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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND  
TECHNOLOGY

Electronic Communications Networks and Services  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
RSPG Secretariat

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**RSPG20-032 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Climate Change**

## **Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on “Climate Change”**

The RSPG Working Group on “Climate Change<sup>1</sup>” (hereinafter: SG) held two Webex meetings since the last RSPG plenary (23 June and 31 August). It held a workshop via Webex on 18 and 21 September, with a follow up debrief meeting on 21 September. The material for topics has been developed by email (The SG mailing list includes more than 40 subscribers).

### **1. Webex meetings**

The meetings since the last RSPG plenary have focused on improving the material for each topic. Over the summer the topics were collated into one complete text with slightly revised chapter titles. Before the summer break a group was formed to prepare for the workshop in September. The workshop agenda and collated text were presented to the subgroup meeting at the end of August. The workshop over 4 sessions across two days was successful in informing the work of the group. Stakeholders were also provided with a questionnaire and invited to provide written replies. Many presenters offered to be available to answer any further questions of the group by email. The work will continue on a report in advance of the next meetings on 22 and 29 October.

### **2. Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management**

The headings under which the SG is preparing its report include:

- Possible actions of the wireless sector to decrease the use of energy (in general) by wireless communications technologies
- Possibilities for wireless solutions to help sectors (other than communications) become more environmentally friendly
- Spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data.

The SG is considered a number of legal and administrative aspects in its report;

- The legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management.
- Possible issues associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.
- Possible administrative instruments for spectrum management and climate mitigation

### **3. Climate-related initiatives within the RSPG**

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1. Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change

In addition to the topics related to the points mentioned in the work programme, the SG is preparing a guidelines document on possible climate-related initiatives within the RSPG:

- Making the work of the RSPG more eco-friendly?
- Use of web meetings to lessen our ecological footprints?
- More eco-friendly physical meetings, at least in terms of travel.

#### **4. Online stakeholder workshop**

The SG held an online workshop on 18 and 21 September, in order to collect input for the topics from external stakeholders. The workshop was structured in four sessions, each of them devoted to a different topic and including presentations from the stakeholders and questions from the floor:

- Session 1: Climate mitigation within the wireless sector
- Session 2: Agriculture and energy
- Session 3: Smart cities and public transport
- Session 4: Spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data

The SG will take into account the information gathered from the external stakeholders in order to continue drafting the material for each topic.

#### **4. Next steps**

The next meeting will be a Webex meeting on 22 /29 October 2020, and the SG further plans to meet in November and December.

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
<b>Work item</b>	Climate change mitigation
<b>Rapporteur/s</b>	Robert Lindgaard, Danish Energy Agency, Rory Hinchy, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.
<b>Rationale</b>	<p><u>Rationale</u></p> <p>Radio spectrum is the basis for electronic communications and broadband, but also key to important areas like climate change. Climate change is one of the predominant topics in European Union policies. In her political guidelines, the new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has prioritised a ‘green deal’ stating: “I want Europe to strive for more by becoming the first climate-neutral continent”. The climate-neutral target for Europe is 2050. The RSPG shares the opinion that the fight against climate change and its negative consequences is of utmost importance. Therefore, the RSPG established a work item to focus on spectrum policy aspects which are closely related to the efforts of ensuring climate-neutrality.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p>Under the Climate Change work item, the RSPG will issue a debate within the Group, as well as with the relevant stakeholders, on how spectrum policy can help to combat climate change. To this end, questions that should be addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify climate change-related aspects within spectrum management;</li> <li>• How can spectrum management help to combat climate change?</li> <li>• What concrete actions should be recommended at EU-Level?</li> </ul>
<b>Planned deliverables and timing</b>	<p>RSPG Opinion(s) or Report(s) as seen appropriate. Public workshops</p> <p>Time schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report: January 2021</li> <li>• Opinion: October 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Analytical approach</b>	<p>Overall ambition for RSPG to communicate early about possible steps which can be taken to mitigate climate change in light of EU climate targets</p> <p>Identify the actions which could be taken to decrease greenhouse gas emissions of wireless systems.</p> <p>Assess how wireless solutions could help other sectors become more environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Identify spectrum usages relevant for monitoring climate change or gathering climate-related data and consider the need to protect these.</p> <p>Analyse the legal basis for overseeing climate protection measures in spectrum management.</p> <p>Identify administrative instruments for climate mitigation activities in</p>

	spectrum management.  Assess challenges associated with introducing climate protection aspects in spectrum management.
<b>Project plan</b>	Phase 1 – Information gathering Phase 2 – Analysis and assessment (including stakeholder engagement) Phase 3 – Review conclusions Phase 4 – Conclude and report
<b>Dependencies</b>	This work is linked to the RSPG work item on RSPP and WRC  .

**Members, stakeholders and resources**

Members	Austria, BMLRT CEPT, ECC and ECO Cyprus, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works Czech Republic, Czech Telecommunication Office Denmark, Danish Energy Agency EU, European Commission Finland, Ficora France, ANFR France, ARCEP France, Ministère des finances Germany, BNetzA Germany, BMVI BUND Greece, EETT Hungary, NMHH Ireland, DECC Italy, AGCOM Malta, MCA Norway, KMD Norway, NKOM Poland, Ministry of Digital Affairs Portugal, ANACOM Slovenia, AKOS Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, MinezK
Key stakeholders	Telecom operators Vertical industries Equipment suppliers
Other resources	

**Work flow (internal and external milestones)**

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2020			
2 April (Webex)	First meeting of work group – discuss scope and plan following new <i>RSPG Work Programme</i> and new work item on <i>Climate Change mitigation</i>	Work group	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action / deliverable</b>	<b>Internal Work group only</b>	<b>External Plenary, Publication</b>
6 May (Webex)	Second meeting of work group – discuss topics for inclusion in the report and identify contributors.	Work group	
2 June (Webex)	Third meeting of work group – discuss contributions received on topics.	Work group	
9 June	Progress of work presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
10 June (Webex)	Presentation at GSMA/RSPG roundtable.	Rapporteur	Roundtable participants
23 June	Fourth meeting of work group - further refine the text	Work group	
31 August	<i>- discussion on collated text and details of the workshop</i>	Work group	
18/21 September	Workshop with stakeholders	Work group Debriefing	Stakeholder workshop
7 October	Progress of work presented to Plenary. -	Rapporteur	Plenary,
22 and 29 October	Fifth meeting of work group	Work group	
November	Sixth meeting of work group	Work group	
December	Seventh meeting of work group	Work group	
<b>Year 2021</b>			
January	Progress of work presented to Plenary. - Report submitted for publication	Rapporteur	Plenary, Report submitted for publication
( )	meeting of work group –	Work group	
( )	meeting of the group	Work group	
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of work progress			