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**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

**RSPG Secretariat**

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## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **14<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Peer Review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards**

## **14<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards**

RSPG at its Meeting #52 (online, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020) approved the 13<sup>th</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Peer Review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards.

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### **I. PEER REVIEW**

This work item was originally established in 2016 to facilitate peer learning between the Member States on spectrum awards and authorisation. Therefore, the RSPG hosts a voluntary “Peer Review” platform (EC CIRCABC website) allowing the Member States to share documents and experience and to seek advice from their peers during the award design process. The RSPG holds also Peer Review workshops to share experience and expertise on specific (planned or completed) awards.

### **II. MEMBER STATE COOPERATION ON AUTHORISATIONS AND AWARDS**

The new and ongoing pandemic situation caused any physical meetings impossible to conduct. This implied the necessity to define the methods that would allow the continuation of the organization of PR Workshops in a remote form. As it was stated in the previous report, the Working Group defined in the cooperation with the RSPG Secretariat the most suitable way of establishing workshops in the online formula and introduced guidelines to follow during online participation in a Peer Review Workshops.

Since the last RSPG Plenary, the Working Group organized two Peer Review Workshops:

- On June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 in cooperation with ComReg (Ireland) a Peer Review Workshops on Irish Multi-Band Spectrum Award. The Agenda of the Workshop revolved around issues such as draft award type and format, licence conditions etc. The Workshop gathered 55 participants, representing governmental institutions, the European Commission and the NRAs, from 18 countries. Slides from the Peer Review were distributed in due time by the RSPG Secretariat.

The workshops in terms of content should be assessed at a very high level, thanks to the excellent preparation of the representatives of Ireland. An undoubted drawback was the level of interaction, influenced by the format itself, which, unlike physical meetings, has some negative impact on an active, mutual interaction during sessions and the exchange of experiences. Nevertheless, given the current situation, the workshops in this formula will

be continued, and in order to improve the observed decrease in the level of interaction, the group, in consultation with the RSPG Secretariat and the hosts of subsequent meetings, will work out possible solutions.

- Hungary requested Peer Review Workshop on Hungarian auction on 900 MHz and 1800 MHz band, which has been organised on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. The Workshop gathered 53 participants from EU Member States, RSPG Observers, candidate country and the European Commission. The RSPG Secretariat provided excellent technical assistance, circulated before the meeting the agenda of the Workshop, background information regarding the ongoing public consultation in Hungary, link to the draft Documentation (available in English), and summary of the auction. Unlike the Peer Review in June, the level of interaction was relatively high. Experience in using online platforms is visibly increasing, which positive effects on the benefits of mutual exchange of experience. The role of the moderator of the host country is essential, while it helps that all the questions are answered and if this is not possible during the meeting, the relevant information will be provided at a later stage.

Before running this series of Peer Review Workshops, the Working Group established in the cooperation with the RSPG Secretariat a two-step registration process to reflect the concerns about security for the workshops along with the guidelines to follow during online Peer Review Workshops on authorization and awards.

### **III. FURTHER ACTIONS**

Discussions are ongoing for scheduling Peer Review Meetings by the end of 2020. The Working Group will make updates on the upcoming workshops in a due time. Any request from the RSPG members regarding upcoming awards and their plans to share with peers on their award plans are most welcome.

Rapporteurs:

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