



Telefónica Group response to consultation on draft RSPG 2010 Work Programme

General comments

Telefónica would like to thank the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) for giving stakeholders the opportunity to comment on their draft 2010 Work Programme. We agree that there are several important challenges to be faced during 2010 in the implementation of the revised European regulatory framework for the management and use of spectrum. Telefónica agrees that European spectrum management can be enhanced by increasing the emphasis on the long term strategic perspective, and by taking advantage of the new institutional arrangements to shape European spectrum policy.

Telefónica believes that one of the most important elements of the RSPG Work Programme will be its contribution to the multi-annual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, which should include further work on increasing the availability and harmonised use of the Digital Dividend for mobile services. There are significant economies of scale to be reached when frequency bands with at least a regional applicability are deployed for mass electronic communications services, and the 800MHz band is one of the most important bands to have been identified for mobile use in Europe in recent years.

The increasing demand on new electronic communications services and applications by users requires an increasingly efficient management of resources, including the radio spectrum. Within this context, Telefónica believes that the further development of a well coordinated approach to international negotiations would be complementary to the longer term spectrum policy being developed, especially as we prepare for the next World Radio Conference in early 2012. In addition, continued work on the impact of new technologies such as Cognitive Radio will help to increase the efficient usage of the radio spectrum by providing new opportunities to share spectrum, (for example the use of "white spaces" in terrestrial broadcasting bands).

Regarding the further identification and analysis of the implementation of new harmonisation measures such as the GSM Directive, Telefónica agrees that it is important for regulators to take into account spectrum management policy in conjunction with market regulation. We acknowledge that it will be difficult to find any "unique" and definitive solutions to the different issues facing Member States but note that, although the RSPG is a useful Group in which to evaluate the various practices and solutions, national regulators retain the final responsibility for implementation of these measures.

Multi-annual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

Since this is one of the most important elements of the RSPG Work Programme, Telefónica believes that the RSPG should take every opportunity to solicit feedback from stakeholders on their opinions, especially during the development of the first multi-annual radio spectrum policy programme. We therefore urge the RSPG to make use of its public consultation procedures, which have been so much appreciated by stakeholders such as Telefónica in the past, at every opportunity.

Digital Dividend

The 800MHz band is one of the most important bands to have been identified for mobile use in Europe in recent years. Telefónica agrees that the RSPG should concentrate on supporting the implementation of the EU roadmap for the Digital Dividend (DD) and to follow through on the views developed in its most recent Opinion on the DD (RSPG09-291, September 2009).

Other work

Telefónica believes that there is also a need for the RSPG to follow up its recommendations in the 2009 Opinion on the preparation of WRCs (RSPG09-294, November 2009) and that it should develop further its views on the main themes of WRC-12 (RSPG09-295, November 2009), as stakeholders prepare for the next World Radio Conference in early 2012. In addition, we acknowledge that further work is needed on Cognitive Radio – we highlighted these in the Telefónica response to the public consultation on the draft RSPG Report on Cognitive Technologies, which closed in December 2009.

Finally, if there are to be Reports developed by the RSPG in 2010 on the competition aspects of spectrum assignment and usage, or further work on wireless broadband, Telefónica considers that these should not only be published (as has been done for the two Reports, RSPG09-277 and RSPG09-278 rev.2, developed jointly by the ERG and RSPG and Position Paper RSPG09-284 in 2009), but also that they should be open for comment. There is a need for confidence to be maintained in the regulatory approach to spectrum management as we go through the transition to the revised regulatory framework, and that confidence can be boosted by open and transparent procedures relating to all aspects of the European institutions' work.