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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

8th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on cross-border coordination

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The Working Group has held two meetings during the RPSG meeting (12th November) and RSCOM meeting (9th December).

The Working Group is focusing on the cross-border coordination and interference issues between Italy and neighbouring countries and on the implementation of the Decreto-Legge n°145, a compensation scheme for regional DTT broadcasters which will switch-off the stations which are interfering neighbouring countries.

Italy has informed RSPG about the delay on its implementation initially planned for the end of 2014. The 2015 Italian Budget Law published on the Italian O.J. of the 29th of December 2014 modifies the Decreto-Legge 145 :

- 1) The date for the S.O of the interfering frequencies is now the 30th of April 2015
- 2) The overall compensation budget has been increased from 20 M€ to 51 M€

It has to be reminded that the application of the Decreto-Legge will not address:

- Interferences cases notified after December 2013
- Interferences from national broadcasters
- Plan for new multiplex in neighbouring countries
- FM broadcasting

These issues will be further addressed in future meetings of the RSPG WG.

The application of the Decreto-Legge will notably enable to clear up the channel 43 on the south of Sicily so as to ensure interference-free environment for Malta, which will use this channel as a replacement of channel 66, as previously agreed. Malta is currently carrying out the GE-06 procedure for recording channel 43 and has requested the assistance of EU, to facilitate reaching the agreement from countries outside EU, in particular Tunisia.

Furthermore, the group decided to start addressing the issue of FM broadcasting interference. All administrations neighbouring Italy have listed the substantial issues they are facing and Italy has committed in establishing the solutions consisting into change of sites, change of channels, reduction of power or change of antenna, as appropriate. The situation will be reviewed by the group.

Next meeting

Ad-hoc meeting of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination is planned during lunch time of this RSPG meeting.

ANNEX

**REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC MEETING
OF THE RSPG WG ON CROSS BORDER COORDINATION
9th December 2014**

1. Report from Italy on the implementation of Decreto Legge n°145

Italy confirmed that there is no change on the revised plan presented at the previous meeting for switching off interfering local broadcasting stations.

The budget law, which includes the postponement until end of April and the fund budget increase has been adopted by the parliament and is expected to be adopted by the senate mid-December.

The law also now includes guidance to AGCOM and ministry to alleviate the loss of coverage for local broadcasters. Some new channels will be assigned by the ministry to “local network operator”. The content providers selected by the ministry will have the obligation to use this local network for broadcasting. The structure of the network could be from local to larger SFN.

2. Other elements concerning the interference cases**a. FM Interference**

In response to the action point from the previous meeting, Slovenia, Croatia, France and Malta listed cases of interference to FM broadcasting from Italy.

Slovenia highlighted that only “priority” cases have been listed.

Italy provided during the meeting the solutions proposed to solve the interference to the list from Slovenia. It consists into change of sites, change of channels, reduction of power or change of antenna, as appropriate.

These solutions will be provided immediately after the meeting to the Slovenian administration.

Action Point : Slovenia to analyze the new plan from Italy and to check whether this will provide sufficient protection.

Action Point : before 25th January, Italy to propose solutions to interference cases reported from Croatia, Malta and France.

b. TV interference from Monte Serra

Concerning the use of Channel 34 from Monte Serra, Italy provided the new project which will apply until the final judgment from the court. France noted that, in spite of this new project, there will still be an interfering field strength on the north of Corsica.

3. Situation concerning the replacement of channel 66 by channel 43 in Malta

Some contacts have been established between EU and Tunisia administration through the EU Delegation and through the association agreement between EU and Tunisia.

Malta did not receive any new information from Tunisia.

Next meeting

Ad-hoc meetings of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination will be organized during the RSPG meeting, lunch time, on 19th February.