



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND  
TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 24 November 2021

**RSPG21-040 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 one Webex meeting since the last RSPG plenary (6 October), in order to revise the draft Opinion on the role of radio spectrum policy to help combat climate change based on the comments received during the public consultation. The group has also worked on the document by email correspondence (the SG mailing list includes more than 40 subscribers). The group presents the draft Opinion to the plenary for approval.

### **1. Webex meetings**

The October web-meeting focused on revising the Opinion text based on the public consultation responses. The SG reached consensus on most of the recommendations during the meeting and a couple of pending issues were subsequently solved by email correspondence.

### **2. Documents for approval by the RSPG**

The RSPG is invited to approve the Opinion on the role of radio spectrum policy to help combat climate change.

### **3. Next steps**

In the draft Work Programme for 2022 and beyond, the co-chairs provide a rationale for continuing the SG’s activity and propose two focus areas to work on. The concrete next steps will be defined based on the decision of the Plenary.

---

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

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 the Environment, Climate and Communications, Ireland
<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: June 2021</li> <li>• Opinion: November 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 green house 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 RSP 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 October	Fifth meeting of work group – commence work on RSPG contribution	Work group	
29 October	Sixth meeting of work group -	Work group	
24 November	Seventh meeting of work group	Work group	
14 December	Eighth meeting of work group – agree consultations questionnaire	Work group	
<b>Year 2021</b>			
1 February	Ninth meeting of work group – consider a contribution to the connectivity toolbox discussion	Work group	
10 February	Progress of work presented to Plenary. -	Rapporteur	Plenary
26 February	Tenth meeting of work group – further improvement of the topic texts	Work group	
9 April	Eleventh meeting of the work group – review of consolidated text for the draft Report. Discussion of the timeline for the remaining work.	Work group	
11 May	Twelfth meeting of the work group – review of amended draft Report and preparations to finalise the Report. Commencement of the consideration of the draft Opinion.	Work Group	
21 May	Thirteenth meeting of the work group – improvement of the draft Opinion.	Work Group	
26 May	Fourteenth meeting of the work group – preparations to finalise and endorse the draft Opinion prior to public consultation for delivery to RSPG plenary. Endorsement of the draft Report for the RSPG Plenary.	Work Group	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action / deliverable</b>	<b>Internal Work group only</b>	<b>External Plenary, Publication</b>
16 June	Progress of work presented to Plenary. - Draft Report and Draft Opinion for Public Consultation	Rapporteur	Plenary
6 October	Fifteenth meeting of the work group – Review of public consultation responses to the draft Opinion	Work Group	
24 November	Progress of work presented to Plenary	Rapporteur	Plenary
Future dates and actions to be decided in light of Decisions of the RSPG Plenary			