Reply from Finland to the public consultation on the Draft RSPG Opinion on spectrum related aspects for next-generations wireless systems (5G)

Finland supports the draft opinion and sees the importance of this roadmap to facilitate the early launch of 5G services on a large scale in Europe by 2020.

Finland agrees that the frequency band 3400-3800 MHz should be the primary band for the introduction of 5G use in Europe before year 2020. However Finland is of the opinion that the frequency band 3800-4200 MHz should also be considered for 5G deployments allowing additional flexibility and possibilities for Member States.

For nationwide networks and indoor coverage it is important that 5G will also be deployed in bands already harmonised for mobile networks below 1 GHz. We do not see the need to promote especially 700 MHz frequency band for 5G, since Finland is already in the process to allow mobile broadband services in this band in the beginning of 2017.

Additional flexibility for Member States should also be promoted by considering the use of lower UHF band 470-694 MHz for mobile networks based on the national demand. This use could provide additional platform to provide audiovisual media content to the end users.

Based on the comments above, the proposed changes to initial Draft Opinion itself are shown with revision marks, see Annex.

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ANNEX

2 The opinion of the RSPG on the strategic roadmap towards 5G for Europe

This roadmap has been developed to facilitate the launch of 5G on a large scale in Europe by 2020. The goal is that the benefits of 5G-based services are available to all European citizens in a timely manner, driving industrial and societal transformation and economic growth in Europe from 2020 and beyond.

1. The RSPG considers the 3400-3800 MHz band to be the primary band suitable for the introduction of 5G use in Europe even before 2020, noting that this band is already harmonised for mobile networks, and consists of up to 400 MHz of continuous spectrum enabling wide channel bandwidth. This band has the possibility to put Europe at the forefront of the 5G deployment. In addition the 3800-4200 MHz band should also be considered for 5G deployment.

2. The RSPG is of the opinion that 5G will need to be deployed also in bands already harmonised for mobile networks below 1 GHz, ~~including particularly the 700 MHz band~~ in order to enable nationwide and indoor 5G coverage. At a later stage, also lower UHF band 470-694 MHz should be considered for 5G.

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