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Digital Decade and Connectivity

Radio Spectrum Policy Group

RSPG Secretariat

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RSPG25-023 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**

1. The RSPG Working Group on “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” (hereafter: the **UHF SG**) continued to work on its assigned tasks, holding five more meetings since the last report provided for the RSPG plenary #66:
 - Meeting #11, on 20 February 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #12, on 16 May 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #13, on 23 May 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #14, on 28 May 2025, virtual;
 - Meeting #15, on 3 June, virtual.

A workshop entitled “The future of the 470-694 MHz band within the EU” was also held in the interim period. It took place on 11 April 2025.

2. 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, Türkiye and Ukraine¹, as well as representatives of the European Commission and CEPT/ECO are also registered.
3. During the relevant period, the **UHF SG** devoted itself to organizing the workshop. The workshop took place on April 11, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It was hosted by the European Commission at the Albert Borschette Conference Center in Brussels. Participants could also follow the workshop remotely. The program is attached.
4. The workshop saw remarkable participation, surpassing all initial expectations. The in-person attendance reached around 80 individuals, while the remote participation amounted to approximately 200. Afterwards, the coordinators received many positive comments from the audience, who appreciated the variety of topics covered and the quality of the speakers. The audience recognized that the event helped them gain a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and the positions of different stakeholders.
5. Once the workshop concluded, the coordinators prepared a Draft Report based on the questionnaire analyses prepared by the rapporteurs who had voluntarily accepted the assignment. This Report formed the basis for subsequent discussions. Four meetings were held between May and June, and considerable work was done offline between meetings. This enabled the Draft Report to be finalized and submitted to this RSPG Plenary #67 for approval and subsequent public consultation.

¹ The impossibility of reaching Ukraine's representatives by e-mail, already reported in the previous reports to RSPG Plenary #64 and #65, persists: 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*.

6. The Draft Report was articulated as follows:

- *Executive Summary*
- *Chapter I – Introduction.* A brief introduction providing context on the UHF SG under the RSPG Work Program for 2024-2025, as well as a description of the questionnaire and workshop.
- *Chapter II – Prospects for the use of the 470-694 MHz band in 2030-2040.* A description of the views offered by each of the five identified stakeholder categories with respect to the use of the band in the next decade.
- *Chapter III – Assessment of the future use of the 470-694 MHz band in the EU.* An overall assessment of the possibilities for band use in the next decade, based on what was expressed in the previous chapter.
- *Annex I – The Responses to the Questionnaire.* Details of the information collected through the questionnaire.
- *Annex II – The Workshop.* A summary of the workshop's contents.

7. The **UHF SG** hopes that the RSPG will approve the Draft Report for publication. If so, the **UHF SG** will wait until the deadline for responses has passed and resume its work in September to review the comments received and deliver the Final Report.

8. The Draft Report entitled “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” is submitted to the Plenary for approval at this stage.



Workshop: “The future of the 470-694 MHz band within the EU”

The RSPG has included topic “Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU” in its 2024-2025 work programme. After circulating a questionnaire on the topic, the sub-group working on it has now organised a workshop open to representatives of RSPG member countries and stakeholders.

The workshop will take place on **Friday 11 April 2025** from 9.30 to 16.30 at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Rue Froissart 36 - 1040 **Brussels**. It will also be possible to follow the workshop remotely.

The RSPG invites all interested parties to attend. Please [register](#) by **2 April**, if you intend to participate in person. In order to favour the presence of several different entities, the organisation reserves the right to limit the number of participants in attendance from the same entities. There is no limitation to the online participation, but it is necessary to [register](#) by **9 April**.

Programme

09:30 Welcome and Introduction

09:40 Session 1 – The present use of the band

The session will be devoted to illustrating the current situation of bandwidth usage, both from a regulatory point of view and based on the results of the questionnaire.

