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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on RSPP

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Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on RSPP

The RSPG Sub Group on RSPP (hereinafter: SG) held two online meetings since the last RSPG plenary (24 June and 16 September 2020). The SG mailing list includes around 50 subscribers. Participation in meetings has been high, even though the online format limits meeting dynamics normally found in face-to-face meetings.

1. Overview of SG progress during last months

The skeleton of the draft Opinion based on five pillars as was confirmed by the last RSPG plenary has been stabilised. The five pillars are *strategic spectrum issues*, *spectrum needs*, *spectrum governance*, *external relations* and *other strategic topics*. Names of the pillars are potentially subject to change to reflect the direction of recommendations.

The June SG meeting reviewed the Council position on **Commission Initiative on ‘shaping Europe's digital future¹’** and focused its analysis on **‘external relations’** and **‘other strategic topics’**.

Further to this meeting a call for drafters was launched in order to progress on drafting of relevant pillars based on initial discussions. Co-rapporteurs thanked the MS representative who responded positively and provided support on drafting a text on ‘external relations’. Co-rapporteurs drafted texts on ‘spectrum governance’ and ‘others strategic topics’. Work focused on developing these three pillars during summer period.

Prior to the September SG meeting, the three texts were circulated. Comments received contributed to improved texts on **‘spectrum governance’**; **‘external relations’** and **‘other strategic topics’**.

- The analysis has been stabilised on ‘external relations’.
- Comments triggered questions on “spectrum governance” issues: coordinated timing to allow use of EU harmonised spectrum, others EU spectrum policies, supporting implementation of new RSPP, standardisation and on “other strategic topics” on pandemic recovery which have been addressed during the September meeting. Common views have been identified on those issues excepted on standardisation which needs further consideration. Analysis will be refined prior next meeting based on comments received.

EC informed the SG on publication on EC recommendation on ” *on a common Union toolbox for reducing the cost of deploying very high capacity networks and ensuring timely and investment-friendly access to 5G radio spectrum, to foster connectivity in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the Union*”²

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_273

² C(2020) 6270 final

Further to the last meeting, SG members have been invited to comment on strategic issues to be addressed by these three pillars. Based on input and analysis, the next step will be to focus and develop recommendations for the draft Opinion.

No drafting activity has been launched on two pillars: ‘strategic spectrum issues’, ‘strategic spectrum needs’. A call for drafters has been launched, if none will step forward the co-rapporteurs will take on board the tasks.

2. Inputs on “Climate Change”, “Sharing” and “Additional Spectrum needs”

In order to avoid duplication of tasks, informal exchanges took place with SG co-rapporteurs on “Climate Change”, “Sharing” and “Additional Spectrum needs” in order to assess if those SG could propose recommendations for the RSPP Opinion.

In order to include recommendations in the draft Opinion, any recommendations from those SG should be received before end of November 2020.

3. Interactions with stakeholders

We contributed to RSPG - GSMA workshop and reported on discussion to the SG June meeting.

During summer, EDA shows interest on our work in response to “opportunities for coordination between civilian and military use of spectrum to ensure innovation and improve spectrum efficiency” in response to request of Opinion. We provided feedback on current progress on spectrum governance, informed EDA of our planned workshop on RSPP and our intention to invite them to attend.

New Chair of the Digital Europe Spectrum Group approached us in order to cooperate to the drafting of Opinion. We invited Digital Europe to be part of planned workshop on RSPP.

We received information from 5GAA which have been shared with SG and addressed at last SG meeting.

At their invitation, we interacted with members of GSMA spectrum group by end of September.

Finally, SG confirmed the need for a workshop which will be held 15 October. It will be an opportunities to collect views on strategic spectrum issues, strategic spectrum needs and others topics to be addressed by new RSPP. Progress on governance, external relations and other strategic issues will be presented.

4. Next steps

In order to finalise the draft Opinion for public consultation in time for our next plenary meeting, the SG will focus on strategic recommendation for new RSPP.

- **RSPG workshop on RSPP** 15 October (pm)
- **SG web meetings** : 16 October (am), 10 November (pm), 16 December (pm), (meeting date to be confirmed in January 2021)

5. Issues to be considered by RSPG

RSPG should take note on the following:

- Web-meetings only are reducing strategic informal exchanges between MS and with stakeholders.
- SG made progress on the following three pillars: '**spectrum governance**'; '**external relations**' and '**other strategic topics**'. Next steps should be to focus and develop recommendations for the draft Opinion on RSPP.
- Drafting is still to be launched on 'strategic spectrum issues' and 'strategic spectrum needs'.

RSPG plenary should confirm the timing to deliver the draft Opinion for public consultation and the objective to focus on strategic recommendations.

In order to ensure that proposals are considered in time for finalization of the draft Opinion, **any proposals from RSPG SG on “Climate Change”, “Sharing” and “Additional Spectrum needs” on new RSPP should be made available to RSPP SG before end of November 2020. RSPG plenary should confirm this deadline.**

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Co-rapporteurs