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## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on cross-border coordination**

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The Working Group has held two meetings during the RPSG meeting (19<sup>th</sup> February) and RSCOM meeting (18<sup>th</sup> March).

The Working Group is focusing on the cross-border coordination and interference issues between Italy and neighbouring countries.

The WG discussed the implementation of the Decreto-Legge n°145, a compensation scheme for regional DTT broadcasters which will switch-off the stations which are interfering neighbouring countries. **The procedure has been detailed in a new decree which has been distributed to the group. The delayed timeline for the implementation of the compensation scheme will be discussed during the WG meeting at the RSPG lunch time.**

The application of the Decreto-Legge is expected **to clear up the channel 43 on the south of Sicily** so as to ensure interference-free environment for Malta, which will use this channel as a replacement of channel 66, as previously agreed.

Malta has **difficulties in completing the GE-06 procedure for recording channel 43** due to the lack of response from countries outside EU, in particular Tunisia. However, Malta is envisaging switching on channel 43 even if the procedure is not completed.

The WG started to address the issue of **FM broadcasting interference**. It concluded that in spite of all measures defined by the Ministry for solving interferences to neighbouring countries, there is currently a difficulty for the administration to enforce solutions, given the absence of an FM broadcasting plan. The Commission has raised this issue in the context of the meetings with the Italian authorities on the implementation of the framework and is assessing the information provided. The issue should be reported in the Commission annual implementation report, expected for publication in June. In parallel, a letter specific to this issue remains under consideration.

### **Next meeting**

Ad-hoc meeting of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination is planned during lunch time of this RSPG meeting.

## ANNEX

**REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC MEETING  
OF THE RSPG WG ON CROSS BORDER COORDINATION  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**1. Report from Italy on the implementation of Decreto Legge n°145**

Italy indicated that the decree which details the process for the application of the law has been signed by the minister of Economic development but not yet by the minister of Finance. It is expected for next week.

The group underlined that the publication of the decree has already been postponed by 2 months, and any prolongation of process of switching off interfering transmissions is very problematic to the neighboring countries suffering interference.

Given that it is planned to have about 30 days for the broadcaster to apply for the compensation and that a work is needed afterwards to determine the assignments which will have to switch off and the related compensation, the actual switching off process and reinforcement measures, the delay in the signature is putting at risk the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Italy indicated that such delay until the final switch-off should be limited to few weeks.

**Action point: Italy to inform the group at the end of next week whether the decree has been signed and about the new timeline until the final switch-off.**

**2. Report from Malta on channel 43**

Malta informed the group that they did not have response from Tunisia. Malta has investigated with ITU the issue of antenna discrimination and there is apparently a bug in the ITU software for the type 5 allotment corresponding to the GE06 rights on channel 43 in Tunisia. However, ITU needs more time before providing an official response.

**Action point: Malta to enquire the timeline for an official response from ITU on the likely bug in the GE06 calculation tool.**

Malta indicated that they are examining the possibility to move ahead with channel 43, even before it is officially recorded in GE-06, in order to gain some time to start the migration and to free up the 800 MHz band. In such case, the migration would still be conditional to the absence of interference from the south of Sicilia.

**3.FM Interference**

AGCOM clarified the elements from the minutes of the previous meeting stating that “AGCOM will start the FM broadcasting plan activity after the completion of the digital radio broadcasting plan and the full development of the DAB+ market”. The initial idea was to enable those station rights which could not be accommodated in an eventual FM plan to migrate to DAB+.

After discussion, the group concluded that this is not providing a satisfactory solution since such migration is not likely to happen in a reasonable timeframe and is difficult to guarantee. Therefore, a solution to enable the Italian administration to enforce the protection of FM rights of other administrations is yet to be identified.

The Commission, in response to the action point from the previous meeting, has raised this issue in the context of the meetings with the Italian authorities on the implementation of the framework and is assessing the information provided, including the provision of Italian law envisaging an FM analogue plan “subject to digital development”. The issue should be reported in the Commission annual implementation report, expected for publication in June. In parallel, a letter specific to this issue remains under consideration.

The meeting considered very useful to have elements from the Commission and from Italy on legal solutions to improve the enforcement capability of the Italian administration in the FM band.

Italy explained that in Friuli Venezia Giulia, about 30 transmitters have been moved from the border Italy/Slovenia to more protective alternative sites and asked to Slovenia to provide a result of the new measurements. Furthermore Italy asked Croatia to evaluate the possibility to carry out a joint measurement during the summer season. Slovenia illustrated a case where the station is very close from the border (200 m) so that the change in the antenna project could not reduce significantly the interference. The meeting concluded that it would be necessary for the ministry to carry on the request to the broadcaster to apply conditions enabling the protection of neighbouring countries, to switch-off in case it is not sufficient and to inform the meeting about resulting legal cases.

**Action points:**

- **Italy should continue to define actions to cease interference and to order switching-off in case of continuing interference. Italy will update the meeting in June about these actions and related legal cases.**
- **Italian administration to investigate the legal solutions to improve their enforcement capability in the FM band.**

**Next meeting**

Ad-hoc meetings of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination will be organized during the RSPG meeting, lunch time, on 11<sup>th</sup> June.