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TECHNOLOGY

Digital Decade and Connectivity  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
**RSPG Secretariat**

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**RSPG24-022 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Progress Report of the RSPG Sub Group on Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU**

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1. The RSPG Working Group on “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” (hereafter: the **UHF SG**) started to work on its assigned tasks, holding two meetings:
  - Meeting #1, kickoff, on 24 April 2024, virtual;
  - Meeting #2, on 21 May 2024, virtual;
2. Two more meeting are already scheduled:
  - Meeting #3, on 13 June 2024, virtual;
  - Meeting #4, on 10 July 2024, virtual;
3. The participants registered in the **UHF SG** represent the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Representatives from Montenegro, Norway and Ukraine<sup>1</sup>, as well as representatives of the European Commission and CEPT/ECO are also registered.
4. During the kick-off meeting, the contents of the Work Item and the expected outcome, which will be a Report, were briefly reviewed and an initial timeline was agreed upon. The agreed work plan includes a questionnaire and a workshop, according to this schedule:
  - the Questionnaire is the target for the remainder of 2024;
  - the Workshop will be the target to be completed in the first part of 2025;
  - the Report will be the final target, with a draft scheduled for June 2025 and the final version for October 2025 (dates as per the RSPG Work Programme).
5. With regard to the questionnaire, the **UHF SG** identified the various categories of stakeholders to whom it should be addressed. Four broad classes were defined: content providers, network providers, regulators, end-users (further split in “spectrum end-users” and “service end-users”).
6. The questionnaire will have some general questions, addressed to all stakeholders; then specific questions for each of the above classes. In addition, the questions will try to cover three different time horizons: the current situation, the vision of the near and already planned future, and the vision of the more distant future (the 2030-2040 decade). In any case, the questionnaire will be published as a single document, so everyone will be free to answer the questions they are interested in, even regardless of their class.
7. The **UHF SG** has been working offline to prepare the questions, divided according to the classes mentioned above, with the essential contribution of a few people who have volunteered as coordinators and to whom sincere thanks are due for their efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> We report the practical impossibility of reaching representatives of Ukraine by email: messages sent by the chairman Umberto Mascia (email: umberto.mascia@mise.gov.it) are rejected with the error message *Sender address rejected: Domain not found*.

8. The already scheduled meetings in June and July are aimed at consolidating the text of the questionnaire for subsequent publication.
9. The **UHF SG** has also taken steps to prepare a list of stakeholders to be contacted to invite them to fill out the questionnaire. The aim of this task is to reach as broad and representative an audience as possible, including those entities that do not usually follow RSPG activities.
10. No material is submitted to the Plenary for approval at this stage.

<b>RSPG work item: update to Plenary</b>	
<b>Work item</b>	Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU
<b>Rapporteur/s</b>	Andreas Agius, Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, Greece Umberto Mascia, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The RSPG in its “Opinion on the strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030” contributed with a strategic vision for sub-700 MHz spectrum use, exploring the potential of the flexibility defined in Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2017/899 and at the same time the current implementation constraints, and identifying some possible scenarios beyond 2030. It is considered as the background for the report on the usage of sub-700 MHz required by the Decision (EU) 2017/899 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union.</p> <p>The RSPG noted that the evolution of UHF band broadcasting reception during the current decade, including factors such as the number of programs, the content format and technological advancements (T2, HEVC, 5G Broadcast) plays an important role in shaping any timeline post 2030. The RSPG considers that any later EU choice or decision on the European legal framework in this band will take due account of the needs of the Member States, respecting the flexibility offered by the ITU Radio Regulations in the use of spectrum.</p> <p>A notable finding of the Opinion is the recognition of the possibility that in the next decade, 2030-2040, a single scenario may not be applicable to all Member States. In order to continue the work undertaken with the above-mentioned Opinion, the RSPG considers that there is added value in exploring how different scenarios can coexist in EU.</p> <p>Further, the RSPG recognises the role of the PMSE and the need to preserve sufficient spectrum for PMSE needs, particularly audio-PMSE which make extensive use of the sub-700 MHz band, including for the long-term development.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p>The RSPG should continue to monitor EU Member States initiatives on the future usage in their frequency band 470-694 MHz.</p> <p>In consequence, based on its recent Opinion on UHF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The RSPG should carry out an assessment of the prospects for the use of the sub-700 MHz band in the decade 2030-2040 by the different Member States, seeking information from relevant institutional stakeholders.</li> <li>2. RSPG should also collect lessons from early initiatives from Member States introducing other usages than broadcasting to address audio PMSE long term developments in order to preserve sufficient spectrum for audio PMSE needs, taking also into account the transition of audio PMSE towards new spectrum efficient technologies.</li> </ol> <p>The RSPG also should gather information from industry stakeholders on expected technological developments in both mobile and broadcasting platforms.</p>

<b>Planned deliverables and timing</b>	RSPG Report on the future usage of sub – 700 MHz band in the EU. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Report for public consultation: June 2025</li><li>• Final Report: October 2025</li></ul> RSPG Questionnaire/workshops as appropriate.
<b>Project plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Step 1: Questionnaire. To be completed by the end of 2024.</li><li>• Step 2: Workshop. To be held by April 2025-</li><li>• Step 3: production of the Report.</li></ul>
<b>Dependencies</b>	No dependencies identified at present.