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**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

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# **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 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of RSPG on 19 February 2014. The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

### 2. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since the last RSPG meeting, there was an RSC meeting on 19-20 March 2014 (RSC#47). The following topics were addressed:

**3.6 GHz band:** The Commission services presented a revised draft amending Commission Decision itself (*RSCOM13-66ev2*) for discussion and a request for Opinion. The proposal was broadly welcomed by the Member States and a few clarifying modifications were introduced in the draft amending Decision. The revised draft amending Commission Decision (*RSCOM13-66rev3*) received a positive Opinion of the RSC. It was formally adopted by the Commission on 2 May 2014 and published in the Official Journal<sup>1</sup> on 14 May 2014 under **2014/276/EU**.

**Mandate on 1.5 GHz band:** The purpose of the mandate is to contribute to achieving EU policy objectives laid down in the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme and the Digital Agenda for Europe in terms of providing additional spectrum resource for wireless broadband and promoting innovation in spectrum sharing. The Commission services presented a revised document on a draft mandate to CEPT (*RSCOM13-67rev2*) for developing technical conditions for wireless broadband in the frequency range 1452-1492 MHz band as well as sharing scenarios between wireless broadband and incumbent uses within several other bands in the 1350-1518 MHz frequency range. The majority of Member States did not support the Commission proposal for studying frequency bands other than 1452-1492 MHz before the outcome of WRC-15 is known. Therefore, it was agreed to limit the scope of the mandate to the 1452-1492 MHz frequency band with a short-term deliverable in December 2014. The revised Mandate (*RSCOM13-67rev3*) received a positive Opinion of the RSC and was subsequently submitted to CEPT.

**Mandate on 2.3 GHz band:** The Commission services presented a revised draft mandate to CEPT (*RSCOM13-73rev1*) to develop harmonised technical conditions for the 2300-2400 MHz ('2.3 GHz') frequency band in the EU for the provision of wireless broadband services. Member States commented on the draft text and suggested improvements. The revised Mandate (*RSCOM13-73rev2*) received a positive Opinion of the RSC and was subsequently submitted to CEPT.

**Programme making and special events (PMSE):** The Commission services presented a document (*RSCOM14-04*) containing draft elements for a Commission Implementing Decision on the technical conditions for radio spectrum use by wireless microphones and associated applications for programme making and special events (wireless audio PMSE equipment) in the European Union. Comments provided in writing by 18 Member States

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<sup>1</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2014.139.01.0018.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.139.01.0018.01.ENG)

as well as one EEA Member responding to the previous request for views and comments were taken into account in the document and the Commission services provided its position on those comments. The Commission notified delegates of the comments made by stakeholders during the PMSE stakeholders' workshop held on 18 February. The proposed elements for a decision were discussed with the delegates and the Commission will distribute a revised version of the Annex inviting Member States to provide final written comments by 8 April.

**Spectrum inventory:** The Commission informed Member States about the state of preparations for the Report to the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with Art. 9.4 of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (*RSCOM14-05*). The Commission discussed with Member States the progress achieved so far in the collection of data to spectrum inventory in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2013/195/EU. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) gave a presentation on various options for graphical visualisation of data on spectrum use provided so far by Member States to the inventory.

**Short-range devices (SRD):** The Commission presented the guidance document for the 6th update of the SRD decision (*RSCOM13-78rev1*). After discussion, it was decided to submit the document, as it is, to the 61st meeting of the SRD MG group [April 2-4th, 2014] to gather the group's views and feedback on the actions proposed in the guidance document.

### 3. INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### **Report on the implementation of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme**

On 22 April 2014 the Commission adopted the Report on the implementation of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme which was sent to the European Parliament and the Council. This report responds to both the requirement of Article 15 of the RSPP and to the one of Article 9 of the Radio Spectrum Decision.

The report concludes that the RSPP has contributed to a more efficient use of spectrum and fostered innovation and competition by setting the target of 1200 MHz of spectrum for wireless broadband, by establishing the inventory and by harmonising spectrum with the widest possible usage conditions.

