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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

5th Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Efficient Awards and Spectrum Use

Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on Efficient Awards and Spectrum Use

The RSPG Working Group on Efficient Awards and Spectrum Use (WG Awards) met in London on 9th and 10th September 2015.

The meeting discussed a final draft of the report. A small number of refinements to the text were discussed and agreed by the Working Group and a final draft is attached at Annex A. This report includes input from two workshops conducted as part of the:

- The Joint RSPG/BEREC Workshop which was held in Brussels in November 2014 and which focused on the experience of Member States, over the past 20 years, of holding spectrum awards.
- A meeting with the GMSA and Mobile Network Operators which members of the Working Group held on 15 December (the day before the Working Group meeting) to discuss mobile operators' experience of participating in spectrum awards.

The report covers concepts of best practice in award planning and execution in the context of the EU Framework and spectrum efficiency. The general conclusion is that although awards may take a number of forms, auctions are becoming increasingly the norm, particularly for harmonised spectrum. However there is no single right auction model and "one size does not fit all". All formats and executions of awards, have merits depending upon national market and competition circumstances and national policy objectives, particularly; Efficient use of spectrum (potentially including ensuring that all the spectrum be assigned), Enhancing Competition (including promoting new, the promotion entrants/facilitating market entry), Increasing broadband penetration and promoting roll-out of broadband services, Enhancing coverage in rural areas (regional development) and the promotion innovation, investment (economic development), business opportunities and employment.

We propose that this Draft Final report be approved by RSPG for public consultation and anticipate a further WG meeting to discuss responses to the consultation and any resulting drafting changes. This is with a view to adopting a final version of the report in February 2016.

Annex A