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Electronic Communications Networks and Services

Radio Spectrum Policy Group

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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

5th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the preparation of Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15

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RSPG on its Meeting #34 (Brussels, 12 June 2014) noted the progress report from the Rapporteur of RSPG Working Group on the preparation of Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15 (RSPG 14-563) and endorsed the (Draft) RSPG Opinion on Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15 (RSPG14-564).

RSPG members expressed unanimous support of the intermediate report. Some expressed the view that certain improvements may be possible in order to clarify the link to EU policies while addressing the policy level.

The Commission Representative also welcomed the Report with the expectation that a stable and comprehensive text will be delivered by autumn 2014.

The RSPG Working Group (WG) on the preparation of Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15 met at 6th of October 2014 on the kind invitation of “Agence Nationale des Fréquences” (ANFR) at Maisons Alfort. The WG continued considering the draft opinion on WRC-15, in particular with regard to the further development of elements for the common policy objectives.

The meeting welcomed at the beginning an update from the Chairman of CEPT/CPG, Mr. Alexander Kühn, on the European preparation process of WRC-15. He underlined, that certain ECP’s and briefs had been significantly improved at the last CPG; however due to different views of some CEPT countries there are more activities necessary in order to be able to increase the level of agreement on the draft documentation.

The WG considered two input contributions from France and Germany mainly reflecting the latest outcome from ITU developments as well as from the CEPT preparation process of WRC-15.

The Representative from the European Commission, Principal Administrator Bjoern Thegeby, informed at the beginning of the meeting about the composition of the designated new EU Commission and in particular the future role and responsibilities of the new Commissioner responsible for the Digital Economy, Mr. Guenther Oettinger.

With regard to the timeframe envisaged by the Commission for the completion of the task, he underlined again the expectation, that RSPG should be able to approve the

document at the upcoming RSPG plenary (November 12th, 2014) so that the public consultation process can be commenced immediately afterwards.

Discussion/Conclusions:

Section 1:

Slight editorial improvements in the introduction part have been agreed without changing the context at all.

Section 2:

Text already agreed in previous meetings was confirmed and no changes on the issue of identifying relevant EU policies made.

Section 3:

This section is for completion after Public Consultation.

Section 4./4.1 – Information society – electronic communication

On **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1** additional text was included referring to possible impact on the environment of media distribution, in particular terrestrial television when introducing wireless broadband in the 700 MHz range as well as the need to consider carefully the future use of the 1.5 GHz band in order to ensure compatibility with and the future development of other services, also in adjacent bands.

Regarding spectrum for satellite communication in the frequency ranges 3 400 – 3 800 MHz and 3 800 – 4 200 MHz the group discussed consequences for Europe due to intensive use outside of Europe and the limitations to make this bands available for global usage. It was noted that the general harmonization of 3 400-3 800 MHz is supported by member states, whereas a further inclusion of 3 800-4 200 MHz was identified subject to concern some member states.

In terms of a new mobile service allocation within the 5 GHz range as extension for RLAN, it was concluded that this may not be feasible without mitigation techniques in order to avoid degradation to the usability of the European Copernicus system. Further work is ongoing on this issue but will not be finished before WRC.

Based on the discussion on elements for **common policy objective** the WG concluded that Europe should support the worldwide harmonization of the following additional frequency bands for IMT:

- 1427-1452 MHz
 - 1452-1492 MHz
 - 1492-1518 MHz
- and

- 3400-3600 MHz
- 3600-3800 MHz

On **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.2 and 1.3** the previously agreed text was considered as rather stable and no further amendments has been made.

Section 4.2. Space policy

On **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.9** the existing two parts have been reconsidered based on new information from CEPT. With regards to possible new allocations for the fixed satellite service in the band 7 150 – 7 250 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 8 400 – 8 500 MHz (Earth-to-space) under Agenda Item 1.9.1, a solution based on technical constraints and operational coordination seems to be feasible and could be widely supported by EU Member States: In terms of new allocations to the maritime mobile service in the bands 7 375 – 7 750 MHz and 8 025 – 8 400 MHz under Agenda Item 1.9.2 no practical solution has been identified yet to ensure the protection of the numerous receiving earth stations operating in the band 8 025 – 8 400 MHz close to the coasts.

Section 4.3. Transport policy

On **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.16** information was included in the existing text to draw attention to the development of a new concept, the **VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)**, which is foreseen to be introduced in the Radio Regulations at WRC-15. The concept consists of three elements to enable innovative services in the fields of safety, navigation, security and operations.

On **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.17** which considers new allocations and regulatory provisions for Wireless Avionics Intra-Communications (WAIC) the WG proposes that Member states should support a globally harmonized solution in the 4 200 – 4 400 MHz band for Wireless Avionics Intra-Communications (WAIC) while ensuring the protection of radio-altimeters operating in this band.

Section 4.4 Scientific Use of Spectrum

Improvements of existing text have been made regarding **WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.11 and 1.12** in order to ensure adequate protection to existing radio communications services and to precise the technical conditions of the services addressed.

Section 4.5 Future Agenda Items

It is proposed that EU Member States should support a future Agenda Item addressing the spectrum needs of the fifth generation of mobile communication networks (commonly known as 5G) with the focus on spectrum above 6 GHz.

Proposed course of action

The RSPG Plenary Meeting #35 is invited

1. to note this report from the RSPG Working Group on the preparation of Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15;
2. to approve the amended Draft Opinion on Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15 for public consultation;
3. to adopt the provisional deadline for Public Consultation Phase of 7th January 2015 as suggested by the WG.
4. task the WG to reconvene and finalize the work.

Rainer Wegner
Chairman