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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
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Digital Decade and Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

25th Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-group on Peer Review and Member State cooperation

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The RSPG at its Meeting #63 (hybrid, 7th February 2024) approved the 24th Progress Report of the RSPG sub-group on Peer Review and Member State cooperation (Peer Review sub-group).

I. PEER REVIEW FORUM

Since the last RSPG Plenary, the Group has not received any request to convey a voluntary Peer Review Forum on the basis of Article 35 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC).

II. NOTIFICATIONS

The Group has received one notification by Member States without the request for conveying a Peer Review Forum.

Cyprus – 4th April 2024 on a selection procedure in order to assign the rights of use of spectrum band 2100 MHz (1965 MHz – 1980 MHz / 2155 MHz – 2170 MHz). The Public consultation started on 22nd March 2024 and ran until 19th April 2024. Call for Application to the Contest (Auction) for the Authorisation of the Frequency Band 2100 MHz has been published on 31st May 2024: https://dec.dmrid.gov.cy/dmrid/dec/ws_dec.nsf/All/E4FD5128042EF521C2258B2E002E0E0F?OpenDocument&highlight=2100 . The deadline for submission of applications is on the 25th June 2024, at 11:00 am.

III. INFORMATION ABOUT AWARDS

The Netherlands has started the 3.5 GHz auction procedure on February 15th, 2024. On June 24th, 2021, The Netherlands presented the draft auction plans already to the Peer Review Forum and had a fruitful discussion. However, shortly after this meeting, the auction was halted due to a legal procedure. The judge ruled in 2021 that maritime safety services by satellite operator Inmarsat, for which 3.5 GHz frequencies were used, had to be protected and safeguarded. This led to a substantial delay in making the 3.5 GHz frequencies available for mobile services. A solution was found late last year (Inmarsat has relocated its services to Greece) which enables the Dutch government to now move forward. The auction is planned to be held in June/July this year and the frequencies to be used from August 1st, 2024. The auction format has not changed compared to the earlier plans presented in 2021.

IV. SUB-GROUP MEETING

The sub-group has held 3 online meetings since the last RSPG plenary meeting, i.e. on 30th April 2024, 7th May 2024 and 27th May 2024.

The discussed topics

RSPG Peer Review sub-group function/mission

According to the RSPG Work Program the scope of the sub-group is:

- the formalised processes (Peer Review Forum) according to Article 35 EECC,
- facilitate peer learning between Member States on spectrum awards and authorisation (Award workshops),
- stakeholder workshops.

The Peer Review sub-group has been looking at possible ways to increase efficiency and transparency.

The Peer Review sub-group is currently working to identify areas where the Member States can learn from each other by sharing their experiences, such as Climate Change related actions on national level, or the impact of the previous obligation regimes on the current coverage situation and evaluation of past awards.

An event on Climate Change organized by France is planned in October 2024.

Furthermore, a proposal was made to collect best practices of 5G broadcast/5G WBB unicast testing in Member States and cross-border projects between Member States. Negotiation on format has started.

To increase transparency and inform stakeholders about notifications/Peer Reviews Forums, the sub-group agreed the format of publication of Article 35 notifications and Peer Review Forum. The relevant information on Member States' and EEA EFTA countries' notifications pursuant to Article 35(1) and 23(2) EECC will be published on RSPG website (see the annex).

There is also possibility under the Work Programme 2024-2025 to issue interim reports according to Article 35 (8) EECC, as appropriate, to increase the transparency. Since only one notification was received and there has not been any Peer Review Forum since the last RSPG Plenary, the sub-group agreed that there is no need for issuing an Interim report on EECC actions.

White Paper

At the request of the Strategic Spectrum Matters sub-group, the Peer Review sub-group addressed some of the elements in the White Paper concerning peer review. The Peer Review sub-group proposal has been used by the Strategic Spectrum Matters sub-group.

Document management

At the last RSPG Plenary, the RSPG Secretariat raised the issue of circabc space "Peer Review Platform" (<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/73b6025e-397c-421c-8cdb-45a9ccee569>). It is no longer in use.

New space was created when the EECC came into force: “Procedures under Article 35 of the EECC” <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/002d51d0-74f3-465f-ba52-f1627e1e33b4>

The parallel spaces at CIRCA can create a confusion.

At the RSPG plenary meeting, it was decided the Peer Review sub-group should discuss how to proceed.

The RSPG Secretariat offered to create an archive folder in the “Procedures under Article 35 of the EECC” space and move all the files there.

It was agreed to first, sort out the accesses, so that all members of the Peer Review sub-group have access to the old library space. Member States should check the documents listed under their names. After all it is possible to take a decision.

Next meeting

24th June 2024 at 13.00 (CET)

Annex

Article 35 Notifications and Peer Review Forum

On this website, the relevant information on Member States' and EEA EFTA countries' notifications pursuant to Article 35(1) and 23(2) of the [Code](#) is published.

If a Member State or an EEA EFTA country requests the RSPG to convene a Peer Review Forum (PRF), (i) relevant PRF meeting date will be published as soon as it is confirmed; (ii) the information concerning the participants will be published after the relevant PRF meeting, and (iii) the PRF interim report will be published after its adoption at the following RSPG plenary meeting.

NOTIFICATION					PRF	
Date	Member State/ EEA EFTA countries	Frequency Bands	Additional information	PRF Request (Y/N)	Date of PRF	PRF information
XX/XX/20XX	XX	XX	Public consultation: <i>{link}</i> Other information: <i>{link}</i>		XX/XX/20XX	Number of participants: Participating Member States and EEA EFTA countries: <i>{link}</i> Interim Report: <i>{link}</i> Other information: <i>{link}</i>