On the other hand, the general character of some of the provisions has proven to limit the effectiveness of some of the principles for example concerning authorisations procedures and timing. Well-established common principles and criteria for all Member States would provide better conditions for efficient and timely assignments which foster economic and consumer benefits. More specific provisions are currently being discussed as part of the Connected Continent package.

### 4. HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

**High Level Group (HLG) on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz):** The HLG had already three meetings, the last on 8 May 2014. A Sherpa Group has been set up, which held three meetings, the last on 3 June 2014. The HLG is mandated to deliver a strategic advice to the Commission as to the future use of the UHF band as seen by the industry, based on considerations of consumer demand, technological advance and future

business and market transformations, also in the light of potential convergence. The HLG has agreed not to go public on details of its work until the final report is published (planned for end of July).

## 5. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

**PMSE Stakeholder Workshop:** The workshop was held in Brussels on 18 February 2014. The attendants were representatives of broadcasting and live performances, manufactures of wireless microphones and users, the mobile industry and its representative organisations and national authorities of some Members States. During the event, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented the outcomes of LTE-PMSE coexistence tests performed in Ispra on 13-15 November 2013. Notwithstanding the technical feasibility of avoiding or reducing interference from active user equipment to PMSE by deploying LTE picocells in combination with inter-band handover if handovers are executed outside the protection range of the PMSE receivers, it was noted that the concept needs to be further developed in terms of practical implementation and cost related questions.

Ofcom UK presented the results of its experiences in the field of spectrum use by PMSE applications and shared its views on the potential impact of the 700 MHz band release. Finally, the Commission services presented some preliminary elements of a draft Commission Decision on the harmonisation of technical conditions for radio spectrum use by wireless audio PMSE equipment. Participants were invited to provide comments in writing.

**First workshop of the study "Challenges and opportunities of broadcast-broadband convergence and its impact on spectrum and network use"** (SMART 2013/0014)<sup>2</sup>: The workshop took place on 27 March 2014 and was attended by more than 110 participants. The study team – composed of consultants from Plum (leader) and Farncombe – presented findings and preliminary results on the developments of the terrestrial broadcasting and broadband platforms in terms of delivering audiovisual services, the audiovisual markets and consumption patterns as well as views on convergent platforms. The consultants have subsequently assessed inputs received during the workshops as well as written contributions after the workshop. The next workshop is scheduled for 8 July 2014 and will focus on aspects and scenarios for terrestrial broadcast-broadband convergence. A presentation is also foreseen in September 2014 before the RSPG WG working on the forthcoming Opinion regarding a long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) in the EU.

**Workshop with stakeholders in the framework of the study "Use of commercial mobile networks and equipment for mission-critical high-speed broadband communications in specific sectors"** (SMART 2013/0016)<sup>3</sup>: A workshop with

<sup>2</sup> Information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-challenges-and-opportunities-broadcast-broadband-convergence-and-its-impact-spectrum-an-0>

<sup>3</sup> Information is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/workshop-use-commercial-mobile-networks-and-equipment-%E2%80%98mission-critical%E2%80%99-high-speed-broadband>

stakeholders, which took place in Brussels on 30<sup>th</sup> April, brought together over 50 representatives from the emergency services, utilities, transport, operators and equipment suppliers, had two main objectives: primarily to gather data and views from stakeholders as well as to explain the context, aims and objectives of the study. Representatives for all the main stakeholder communities (PPDR, utilities, ITS, regulators, government and MNOs) were present and contributed strongly leading to a free exchange of ideas and positions.

**Calls for Tender for 2 Studies to be launched in 2014:**

The final date for receiving tenders for the Study "The socio-economic benefits of network sharing" (SMART 2014/0024) was 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The evaluation of tenders is ongoing. The title of the Study SMART 2014/0012 has changed from "Research of the market with spectrum-dependent ICT equipment operating in unlicensed frequency bands" to "Identification of the market of radio equipment operating in license-exempt frequency bands to assess medium and long-term spectrum usage densities". The call for tenders for SMART 2014/0012 will be published in June.