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TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

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RSPG22-013 FINAL

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 worked further to finalise the draft Final Opinion for the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 for public consultation, with the participation of representatives from numerous MS: Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Hungary, Malta, Ireland, Latvia, Estonia and the European Commission.

The Co-Chairs would like to express their sincere thanks to all members of the group for their active support and work inside and outside the meetings.

2.

The draft Final Opinion (Doc 014) addresses – as outlined in the Work Program – the result of an analysis of the WRC-23 Agenda, identifies relevant Agenda items based on EU policies and EU law in particular EU spectrum harmonization decisions and provides on the identified Agenda items recommendations to the EC on possible positions for proposal to the Council.

2.1 The draft Opinion is structured in the following Chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Identification of relevant EU Policies for WRC-23, 3. Response to public consultation and 4. Identification of relevant EU policies and EU legislation. Chapter 3 will be developed after the public consultation.

2.2 The following sub-structure for each Agenda Item in Chapter 4 has been agreed:

1. Description of the Agenda Item
2. Link with EU Policies
3. Relevant spectrum harmonisation decisions
4. RSPG Recommendation

2.3 The Group analysed the complete Agenda of WRC-23 together with the progress on the preparatory activities and identified the following Agenda items and topics which have relevant relations to EU Policy and/or legislation and require an EU Position:

- 1.2 (Centimeter bands),
- 1.3 (MS 3600-3800 MHz),
- 1.5 (UHF Review),
- 1.11 (GMDSS),
- 1.14 (EESS (passive) 250 GHz),
- 1.15 (GSO ESIM Ku-band),
- 1.16 (NGSO ESIM Ka-band),
- 9.1 topic a (Space weather sensors)
- 9.1 topic b (RNSS protection from Amateur at 1300 MHz),
- 9.1 topic d (EESS (passive) 37 GHz) and

- 9.1 topic Art. 21.5.

2.4 On Agenda item 1.2, the group could not find a common recommendation at this point in time. Therefore, it is proposed to consult on two main options under consideration and continue to find a common way, taking into account the result of the public consultation.

2.5 On Agenda item 1.5, the group found a compromise on a common way forward. However, it needs to be noted that the recommendation is intended to support a unite negotiation of EU MS at the conference. Therefore, it has been deemed necessary to invite the European Commission in order to provide a legal view regarding the recommendation on Agenda item 1.5 at the next meeting of the group. Furthermore, diverging views in case of a postponement of this issue occurred. Some Member States have a preference for WRC-27 while others believe that regulatory certainty require a longer period and hence support for WRC-31. An additional argument was the workload arising from the numbers of items in the preliminary Agenda of WRC-27.

2.6 Regarding Art. 21.5 the group agreed to include this topic, noting that this is dealing with studies on the application of Art. 21.5 on TRP in (at least) the 26 GHz band. Due to the fact that this issue concerns a specific draft report to the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau as well as possible further actions need further analysis, the group agreed to request further input through the public consultation and will continue to work on a recommendation, if necessary. Attention has been drawn to the considerations in preparatory activities on this topic in CEPT and ITU. They include possible changes to the regulatory balance between terrestrial and space services, which may consequently require an EU position.

2.7 The Plenary should also be informed that the recommendation on Agenda item 9.1 topic b) is still under consideration and may be further amended taking due account of the EU interest in the success of GALILEO.

2.8 Further considerations have been made on Agenda items 1.7, 1.12 and 1.18. The progress of the preparatory activities does no longer indicate neither an EU legislation which may be affected nor that a unified position is desirable, thus a specific EU interest can't be identified. Therefore, those Agenda items are no longer outlined in the draft Final Opinion.

2.9 Denmark reminded the Group about its specific situation with regards to the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). As long as a specific recommendation is only justified by CSDP, Denmark may opt-out of this recommendation. Furthermore, it has also been highlighted that Greenland, which belongs to Denmark, does not belong to the EU.

3.

The Group further considered the strategic dimension of some Agenda items in terms of EU implementation. Mainly the aspects of upper 6 GHz band and the use of UHF were of concern. The Group agreed to consider both aspects in a separate meeting during the public consultation period.

4.

The Group agreed further that the period of the public consultation could be extended if deemed appropriate. It was noted that this may limit the available time for the finalisation of the Opinion for the November Plenary. Therefore, the public consultation period should end at the latest on August 12th 2022.

5. Next meeting(s) – tentatively:

17th Meeting – 31 August 2022, 10h00 – 12h30

18th Meeting – 20 September 2022, 10h00 – 12h30

19th and final Meeting – 19 October 2022, 10h00 – 13h00

Recommended action for RSPG:

1. Approve the current draft Final Opinion for WRC-23 (see Annex) for public consultation.
2. Initiate a public consultation for at least 6 weeks starting after the Plenary.
3. Note this Progress Report.

Documents/Annexes: 1