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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

10th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on cross-border coordination

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The Working Group has held one meeting during the RPSG meeting (11th June).

The Working Group is focusing on the cross-border coordination and interference issues between Italy and neighbouring countries.

The Working Group discussed the implementation of the Decreto-Legge n°145, a compensation scheme for regional DTT broadcasters to switch-off the stations which are interfering neighbouring countries.

A request from the Ministry to AGCOM to investigate the possibility to modify the planning characteristics used in the Plan published on 25th June has further delayed the planned implementation and it appears now that the results of the implementation of the compensation scheme **cannot be fully effective for neighbouring countries before April 2016.**

The Working Group **expressed its strong concerns against this new delay of more than 4 months and about the ever-lasting interference to neighbouring countries.**

The initial plan was to complete the process:

- before December 2014,
- with a first delay announced up to April 2015
- and a second delay up to the end of 2015.

The group decided to ask further guidance from the Plenary in this respect.

Further information on the work of the group, including about the situation for channel 43, which will be used by Malta to replace the channel used for TV in the 800 MHz band, and about specific TV and FM interference situation around Italy.

Next meeting

Ad-hoc meetings of the RSPG WG on cross-border coordination will be organized during the RSCOM meeting, lunch time, on 9th December.

ANNEX

**REPORT FROM THE AD-HOC MEETING
OF THE RSPG WG ON CROSS BORDER COORDINATION
7th October 2015**

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

Italy informed the group that the implementation of Decreto Legge n°145 has been postponed, ie the process has not started in July as initially planned. The reason is that the Ministry requested AGCOM to investigate the possibility to modify the planning characteristics used in the Plan published on 25th June so as to improve the frequency reuse. This is in relation with the need of the Ministry to explore any possibilities to plan for further coordinated resources for local operators.

AGCOM Council is expected to provide an evaluation of this request at its meeting on 16th October:

- If the Council accepts this request, AGCOM will need to modify the Plan using the new assumed characteristics, which will take a few weeks.
- The Agcom Council output will be opportunely evaluated from Ministry side.

Then, the process, as described by Italy at the previous meeting, will require about 5 months to be completed:

- One month for broadcasters to present their requests
- 15-30 days for the ministry of economic development to proceed with the analysis and publish the results.
- Three months for broadcasters to switch-off the interfering transmissions

Therefore, the results of the implementation of the compensation scheme will not be fully effective for neighbouring countries before April 2016.

The group expressed its strong concerns against this new delay of more than 4 months and about the ever-lasting interference to neighbouring countries. The group reminded that the initial plan was to complete the process before December 2014, with a first delay announced up to April 2015 and then up to the end of 2015. The group decided that such a situation should be reported to RSPG next week for further guidance.

Action point: Italy to inform the group immediately about the decision of the AGCOM Council and subsequent actions from AGCOM and ministry.

2. Report from Malta on channel 43

Malta informed the group of a response it received from Tunisia giving its agreement on the use by Malta of channel 43, however, with restrictive technical conditions. These conditions are being analysed by Malta in order to decide whether to accept it.

Malta reminded the group that they will not migrate from channel 66 to channel 43 and not give authorisations to operators in the 800 MHz band before this migration can be carried out (ie, no more interference from south of Sicilia).

The Commission asked whether the implementation of the Decreto Legge may be accelerated in this region to solve the particular issue of Malta, taking into account their obligations under the RSPP decision.

Action point: Malta to inform the group about the response which will be given to Tunisia.

Action point: Italy to consider a fast-track approach for freeing up channel 43 in the south of Sicilia.

3. TV interference from Italy to neighbouring countries

Slovenia complained about the important increase of interference on channel 22 from Trieste. The situation had improved in the past and a new transmitter near Trieste seems to have been switched on recently, causing interference to tens of thousands of households.

Action point: Italy to control urgently the compliance of the interfering station with its authorization and to ensure that its power is reduced back to the previous situation

France informed the group that the interference on channel 34 and 37 from Liguria to Corse (Ile-Rousse) has not been solved. France expressed doubts about claims from Italy that the interfering station (Venti di Pedona) is transmitting only 100 W since, even under 1% of the time, the interfering field strength would be 25 dB below what is effectively measured.

Action point: Italy to verify the compliance of the interfering stations with the 100 W characteristic and to send to France evidence about this investigation

Malta complained about an increase of the interfering field strength on channel 38 from west of Sicilia.

Action point: Italy to identify the source of interference on channel 38, in cooperation with Malta, and to ensure that the interference will cease.

4. FM Interference

The group discussed the measurement made by Italy showing that there is limited spectrum available for Italy at the Slovenian border, with a better situation at the Croatian border and the measurement made by Slovenia showing the interference from Italy on Slovenian channels. Slovenia noted that the “spectrum available view”

does not show all Italian non-coordinated stations occupying the spectrum near the border and causing harmful interference which are not solved in spite of all Slovenian complains.

It is recognized that Slovenia and Croatia are transmitting according to their rights in GE-84. However, Italy claims that the situation is now unbalanced.

The group concluded again that this issue demonstrates the need to have an FM broadcasting plan in Italy, which could be properly coordinated with Slovenia and other neighbouring countries. If Slovenia has confidence that interference will cease, spectrum optimization would be possible. If Italy considers the situation is unbalanced, they have to discuss it in a bilateral coordination meeting.

Action point: Italy and Slovenia to provide to the group the documents presented during the meeting.

Malta also indicated that there were no improvements to the harmful interference situation on its GE84 channels. Malta requested once again Italy to address these problems which were being caused by FM stations transmitting on Malta's GE84 registered frequencies from Sicily.

Next meeting

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