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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 41st meeting of the RSPG on 09 November 2016 (RSPG#41). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

The Commission adopted on 30 November 2016 "A European strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems, a milestone towards cooperative, connected and automated mobility".

A political agreement between the European Parliament and Council on the legislative Decision on the UFH band was reached in a trilogue on 14 December 2016. A positive vote on the finalised text was given by Coreper and ITRE on 20 January 2017 and 26 January 2017, respectively. A plenary vote is pending in the European Parliament.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#41, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee on 7th December 2016. The following issues were discussed:

Implementation of EU law on spectrum:

The Commission services presented a document (RSCOM16-56) requesting Member States to provide information on the implementation of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/339/EU of 8 March 2016 on the harmonisation of the 2010-2025 MHz frequency band for portable or mobile wireless video links and cordless cameras used for programme making and special events. Member States have until 31 January 2017 to make comments regarding

national implementation as well as to report any findings to the Commission in order to allow a timely review of this Decision, if necessary.

MCA

On 16 December the Commission adopted the *Commission implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2317 amending Decision 2008/294/EC and Implementing Decision 2013/654/EU, in order to simplify the operation of mobile communications on board aircraft (MCA services) in the Union*. The simplification consists in the reduction of spectrum bands to be "controlled" on board MCA equipped aircraft from 7 to 2. This also avoids the need for MCA operators and airlines to continuously upgrade certain hardware elements of the system. The simplification has no impact on air safety nor on the risk of interference to terrestrial telecom networks.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D2317&rid=1>

MCV:

The Commission services presented the final draft text of an Implementing Decision on Mobile Communications on board Vessels (MCV) which updates the original 2010 MCV Decision by adding 3G and 4G communication technologies. The technical annex of the new Decision is based on the conclusions of CEPT Report 62 which was prepared upon a Commission mandate. RSC delegates voted in favour of the text by unanimity. The final text is available in document RSCOM16-20final.

5G:

Following written comments from RSC members and observers after the last (57th) RSC meeting, the Commission services presented a revised draft Mandate to CEPT (RSCOM16-40rev2) to develop harmonised technical conditions for spectrum use in support of the introduction of next-generation (5G) terrestrial wireless systems in the Union. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Commission put a further revised version (RSCOM16-40rev3) for vote, which sets focus on the 'pioneer bands' of 3.4-3.8 GHz and 24.25-27.5 GHz, and requires CEPT deliverables by June 2018. The RSC gave a positive opinion.

SRD:

The Commission services presented a new version of the Draft Implementing Decision for the 6th update of the SRD decision based on CEPT report 59 and explained their position on the feedback received from RSC members on the previous version. There was broad agreement on the proposed changes to the technical annex of the SRD decision and the meeting accepted the text, though there were diverging views regarding the need to change existing category names, for which the Commission did not see enough added value and rather opted for maintaining legal certainty and stability in the annex based on the agreed principle of an application neutral approach.

In addition, concerning further proposals covered by the addendum to CEPT Report 59 currently in public consultation, the RSC will continue its discussions on the 6th update at the next meeting in order to decide how these proposals could be best implemented either within the existing decision or in a separate implementing decision in order to best cater for the needs of Member States with existing services in the concerned bands.

3. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES*Fixed and Mobile Convergence Study SMART 2016/0046*

The European Commission has launched a Study on Fixed and Mobile Convergence in Europe SMART 2016/0046. The key objectives of the study are two-fold: i) analyze fixed-mobile convergence at a service, infrastructure and market level and ii) complement the European Commission [project](#)¹ to [map fixed and mobile quality of broadband services in Europe](#) by providing a clear understanding of the difference of (fixed and wireless) network performance measurements among Member States and assessing the technical/political and economic obstacles that prevent the definition of common network performance measurements. The study was assigned to IMIT-Chalmers University in Sweden and it will provide final results at the end of 2017.

Spectrum Assignments Study SMART 2016/0019 – public workshop on 28 March

In the context of the spectrum assignment study launched in October, the study team will present the draft interim report at the RSPG#42. The interim report covers the fact gathering

¹ Project site: <https://www.broadbandmapping.eu/>

and some initial take-aways. The study team is also organising a public workshop on the 28 March in Brussels to gather expert views on Spectrum Authorisation and Assignment in the EU. The study team will henceforth be moving into the analysis part of the study and the final report is expected in the spring.