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Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

Radio Spectrum Policy Group

RSPG Secretariat

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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Proposal to extend the Good Offices programme of work to a new project, focusing on 700 MHz spectrum re-planning and clearance, particularly on issues of cross-border co-ordination

RSPG Good Offices work on 700 MHz clearance

Context

The Good Offices work of RSPG has been successful in resolving cross border issues of interference, but has been limited to these issues.

The upcoming 700 MHz awards and clearance programmes across Europe are the subject of considerable political interest, following delays in making the 800 MHz band available across Europe¹. It is in the interests of all MS that clearance of the 700 MHz band is completed in a timely fashion, and it is an area where the RSPG might add real value.

Proposal

- To extend the Good Offices programme of work to a new project, focusing on 700 MHz spectrum re-planning and clearance, particularly on issues of cross-border co-ordination.

‘Straw man’ for discussion

- All RSPG members to participate.
- Members to
 - Provide current status of their national plan for clearance and details of the plan at a high level (for example, identified start date, end date, high level timetable such as a series of region-by-region dates);
 - Then, six-monthly updates on their bilateral negotiations in an appropriate format with regard to 700 MHz re-planning of broadcasting frequencies, until those negotiations are complete;
 - Thereafter, provide six-monthly updates on the progress of their clearance programmes;
 - Outside of this regular reporting, flag any difficulties to RSPG, particularly with respect to meeting the deadlines for agreements and for clearance;
 - Potentially, also provide high level details of other policies implemented at the same time as 700 MHz clearance, such as changes to transmission or compression modes, if there is value in the RSPG tracking these alongside clearance progress.
- RSPG to
 - Keep a record of agreements made and progress towards clearance;
 - Assist in resolving any bilateral difficulties;
 - Report on pan-European progress of re-planning and clearance work;

¹ See RSPG Opinion on RSPP – section 3.2.1.1.1: “Member States encountered practical difficulties in meeting the dates set for making the band available, mainly due to the time necessary for organizing the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting or migrating digital broadcasting below 790 MHz and/or negotiations with countries outside the EU.”

- Identify any role for the Commission, in particular in the escalation of frequency re-planning issues where they involve non-EU countries.

Resources

- Support from RSPG Secretariat