deputy Chair.

MEETING REPORT

(1) Introduction to RSPG #62

The RSPG Chairman, Eric Fournier opened the meeting and presented the draft agenda (RSPG23-031) which was adopted.

The European Commission was represented by Julija Varnaite - Kamstra, Deputy Head of Radio Spectrum Policy Unit, DG CONNECT.

The RSPG held a minutes' silence in memory of Mr Onno Mantel, the Dutch representative to the RSPG, who had sadly passed away together with his son Daan in early August.

(2) Update from the Commission

The Commission informed the RSPG about the adoption of the Council Decision on WRC-23 on 18 September 2023 as well as of the first State of Digital Decade report publishment and the related KPI. The Commission provided an update on its intentions with the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme in the light of the published results of the exploratory consultation, Commissioner Breton's blog and Commission Work Programme 2024.

(3) Update from the Chair and Deputy Chair on activities since the last meeting

The RSPG Chair provided an update on meetings he and the Deputy RSPG Chair either participated recently or are going to participate by the end of the year.

(4) 5G pioneer bands: state of play on awards

The Group took note of the current state of play as set out in document RSPG23-032. The Commission made a presentation summarising progress made concerning awards of 5G pioneer bands since the last plenary meeting in June.

The Group decided to discuss at the plenary meeting in February 2024 how to evolve the scope of the state of play reporting.

(5) RSPG Subgroup on Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards

The Subgroup Co-Chair Alexander Sołtysik (PL) presented a Progress Report (RSPG23-033) on *peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards*.

The Group tasked the Subgroup to discuss how to make peer review process more transparent to the third parties while preserving confidentiality of information shared.

(6) RSPG Subgroup on UHF band beyond 2030

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-034) from the Subgroup on *UHF band beyond 2030* presented by the chair Umberto Mascia (IT). The Group agreed to adopt an *Opinion on a Strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030 in the EU* (RSPG23-035).

(7) RSPG Subgroup on "Good offices"

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-036) from the Subgroup on *Good Offices* presented by the Co-Chairs Mindaugas Zilinskas (LT) and Adrian Galea (MT).

(8) RSPG Subgroup on Climate Change

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-037) from the Subgroup on *Climate Change* presented by the Co-Chairs Rory Hinchy (IE) and Victor Fernandez Lopez (DK). The Group agreed to adopt a report on *the role of radio spectrum policy to help combat Climate Change* (RSPG23-038).

The Group agreed to share, under the next RSPG Work Programme, good practices related to sustainability in the Subgroup on Peer Review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards.

(9) RSPG Subgroup on work item Development of 6G

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-039) from the Subgroup on *Development of 6G* presented by the Co-Chairs Tassos Lyratzis (EL) and Heidi Himmanen (FI). The Group agreed to adopt an *Opinion on 5G developments and possible implications for 6G spectrum needs and guidance on the rollout of future wireless broadband networks* (RSPG23-040).

(10) RSPG Subgroup on Mobile Satellite Services

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-041) from the Subgroup on *Mobile Satellite Services* presented by the Co-Chairs Chris Seifert (DE) and Diána Daczi (HU). The Group agreed to publish, for public consultation, a *draft Opinion on assessment of different possible scenarios for the use of the frequency bands 1980-2010 MHz and 2170-2200 MHz by the Mobile Satellite Services beyond 2027* (RSPG23-042) subject to appropriate removal of confidential information.

(11) Digital Decade

The RSPG considered a Progress Report (RSPG23-043) from the Sub-Group on *Digital Decade* presented by the Co-Chairs Jonas Wessel (SE) and Didier Chauveau (FR) and agreed to adopt *Addendum to RSPG Opinion RSPG23-016 on "The future of the electronic communications sector and its infrastructure"* (RSPG23-044).

The Group also agreed to discuss the emerging satellite issues referred to in the Progress Report under the next RSPG Work Programme in the Subgroup on Strategic Spectrum Matters.

(12) RSPG Work Programme 2024-2025

The RSPG Deputy Chair presented main changes to the work items for the work programme for the period 2024-2025 inclusive introduced since the plenary in June 2023. The RSPG agreed to publish for public consultation a draft *RSPG Work Program 2024 and beyond* (RSPG23-045).

(13) Any Other Business

(a) Election of RSPG Chair and Deputy Chair

The Group elected Aleksander Soltysik (Poland) to serve as RSPG Chair from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025. The Deputy RSPG Chair will be elected in the written procedure.

The Group and the European Commission also expressed their gratitude to Eric Fournier for his service to the Group as RSPG Chair and former Deputy Chair.

(b) Administrative matters

The next RSPG Plenary meeting (RSPG#63) will take place on the 7th February 2024.

The date of the RSPG plenary in June has been changed to 18 June 2023.