- European Commission, Nineta Vretou
- RSPG subgroup co-chairs, Andreas Agius and Umberto Mascia

10:10 Session 2 – Cases from the four corners of the world

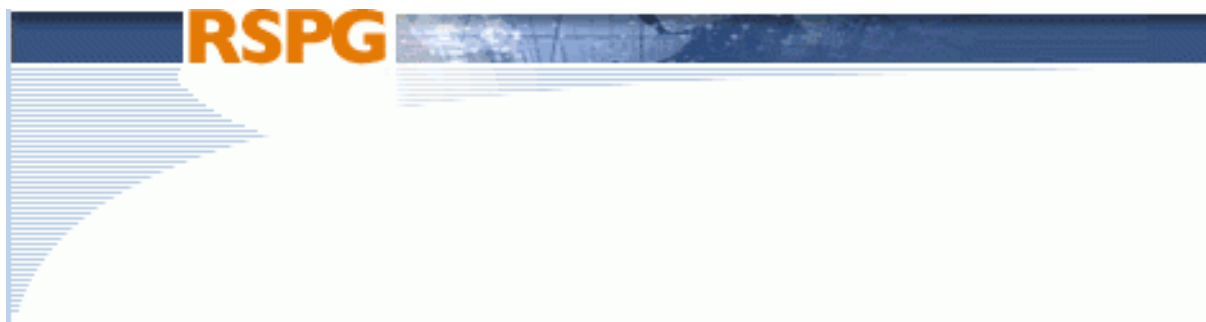
The session will explore the regulatory aspects in various countries where future uses of the band are moving in different directions, with a look at what is happening in countries outside the EU.

Regulators in EU countries with intensive use for DTTB in the future:

- Spain, Angel Leon Alcalde
- France, Guillaume Delaire

Regulators in EU countries with reduced or no use for DTTB in the future:

- Sweden, Jonas Wessel
- Slovenia, Meta Pavšek Taškov



Regulators from countries outside the EU

- United Arab Emirates, Tariq Al Awadhi
- United Kingdom, Claire Lyons

11:30 Break

11:45 Session 3 – The future use of the band

The session will focus on the views of stakeholders, also in the light of the regulatory aspects presented in session 2. The aim is for each community to provide a picture of its “ideal situation” in terms of band usage over the next decade. In order to get a fair view of the interests of each sector, associations representing the different stakeholders in each community have been invited.

- TV – DTTB: EBU, Elena Puigrefagut
- PMSE: APWPT, Vaughan John
- Mobile – IMT: GSMA, Stuart Cooke
- Mobile – PPDR: TCCA, Noel Kirkaldy
- Military applications: NATO, Adam Kugler
- Radioastronomy: CRAF, Waleed Madkour

13:00 Lunch break

14:15 Session 4 – Round table: “What if...”

The round table will be a more open debate. If Session 3 allowed each sector to present its ideal vision, the Round Table will ask the speakers to consider the concrete problems of coexistence and balancing different needs that might arise in the next decade, aiming to discuss potential solutions and trade-offs.

- Networks: Nokia, Ulrich Rehfuess
- Services: BNE, Jaume Pujol
- Regulators: Italy, Luca Rea
- Regulators: Sweden, Jonas Wessel
- PPDR: BDBOS, Bernard Kryszak
- PMSE: Shure, Wolfgang Bilz
- Public broadcasters: ORS, Michael Wagenhofer
- Public broadcasters: YLE, Janne Holopainen

16:05 Summary and conclusions

16:15 Closing

RSPG work item: update to Plenary	
Work item	Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU
Rapporteur/s	Andreas Agius, Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, Greece Umberto Mascia, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italy
Rationale	<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>
Scope	<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"> 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. 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.

	The RSPG also should gather information from industry stakeholders on expected technological developments in both mobile and broadcasting platforms.
Planned deliverables and timing	<p>RSPG Report on the future usage of sub – 700 MHz band in the EU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Report for public consultation: June 2025 • Final Report: October 2025 <p>RSPG Questionnaire/workshops as appropriate.</p>
Project plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Questionnaire. To be completed by the end of 2024. • Step 2: Workshop. To be held by April 2025. • Step 3: production of the Report.
Dependencies	No dependencies identified at present.