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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 37th meeting of RSPG on 11 June 2015. The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since the last RSPG meeting, there was one RSC meeting on 14-15th July 2015 (RSC#52) the following topics were addressed:

Implementation of EU law on spectrum:

The Commission services presented the results of two questionnaires on the implementation of Commission Implementing Decisions No 2013/654/EU on MCA services and No 2010/166/EU on MCV services (*RSCOM15-24*, *RSCOM15-25*) submitted to Member States at the last Committee meeting (RSC#51).

With regard to MCA services, answers were received from 25 Member States and Norway. Implementation has taken place in 20 Member States and in Norway. No MCA interference issues were reported. Following a white paper from AeroMobile (an MCA SP) which was also included in meeting documents, discussions are ongoing both at EC and ECC level on the need to install a Network Control Unit (NCU) on-board to prevent signals from passengers' devices to go outside the aircraft. AeroMobile affirms that passenger's devices will be linked to the on-board picocell and that in any case thousands of phones remain inadvertently on terrestrial mode during "non-MCA" flights and no interference problems have been reported. The Commission services therefore proposed to prepare a mandate to CEPT in order to examine the possibility to make the use of the NCU optional on-board MCA aircrafts.

After being informed by the Commission of the existing very tight timing from the industrial side related to the still valid obligation to implement upgraded NCUs in all MCA aircrafts by 1 January 2017, Member States agreed to discuss the text of a mandate to CEPT at the next RSC meeting in October.

The Commission services received answers on the implementation of the 2010 Commission Implementing Decision on MCV services from 24 Member States (of which 22 containing meaningful data). Sporadic cases of interference were reported, which however could not be clearly attributed to a specific cause. From the assessment of the

replies a consensus emerged on the need to update the 2010 MCV Commission Implementing Decision in order to add UMTS and LTE technologies to the existing GSM modality. As for MCA, compatibility studies are ongoing at ECC level (on own initiative).

Member States agreed to discuss at the next RSC the text of a Mandate to CEPT on the above.

Unpaired 2 GHz bands:

The Commission services presented an updated version of the draft Commission Implementing Decision on the use of the 1900-1920 MHz and 2010-2025 MHz bands (*RSCOM15-06rev2*), which took account of the observations and inputs provided by Member States' delegates following the discussion at the last RSC meeting in March. They were also invited to provide any updates related to the demand for DA2GC, PMSE and SRD foreseen to use the frequency bands covered by this decision, in line with the results of the studies conducted by CEPT. Several Member States pointed to the likely diminishing interest of DA2GC stakeholders in the unpaired 2 GHz band. At the same time there was general agreement regarding the demand for video PMSE and several Member States supported the split of the current draft Decision into two (one on video PMSE in the band 2010-2025 MHz and one on DA2GC in the 1900-1920 MHz band).

It was therefore agreed to defer an opinion of the RSC on DA2GC in the 1900-1920 MHz band and CEPT should take this into account in the ongoing study of SRDs in the same band. The Commission services will present the text of a stand-alone draft Implementing Decision covering video PMSE in the band 2010-2025 MHz at the next RSC meeting in October.

2.7-2.9 GHz frequency band:

The Commission services requested the opinion of the RSC pursuant to the advisory procedure under Article 4 of Regulation 182/2011/EU and Article 5.2 of Radio Spectrum Decision 676/2002/EC on a draft Mandate to CEPT to study and identify harmonised compatibility and sharing conditions for cordless video cameras in the 2.7-2.9 GHz frequency band, taking into account radar use (*RSCOM15-18rev1*). Taking into account the written comments of several Member States, which did not alter the substance of the draft Mandate (*RSCOM15-18rev2*), the RSC gave a positive opinion to the draft Mandate.

2.3 GHz frequency band:

The Commission services proposed and RSC decided to postpone the adoption of an Implementing Decision until after the WRC-15. The explanatory note (*RSCOM15-08rev1*) highlighted the issues requiring assessment and further discussion to ensure a clear added value for an EC Decision on the 2.3-2.4 GHz band.

Amongst the issues identified by the Commission services are the LSA trials underway and/or planned in the near future in Member States and the potential interference of LTE equipment in the 2.3-2.4 GHz band with other equipment operating in the 2.4-2.5GHz band. Member States were requested to submit any relevant documentation they might have on the LSA trials and interference studies in the meantime. The Commission Services committed to engage further with Member States that have considerable difficulties in making the band available for ECS to assess with them the feasibility of implementing an LSA approach for this band. The Commission Services will report on the points above in the next RSC meeting in October 2015.

TTT (Transport and Traffic Telematics):

The Commission presented a document (*RSCOM15-29*) answering to questions from Germany (*RSCOM15-20*) about the forthcoming introduction of new TTT applications. It was clarified that the current version of the SRD Decision does not cover new TTT applications like e-tachograph and weight and measures mobile enforcement and that this should be dealt with as soon as possible.

It was agreed that e-tachograph and weight and dimensions compatibility parameters should be added to the annex of the SRD Decision, in the context of its 7th update, in time for deployment of these applications (starting from 2019). A more detailed calendar of the works will be requested from the ECC.

Joint TCAM-RSC meeting:

The Commission services presented an update of the draft agenda for a joint meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC) and the Telecommunication Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee (TCAM) in document *RSCOM15-30*. The revised agenda was discussed taking into consideration the written comments provided by 4 Member States to the initial proposal. Member States broadly supported a joint meeting of the two Committees and were invited to provide written contributions relevant to the agenda items, to be submitted before 10 September 2015. The joint TCAM-RSC meeting will take place on 8 October 2015.

3. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming initiatives on GSM-R

DG MOVE and the European Rail Agency (ERA), with the support of DG Connect, have prepared a document on GSM-R.

Its purpose is to present different aspects of the coexistence between the railway communication system based on GSM-R and public mobile services, especially from a regulatory standpoint, and to propose a way forward.

The document - a draft working document of the Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee (RISC) - will first be discussed at the meeting of the RISC Working Group on ERTMS (European Rail Traffic Management System) on 6 October 2015.

Subsequently, it is planned to discuss the same document at RSC#54 (9-10 December 2015) with the presence of DG MOVEs.

Finally, in order to facilitate contact between railway undertakings and spectrum regulators at national level, a "joint RSC-RISC meeting" based on the content of the document is planned in the form of a supplementary agenda item at the end of RSC#56 of 6-7 July 2016.