EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

RSPG17-005 Final

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group
on the Internet of Things (IoT)

Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on IoT

The RSPG at its Meeting #39 established a Working Group to deliver an Opinion developing Europe's spectrum policy strategy regarding the IoT, as set out in the RSPG's "Work Programme for 2016 and beyond".

The Working Group has comprised members from the European Commission, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. In addition, ETSI attended as an observer. We would like to thank them all for their valuable input. This Working Group has held four meetings jointly with the Working Group for ITS.

Opinion on IoT

In November 2016, the working group presented a draft Opinion to Plenary. It was approved for public consultation. The consultation period closed on 9 January 2017. We received 25 responses, three of which were confidential. A summary of responses is Annexed to this paper.

The working group has now developed a final Opinion, taking into account the responses from stakeholders. The final Opinion is presented alongside this Progress Report for approval by the Plenary.

Key points to note are:

There was agreement from stakeholders who responded to the consultation that the IoT is an important topic for the RSPG, and broadly respondents agreed with the RSPG's draft conclusions in its Opinion, in particular with the finding that spectrum needs for IoT are diverse and heterogeneous.

However, a number of stakeholders with specific perspectives argued for greater spectrum access of particular types, for example to achieve greater market access, evolution of current technological models, or anticipating growth in scale. The Working Group has sought to reflect these various demands in the Opinion text, while making it clearer that these demands are generally for greater *access to* spectrum (which might, for example, be achieved through harmonisation measures which enable IoT use; or through a particular authorisation regime; or across a greater number of member states, to enable economies of scale), and not for the identification of further spectrum bands for IoT use.

We would also note a specific current request from industry for access to the 800-900 MHz frequency range for certain IoT applications (e.g. for smart metering, smart

home applications etc). There is already some work underway in CEPT in this regard, focused on 862-870 MHz. However, meeting this demand in other bands within 800-900 MHz will be challenging since it would need to take account of existing services in these bands, particularly Government and railway communications. There were some different views within the Working Group on this point, and we have proposed a compromise text in the Opinion.

Further work on IoT

The Work Programme does not propose further deliverables, however, the Opinion identifies a need for the RSPG to continue to review the spectrum needs of IoT. We propose that this should be considered when the next RSPG Work Programme is prepared, and if appropriate, a new Working Group constituted.

Meanwhile, we anticipate the 5G Working Group under the present Work Programme will consider use cases for 5G including for IoT.

We also note that the 2017 BEREC Work Programme proposes a joint workshop with RSPG on *Spectrum needs to foster innovation in Europe*. BEREC envisages IoT will be among the topics covered. We therefore propose that we as rapporteurs will lead on this area for RSPG, consulting the IoT Working Group members, and other RSPG Working Groups (for example, the 5G WG) for input as necessary.

Proposed course of action

The RSPG is invited to adopt the final Opinion on IoT.

Oli Bird

Fokko Bos

Co-rapporteurs