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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

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COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 53rd meeting of the RSPG on 07 October 2020 (RSPG#53). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

On 15 January, the Commission (joint letter by Commissioners Breton and Kyriakides) replied to the letter by 15 Member States on EMF where they sought support from the Commission to establish a coordinated approach on combating disinformation related to 5G networks, increasing awareness, and providing trusted information to EU citizens on the potential health risks related to the exposure to electromagnetic field radiation (EMF).

The Commissioners welcomed the above initiative of the MS, noted the importance of the recent Connectivity Toolbox on collecting and agreeing on joint common practices in Europe on connectivity matters including on EMF, and highlighted initiatives in the field led at EU level. Such initiatives notably include a communication (promoting 5G and fighting disinformation) campaign, the continuous update of the scientific knowledge base in the field, the importance to establish field-measurements informing citizens on their level of exposure at any time on EMF and this compares to the limits, and the exploration of possibilities to make national and EU funding programmes for 5G, e.g. CEF, better linked to the demonstration of compliance with EMF exposure limits.

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission is finalising a study on EMF where notably the statistical correlation between the spread of mobile communications and diseases like cancer was studied. The conclusion based on today's data is that no such correlation can be established.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#53, there has been two meetings of the Radio Spectrum Committee, RSC#72 on 14 October 2020 and RSC#73 on 9 and 10 December 2020, with the following outcomes:

MCA

At RSC#72, the updated draft of a Mandate to CEPT on MCA (*RSCOM20-22 rev.2*) was presented to the Committee. The Mandate aimed to update for the third time Decision 2008/294/EC by introducing 5G technology and evaluating the possibility to make the Network Control Unit optional on board MCA equipped aircraft. Document RSCOM20-22 rev.2, which included most of the observations previously made by Member States, was widely accepted by the plenary and, after a very small editorial, no more observations were made. RSCOM20-22 rev.3 was subsequently adopted by written procedure and transmitted to the CEPT.

6 GHz RLAN

At RSC#73, the Commission presented draft elements (*RSCOM20-42*) for a Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5945-6425 MHz frequency band for the implementation of wireless access systems including radio local area networks (WAS/RLANs). The proposed draft elements are based on the CEPT response to Commission Mandate on WAS/RLANs at 6 GHz. The Committee reached a stable draft (on the substance) of the Implementing Decision (*RSCOM20-42rev2*). After completing internal preparations, it is planned that the Committee's regulatory opinion will be requested by written procedure just after the next meeting in March 2021.

RMR/FRMCS

The Commission submitted for discussion first elements of an Implementing Decision on Railway Mobile Radio (RMR) (*RSCOM20-44*) in view of the introduction of the Future Rail Mobile Communication System (FRMCS). As a result of the *tour de table*, the Commission will consider the comments made by the Member States which noted diverse national situations including in some Member States no railway system at all, use of public mobile

operators for the provision of RMR services, and the non-availability of parts the 874.4-876 MHz and 919.4-921 MHz bands due to defence applications. At the same time the importance of interoperability was highlighted in the discussion. Member States were invited to submit their observations in writing before 15 January 2021.

ETSI – update on ITS

ETSI provided an update on its works concerning co-existence of road-ITS technologies in the 5.9 GHz (ITS-safety) band. A possible date for the finalisation of the ETSI works is currently estimated somewhere between summer 2022 and summer 2023 while the cooperative atmosphere of discussions among competing industries was also stressed. The chair thanked ETSI on behalf of the RSC and encouraged them to successfully and timely finalise their works on the above subject.

Interference from 5 GHz WAS/RLANs to meteorological radars

The Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented preliminary findings of the study on coexistence between WAS/RLANs and meteorological radars operating in the 5250-5850 MHz band (*RSCOM20-50*). The study is still at an early stage, therefore an initial analysis of outstanding issues and an overview of reference documents were given. One of the ideas brought forward by the JRC was to organise a workshop on the market surveillance for WAS/RLAN radio equipment operating at 5 GHz with the participation of relevant stakeholders and to conduct an experimental study on Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS). The Member States welcomed these initiatives.

The next RSC meeting (RSC#74) is scheduled for 9 & 10 March 2021.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A third stakeholder workshop in the context of the 5G observatory is planned for Q2/2021. The exact date is still to be determined.
