



# RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

## Consultation on the draft

## Work Programme for 2024 and beyond

Nokia's complementary response to the Draft Work Programme for 2024 and beyond

15<sup>th</sup> of December 2023

## Introduction

[Nokia](#) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Public Consultation and comment the draft RSPG Work Programme for 2024 and beyond. This response is complementary to the contributions provided via the industry association of which Nokia is member – GSA and DIGITALEUROPE – and observer – ETNO. We welcome and encourage RSPG to continue its engagement, as part of RSPG's transparent communication and cooperation with stakeholders to inform, seek inputs, and exchange on the foreseen activities by RSPG in the coming two years period (2024-25).

Nokia sees RSPG to continue having a critical role in shaping the EU spectrum policy towards the next European Digital Decade through well-designed spectrum policy. We equally acknowledge the active role RSPG considered for improving cooperation with the industry stakeholders through regular exchanges and workshops, in addition to the formal public consultations on the RSPG opinions and reports.

Hereinafter we express Nokia's complementary views on selected work areas of the RSPG Work Programme for the 2024-2025 period, some of those with long-term implications for the European spectrum policy.

## Selected RSPG Activities

### WRC-23

Nokia sees the World Radio Conferences as pivotal in harmonizing spectrum in accordance with the evolution of the usages and technologies that make use of wireless spectrum, driving for economies of scale for the development of large ecosystems of end-user and network equipment, with positive impact on the affordability of deployments and services of new generations of wireless mobile communications. We therefore see scope for the RSPG to continue its WRC-related activities as proposed.

The role of the RSPG as advisor to the EU and its role within the CEPT are undeniable for defining harmonized European positions towards the WRC. With the WRC-23 just closing its doors few hours ago after one month of intense debates and four years of thorough studies and discussions, Nokia is looking forward for the RSPG's evaluation of the outcomes of the Conference and their impact on the EU spectrum policies.

Looking forward towards into the WRC-27 study cycle, we expect the RSPG to actively engage – from the early stages of the process – with the industry stakeholders when defining the EU objectives, including the role of the next-generation of mobile systems IMT-2030, and the respective additional spectrum needs.

Nokia is supporting the timeline proposed by RSPG and encourages early engagements with the stakeholders for defining a strategy in line with the Digital Decade's goals and aligned with the European research programs for 6G (e.g., HEXA-X I, HEXA-X II).

### Long term vision for the upper 6GHz band

Nokia acknowledges that the upper 6GHz band is subject of various claims and interests from competing industries – all well captured in the Work Programme.

With the WRC-23 outcomes in mind, we seek scope for the RSPG to consider the timelines and include a short-to-medium term vision accordingly. We see the 6425-7125 MHz band, as previously expressed in various Nokia responses to RSPG consultations, a role for this band to serve macro-cellular deployment of advanced 5G networks and respond the growing demand for capacity for mobile traffic in the 2025-2030 period. There is evidence from the mobile industry that without the available spectrum in the 6GHz band for mobile deployments, the traffic growth and the technical capabilities of the IMT-2020 cannot efficiently and economically be achieved (see [www.6ghzopportunity.com](http://www.6ghzopportunity.com) positions and reports).

We encourage RSPG to engage with the relevant industry stakeholders from the very beginning of this activity, with a goal to adjust its ambitions and include a medium-term vision and aiming for a timely harmonization of the band for MFCN and stable regulatory framework from 2025 onwards.

### 6G strategic vision

As stated earlier, in relation to the WRC-27, Nokia is of view that the 6G strategic vision is intrinsically linking technology with timely availability of suitable spectrum that allow for initial deployments and successful take-up of 6G in Europe.

Based on its successful strategy for 5G that included the identification of the primary and pioneer bands for 5G, RSPG should take a proactive approach for defining a European spectrum strategy for 6G. Nokia welcomes RSPG's initiative to start working on this 6G strategic vision and recommends the inclusion of the spectrum aspects in it in order to successfully define the related spectrum strategy. Such a strategy would bring clarity and positively impact the mobile ecosystem; with initial bands identified and deployment conditions defined, the European equipment ecosystem could develop to accompany the fast rollout of 6G networks across EU from 2030 onward. Equally, the end-user ecosystem could benefit from advanced visibility of the available spectrum for the initial 6G deployment. Several other aspects related to spectrum should be taken into account, such as common calendars of spectrum release, license conditions and duration, etc. – all that RSPG has already encountered when defining the 5G primary and pioneer bands.

With all the above considerations, we encourage RSPG to start its work on the 6G strategic vision, including the spectrum related aspects, including alignment with WRC-27 IMT-2030 priorities as recently set at the WRC-23.

Nokia is open to engage with the RSPG on 6G related matters on spectrum and other technology matters, based on our extensive expertise in both spectrum standardisation and technology research.

### Future use of 470-694 MHz

Nokia has positioned as one of the supporters of the flexibility option in the 470-694 MHz band and has expressed its position towards a co-primary mobile allocation in previous RSPG consultations. Noting the secondary mobile allocation for most of the European countries at WRC-23 and further possibility to upgrade to primary mobile allocation in 2031, we agree with RSPG on the need to assess the prospects of each Member State in the decade 2030-2040, as national needs vary within European countries.

Nokia is looking forward to support further planned activities under RSPG's work programme in the 2024-25 period.

### Strategic Spectrum Matters

Nokia will follow the RSPG future initiatives related to additional strategic spectrum matters related to EU policies and initiatives, as deemed necessary. We welcome this strategic initiative of RSPG and look forward to contributing as appropriate on matters of relevance to the European mobile industry.

----- End of document -----