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EBU comments on the RSPG Draft Work Programme for 2024 and beyond

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is the world's leading alliance of public service media (PSM). It is a not-for-profit organisation that represents 112 member organizations in 56 countries and additional 31 Associates worldwide. PSM organizations are entrusted with providing a service of general interest, which consists in the provision of high-quality content and services that fulfil the cultural and democratic needs established at national level for the people of each EU Member State.

The EBU and its Members welcome the opportunity to comment on the Radio Spectrum Policy Group ('RSPG') Draft Work Programme for 2024 and beyond and in particular on the following work items:

WRC

The EBU welcomes the RSPG work to identify those World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) agenda items that are relevant for EU spectrum policy and to provide advice on the possible solution that accommodates EU Member States spectrum needs. The RSPG is encouraged to consider these spectrum needs with the view to ensuring long term stability and support to the European cultural and media sectors including to the public service media. The EBU will follow closely the preparations for WRC-27 and will contribute to RSPG consultations on those agenda items that are important for PSM to ensure that their public service obligations can be met.

Regarding the report on the result of the WRC-23, expected in June 2024, the EBU notes that RSPG does not plan to consult with stakeholders. The reply to the current consultation on the Draft 'Work Programme for 2024 and beyond' would be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide views. As the deadline for comments on the work program coincide with the last day of WRC-23, the RSPG is invited to consider a possibility for the stakeholders to provide inputs on this important topic.

Assessment of future usage of the frequency band 470-694 MHz within the EU

The EBU notes that the RSPG has recently adopted an "Opinion on the strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030". The EBU welcomes the fact that the findings in this last Opinion are not questioned, especially the fact that terrestrial broadcasting is present in all scenarios thereby presented. Furthermore, the spectrum use and future needs in this band have recently been assessed under the framework of WRC-23 preparations for agenda item 1.5¹ and under the EC Study on the use of the sub-700 MHz band (470-694

¹ [Report ITU-R BT.2302](#) "Spectrum requirements for terrestrial television broadcasting in the UHF frequency band in Region 1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran".

MHz)² published in 2022. Given the pace of market development of DTT and PMSE, no major changes on their future spectrum usage are expected in the 2024-2025 time period. Therefore, the EBU is of the view that the benefit of repeating this work in the 2024-2025 time period would be limited. The RSPG is invited to further clarify the objectives of this work item. The EBU remains available for further information and is prepared to contribute to RSPG work on this topic.

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² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d77a592e-4f54-11ed-92ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>