

Questionnaire on cross-border agreements (EU and non EU) in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band

5G / MFCN cross-border agreements:

- Do you have some MFCN use which is not in conformity with EU decision (xx) and when this legacy use is expected to switch-off?

After the end of this year, the only remaining operator will implement TDD network and it will use the spectrum in this frequency band in accordance with ECC/DEC/(11)06.

- What are the status of cross-border agreements applicable to 5G/MFCN in the 3.4-3.8 GHz with each of neighbouring countries (EU and non EU)? Do these agreements include elements regarding synchronization and frame structures? Is there a difficulty regarding the synchronisation with legacy MFCN networks (e.g. WiMax)?

Croatia has signed agreements that enable the use MFCN (primarily FDD networks but also TDD networks) in border areas and which provide protection for legacy FDD stations. 5G networks were not in the focus at the time. Synchronization and frame structures elements are not included in existing agreements, only different thresholds for non-synchronized and synchronized networks are prescribed.

- How the risk of interference from 5G base station to 5G base station at the border is addressed? Is there any procedure for the case when real interference occurs (e.g. method of measurement, exchange of information, common measures, etc)?

Existing agreements prescribe the general procedure applicable in the case of harmful interference which is technology neutral and can be applied also to 5G base stations.

5G / others services cross-border agreements:

- Could you describe the elements of cross-border agreements regarding the coexistence between 5G and other services in the 3.4-3.8 GHz band, (concerned services, coexistence method, expected impact on 5G deployment ...)?

New cross-border agreements regarding the coexistence between 5G and other services have not been signed at the moment.

Cross border negotiation difficulties (EU and non EU)

- Do you meet any difficulty in current cross border negotiations (EU and non EU)?

Negotiations have not yet started.

- Could such difficulty impact 5G deployment and why?

Spectrum auction for 3.4-3.8 GHz band is planned before the end of the first half of 2021. Negotiations with neighbours and update of existing agreements are planned during 2020, after relevant ECC cross-border coordination recommendation is finalized.