PUBLIC DOCUMENT

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Subject: **Chairman's Report of RSPG#43 on 06 June 2017**

RSPG #43
Brussels, 06 June 2017

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The meeting was Chaired by RSPG Chair Philip Marnick (UK).

The RSPG noted progress reports from the Working Groups dealing with the following policy areas:

- Spectrum related aspects of next generation wireless systems (5G);

- EU Cross-border coordination ("Good offices");

- Spectrum requirements facing the future needs and use of wireless audio and video PMSE applications in the EU; and

- Spectrum aspects of the EU Digital Single Market.

Key Messages on 5G were agreed in advance of the RSPG's second Opinion on 5G. (See Annex to this report.)

The RSPG also agreed to initiate work on a new work programme beginning in 2018 and discussed collaboration with BEREC.

The next meeting of the RSPG will take place on Tuesday 21st November 2017.

MEETING REPORT

(1) Introduction to RSPG #43

The RSPG Chairman, Philip Marnick (UK), opened the meeting.

The European Commission was represented by Anthony Whelan, Director for Electronic Communications Networks and Services, DG CONNECT.

(2) Update on Commission Initiatives

The European Commission introduced document RSPG17-020 "Commission activities related to spectrum policy since the last meeting". The Commission provided additional information regarding the state of play of the Commission proposal for a Directive establishing an Electronic Communications Code.

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

The Chair provided members with an oral report of the RSPG public stakeholder consultation meeting held in Paris on 31 March 2017, and on his engagement with the European Parliament on behalf of the RSPG. The Chair also confirmed that another stakeholder workshop will be held before the next Plenary (details to be confirmed).

(4) Election of RSPG Chair and Vice Chair

The RSPG Chair reminded members that the next RSPG plenary meeting in November (RSPG#44) will need to elect a new chair and vice chair and invited members to submit nominations for both posts one month prior to that meeting.

(5) RSPG Working Group on 5G

The co-rapporteur Bo Andersson (SE) introduced the progress report from the working group (RSPG17-021). The RSPG noted the progress made and thanked the working group for its efforts. Attached is a summary by the Chair of the "Key Messages" agreed by the Plenary to provide guidance to policymakers and industry while the second draft opinion on "Spectrum related aspects of next generation wireless systems (5G)" is being prepared.

(6) RSPG Working Group on WRC19

RSPG members were informed that no meeting of this working group had taken place since the last plenary meeting. The next meeting of the working group will take place in September.

(7) RSPG Working Group on PMSE

The rapporteur Franz Ziegelwanger (AT) introduced the progress report (RSPG17-023) noting that the working group had made progress in response to the European Commission's request for an RSPG Opinion on "a long-term strategy on spectrum requirements facing the future needs and use of wireless audio and video PMSE applications" (RSPG16-020). Following discussion, it was agreed that the draft opinion should be finalised by the working group with a view to publication for public consultation in due course.

(8) Good Offices

The co-rapporteurs Eric Fournier (FR) and Mindaugas Zilinskas (LT) introduced the progress report from the working group (RSPG17-025), and the results of the 2nd RSPG questionnaire on the 700MHz band (RSPG17-026). The RSPG noted the progress made and thanked the working group for its efforts. The RSPG thanked Italy in particular for the significant efforts made by the Italian administration to reduce interference from transmitters affecting neighbouring countries while noting the outstanding need for an update to Italy's FM plan.

The RSPG also agreed to update the 700MHz questionnaire immediately after Plenary, with inputs from RSPG member countries' authorities to be submitted by 15 September.

(9) RSPG working group on the Digital Single Market

The co-rapporteurs Aleksander Soltysik (PL) and Chris Woolford (UK) introduced a report from the working group dealing with the Digital Single Market (DSM) which included information on the RSPG "Peer Review Platform" and collaboration with BEREC. RSPG noted that a number of workshops are being planned under the Peer Review initiative, starting with Ireland and a joint workshop between Slovakia and the Czech Republic, to discuss specific spectrum awards by RSPG members. The DSM rapporteurs will develop an approach to these workshops with the aim of ensuring they improve the standard of spectrum awards across Europe.

(10) Future RSPG Work Programme

The RSPG agreed that a draft RSPG work programme for 2018 should be considered at the next RSPG meeting in November followed by a public consultation before adoption at the first meeting in 2018.

The next RSPG Plenary meeting (RSPG#44) will take place in Brussels on the 21st November 2017. RSPG meetings in 2018 will take place on 30th January, 5th June and 3rd October.

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RSPG Key Messages Concerning 5G

The RSPG has identified Europe's initial 5G bands: 3.4-3.8 GHz as the primary band, 24.25-27.5 GHz (i.e. the 26 GHz band) as the pioneer band; and recognised that 5G can be launched over existing EU harmonised bands, including bands below 1 GHz, e.g. 700 MHz.

The RSPG is preparing a second Opinion on 5G which will give strategic advice on spectrum policy questions including authorisation models. In the interim, in order to ensure timely advice is provided to policymakers and industry to inform the development of the 5G ecosystem, the RSPG has agreed these key messages.

The RSPG recognises:
- that 5G will enable the delivery of a diverse set of applications, going beyond the traditional mobile broadband market;
- that the use cases and future demand from different industry verticals are key drivers of 5G;
- that in the future, where 5G may play a significant role providing a wide range of communications services across different sectors, spectrum authorities may need to consider whether specific and/or increased allocations of spectrum for those services are still necessary;
- that spectrum above 24 GHz, including 26 GHz, has the potential to be accessed under different types of authorisation (i.e. individual licence and licence exempt); and
- that the spectrum above 24 GHz will most likely be used to provide additional capacity through the use of small cells and hot spots, and achieve an efficient deployment of ultra-dense networks where required, although other uses are also recognised.

The RSPG is therefore of the opinion that:
- In the context of the European Framework and national regulations already giving spectrum authorities the necessary tools to authorise spectrum access, spectrum regulators will need to have continued flexibility in the way they authorise spectrum access for 5G bands above 24 GHz, including the potential for spectrum access to be authorised at an appropriate local level (e.g. regional, city or hyper-local, e.g. for use in a factory) and /or under general authorisation framework. Member States will need to consider the most appropriate authorisation regime to meet their policy objectives;
- the concrete design of licence conditions such as coverage and rollout obligations will depend on national policy objectives and characteristics (i.e. population distribution, geographical morphology, industrial and societal needs) and therefore cannot be harmonised on an EU-level;
- Member States should progressively (in terms of radio frequencies, location and time) authorise access to the 24.25-27.5 GHz spectrum in specific areas, in response to local demand, thus regulatory flexibility for the release of this band will be necessary to facilitate an efficient introduction of 5G without having an unnecessary negative impact on existing uses, e.g. fixed links;

- opportunities for sharing should be addressed in the development of 5G. RSPG will work with CEPT, industry and standards bodies to encourage the identification of regulatory and technology based solutions to further enhance sharing; and
- Member States should assess the need for national actions that will enable an easier site authorisation and installation, in particular for small cells, in order to make timely 5G deployment possible.