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Digital Decade and Connectivity Radio Spectrum Policy Group RSPG Secretariat

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RSPG25-019 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-group on Strategic Spectrum Matters

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The RSPG sub-group on 'Strategic Spectrum Matters' has finalised its work on the response to the Request for an Opinion on the EU-level policy approach to satellite Direct-to-Device connectivity and related Single Market issues (RSPG25-020) and are now submitting the draft Opinion to the RSPG for approval.

Members of this sub-group include around 100 representatives from 19 Members States, Norway, Montenegro, Türkiye, Ukraine and the European Commission.

Since the last RSPG plenary,

- A public consultation on the draft version of this Opinion (RSPG25-008final) was held from 14 February to 28 March 2025
- the sub-group met remotely (12 May 2025) in order to address comments from public consultation and to improve the draft Opinion accordingly. Further to this meeting, the draft Opinion has been slightly improved by correspondence including editorially.

Thanks to sub-group members who actively contributed to this work

As a result of this process, the sub-group achieved the target of the RSPG Work Program. A final Opinion is submitted to this plenary for approval for publication.

1. Responses to public consultation

In all 34 responses were received, whereof five were submitted as confidential. All contributions have been made available to Members of the sub-group on the Circa website in a short time frame further to the end of public consultation and around one months prior the sub group May meeting. Thanks to the RSPG secretariat for having managed this process in a short time frame.

Further to consultation of the sub-group, it is proposed to make publicly available the non-confidential replies to this public consultation on the RSPG circa web site.

For more information on the public consultation responses see the RSPG website, https://radio-spectrum-policy-group.ec.europa.eu/consultations-0 en.

2. From draft to final Opinion

Concerning the comments received, the sub-group during its May meeting agreed to follow the same approach as previous Opinions and to focus only on any update needed on the draft Opinion. Moreover, the sub-group noted that the scope, analysis and recommendations submitted to public consultation have been very largely supported during the public consultation.

In consequence, the scope remains unchanged. The sub-group agreed on slight improvements on the draft Opinion:

- Relevant information on the public consultation process have been added
- On D2D MES, a reference to some satellite operators has been removed
- Two new sections have been added:
 - In addition to AI 1.13 (D2D in IMT-bands), on the need for RSPG to consider possible follow-up action based on WRC-27 results on AI 1.12 (Low Data Rate MSS) and AI 1.14 (additional MSS allocation) regarding any need for European harmonisation and any follow-up action, as appropriate
 - o Issues beyond the responsibilities of the RSPG such as resilience, emergency communications or competition issues raised during the pubic consultation have been highlighted.

Finally, concerning access to EU market, the sub-group improved the recommendation on collective reactions to a non-compliance to common requirements in order to clarify the main steps of procedures and possible contributions of RSPG in it.

Further to these improvements, the final Opinion has been stabilised including with some editorial updates.

In consequence, it is proposed to approve for publication the final Opinion submitted to this meeting (RSPG25-020).

Before approving the final Opinion and regarding D2D-IMT, Member States are invited to inform the meeting in case of an application for providing commercial services under assessment for national authorisation. If this is the case, the following text shall updated as appropriate "Regarding D2D-IMT no application for providing commercial services has been requested in EU Member States yet. Early tests and trials are requested and handled under test and trial schemes on national basis." (section 2.2)

It shall be noted that further investigation is needed on how to implement relevant recommendations when addressing the review of the EECC and how to further engage the RSPG in these topics.

3. Informal contact with BEREC

Further to informal interactions with BEREC representatives, members of the subgroup have been invited to attend a BEREC internal workshop on D2D on May 28. Further BEREC workshops on this topic are planned during the next months and relevant invitations will be circulated to sub-group members.

4. Presentation of the final Opinion to stakeholders and BEREC

This Opinion will be presented during the next European spectrum management conference 18-19 June, at the D2D Forum on 1 July and in a future BEREC Workshop as appropriate.

The RSPG plenary is invited to

- note the progress of the work
- adopt the Opinion for publication¹ (RSPG25-020)
- agree to make all non-confidential replies to the public consultation publicly available on the RSPG Circa web site

The previous RSPG already agreed to make all replies to the internal questionnaire publicly available on the RSPG Circa web site.

Co-chairs

Didier Chauveau, Jonas Wessel

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¹ Subject to confirmation that no application for providing commercial services has been requested in EU Member States yet. Otherwise, the relevant text of the Opinion should be updated prior approval