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## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group**

### **on the future of the UHF band**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the future of the UHF band**

The working group on the future use of the UHF band has been set up at the 33th RSPG. This RSPG working group is dealing with the development of the draft opinion on a “long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) in the European Union”, pursuant to the request for an opinion issued in February 2014 by the European Commission. This Request for Opinion follows the intention expressed by the RSPG in its "Work Programme 2014 and beyond" to develop a long-term strategy for the UHF band 470-694 MHz, including a realistic vision for the DTT platform, and the assessment of the possible implementation of WBB in the 694-790 MHz band.

This RSPG working group had two meetings. The first meeting, took place on the 9th April 2014, in Brussels, at BIPT premises. The meeting was attended by 34 participants. The second meeting was held in Lisbon on the 21st May 2014. The meeting was attended by 18 participants.

This progress report identifies the main discussions as well as the relevant results of the meetings. The first issue addressed by the group related to the following issues:

- How national information shall be dealt with;
- How shall the group take into account and interact with the different stakeholders, e.g. with research and development community (5G PPP).

For the first point it was agreed to develop a questionnaire to collect the relevant information, together with already existing information at the CEPT and ITU level. The intention was to forward it to the EU Member States so as to have harmonized data, in particular in relation to the role of DTT platform, including the current and planned use of the spectrum in the 700 MHz.

As a result, the questionnaire in **annex 1** has been developed and already delivered to Member States on the 23rd of May. The responses are welcomed before July 30th.

Referring to the interaction with the different stakeholders a presentation of the 5G PPP project is envisaged in the future meetings, in order to give the working group a background of the environment of the project and the role of the UHF band in the future of mobile communications. In the same vein, the Commission endorsed an invitation to representatives of PLUM and it was agreed to have a presentation of the work being developed by PLUM during our September meeting. The presentation is intended to give an overview and update on the current developments of the study.

In addition, it was also discussed the possibility to interact with of High Level Group. This matter will be further addressed in order to convene a meeting between the Commission, RSPG Chairman and Vice-Chairman and RSPG WG UHF rapporteur and M. Pascal Lamy.

During the two meetings a structure of the draft opinion has been refined and adapted in order to address all the outstanding matters as contained in the RfO. The agreed structure has been used as a basis for the work (**annex 2**).

The group has already started to gather and detail the information concerning the basic elements of the opinion (e.g. Scope, Background, Current overview in the EU); a more substantive discussion concerning the assessment in relation to the 700 MHz has also been initiated.

In the course of the work it was felt that the developments in CEPT ECC Task Group 6 is of a fundamental importance to be taken into account for the Opinion. The CEPT TG aims at the development of a long term vision for the UHF broadcasting band (focusing on the band 470-694 MHz) in Europe. In the last meeting, the overall overview of the draft ECC report has been presented, especially the main recommendations and conclusions.

As a general remark, it should be pointed out that the work on the draft Opinion seems to be in good progress. Notwithstanding, it has to be highlighted that the next discussions and decisions in the working group will be the cornerstones of the Opinion, and as such it calls for a wide debate involving the EU Member States. Therefore, it is very important to receive contributions from the different countries in order to be able to capture the ideas and concerns of all Member States.

The next meetings of the group are foreseen as follows:

- 1st July 2014 in Brussels;
- 16-17 September 2014 in Paris
- 29-30 October 2014 in [Lisbon]

## Annex 1: Questionnaire

In February 2014, the European Commission issued a request for an opinion on a “long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) in the European Union”. This Request for an Opinion follows the intention expressed by the RSPG in its "Work Programme 2014 and beyond" to develop a long-term strategy for the UHF band 470-694 MHz including a realistic vision for the DTT platform, and the assessment of the possible implementation of WBB in the 694-790 MHz band.

The RSPG sub-group dealing with the development of the draft opinion on this matter, is seeking your views in relation to the role of DTT platform, including the current and planned use of the spectrum in the 700 MHz.

For this purpose, responses and details related to the following questions would be appreciated **before July 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### 1. 700 MHz band (694-790 MHz):

- What is the current and planned spectrum usage of the 700 MHz band?
- Has your country already adopted national decisions on the implementation of WBB in the 700 MHz band? In case that a national decision has not yet been taken, what is your preliminary view on the possible implementation of WBB in the 700 MHz band?
- Did you already make an assessment of advantages and disadvantages of having a coordinated approach on the implementation of WBB in the 700 MHz band (long term different use of the spectrum MOBILE vs. BC, or only a limited different use, i.e. when 2 different dates are chosen by 2 neighboring countries)?

### 2. Evolution of the DTT platform:

- Do you envisage some provisions on a national level for facilitating the transition to new BC technologies in the UHF band (i.e. DVB-T2, HEVC)?
- Do you see a shift to other distribution platforms in the future?

### 3. Long term strategy for the UHF band:

- 3.1 To what extent does the DTT platform play a specific role in your country to achieve general interest objectives (regulation, political, social<sup>1</sup>, cultural/economic<sup>2</sup>, etc.)? Are these objectives attached to the spectrum rights of use? If not, where are these objectives laid down? Are DTT rights of use granted to media service providers (i.e. the entity which has editorial responsibility)?

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<sup>1</sup> Provide details, if available, in relation to the implementation of Article 14 of Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

<sup>2</sup> Action 82 of the Digital Agenda for Europe, Promotion of European cultural diversity and industry.

**Annex 2:****Draft Structure of the Opinion on a long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz) in the European Union**

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Background**
- 3 Scope of the work**
- 4 Current overview in EU Member states**
  - 4.1 The DTT platform*
  - 4.2 The 700 MHz: overview of use and policy*
  - 4.3 Other Services*
- 5 Ongoing activities in ITU, CEPT and EC**
  - 5.1 Preparation of WRC-15*
  - 5.2 EC Mandate on the 700 MHz band*
  - 5.3 Commission activities*
  - 5.4 CEPT ECC/TG6*
- 6 Developments and related standardisation activities**
- 7 Elements for the Long term strategy**
  - 7.1 The overview*
    - 7.1.1 The 700 MHz*
    - 7.1.2 UHF band (470-694 MHz) possible long-term options*
      - 7.1.2.1 Description of options
      - 7.1.2.2 Options assessment
  - 7.2 Approach for the 700 MHz band*

**7.2.1** *Assess the benefits in the coordinated release of the 700 MHz band for WBB*

**7.2.2** *Assess the possible need for assigning the 700 MHz band for WBB before 2020*

**7.3** *Elements for the Long term strategy for the UHF band (470-694 MHz)*

**8** **Migration issues**

**9** **The opinion**