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# **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

**Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy**

## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of RSPG on 12 June 2014. The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

### 2. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since the last RSPG meeting, there were two RSC meetings on 2-3 July 2014 (RSC#48) and on 1 October 2014 (RSC#49). The following topics were addressed:

#### **Spectrum inventory:**

The Commission services presented the main conclusions of the ad-hoc meeting on spectrum inventory, which took place in Brussels on 13 June. Several Member States raised concerns regarding the collection of national data and were invited to submit their questions in writing.

With regard to the Commission Report to EP and Council on the Radio Spectrum Inventory, the Commission services recalled the background and objectives of the Report from the Commission to the EP and Council on the Radio Spectrum Inventory (*RSCOM14-37*). The obligation for the Commission to report on the spectrum inventory stems from the Article 9(4) of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) which requires the Commission to report to the EP and Council on the inventory, in particular on its analysis of technology trends, future needs and demand for spectrum. In addition, Article 6(5) of the RSPP requires the Commission to report by 1 January 2015 on whether there is a need for additional frequency bands to be harmonised for wireless broadband. The main results of inventory analysis and key findings of the Report were briefly presented. RSC members were given the opportunity to comment on the Report and on the way forward outlined by the Commission.

Some Member States commented on the fact that they would have wished to be able to comment on the report before its publication, but also understood that this opportunity was now given to both EP and Council. Thus several Member States supported that the report be put on the agenda of the Council Working Group. In terms of the report's findings, some Member States expressed reluctance to develop a harmonisation decision on satellite systems using the upper part of the C-band. Only one Member State supported this idea. The Commission was able to provide some clarifications, in particular as to the source of the wireless broadband chart included in the report.

**Unpaired 2 GHz bands:**

The Commission services presented a document (*RSCOM14-35*) summarizing the replies given by 21 Member States to the questionnaire submitted at RSC#48 (*RSCOM14-16rev1*). The information collected confirmed that no mobile networks are operational in the unpaired 2GHz bands. Licenses have been granted in all but 4 Member States for the lower band, while for the higher band licenses have been granted only in 4 Member States, as well as in Finland for local test networks.

The Commission thereafter launched a debate on how to deal with the existing licenses as well as the most appropriate procedure for a DA2GC service. Many delegations felt that such a discussion was premature, as the pertinent CEPT Report 52 was not yet final

**Programme making and special events (PMSE):**

The Commission services presented a document (*RSCOM14-18*) containing explanations of the amendments to the draft Commission implementing Decision on harmonised technical conditions of radio spectrum use by wireless audio programme making and special events equipment in the Union (*RSCOM14-04rev2*). Member States' comments and proposals were taken into account to the largest extent possible without sacrificing the principles that need to be maintained in order to keep the essence of the Commission's proposal, but during the discussions at the RSC meeting, some Member States still expressed concern. A first vote on a revised text (*RSCOM14-04rev3*) did not receive a positive opinion of the Committee. While maintaining the principles set out by the Commission in the articles of the proposed Decision a further revision (*RSCOM14-04rev4*) was proposed and voted on pursuant to the examination procedure, resulting in a positive opinion. After finalising the translations of the Decision and the Executive Summary of the Impact Assessment Report, the Commission implementing Decision 2014/641/EU on wireless audio PMSE was adopted on 1 September.

**Ultra Wide Band (UWB):**

The Commission services presented a draft Commission implementing Decision (*RSCOM13-53rev3*) regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to Decision 2007/131/EC on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in a harmonised manner in the Community. Member States commented on the draft text with the aim of providing consistency with relevant harmonised standards. Appropriate changes were incorporated into a new, final version (*RSCOM13-53rev4*) during the meeting. The final draft text was put to a vote and was approved by unanimity. The Commission Implementing Decision 2014/702/EU on UWB was adopted on 7 October 2014.

**Short Range Devices (SRD):**

Based on a liaison with the SRD Maintenance Group (within CEPT), as agreed in RSC#47, and some further discussion on task 2 on Cognitive Radio, the RSC agreed on a compromise text for task 2 of the guidance document. The document was sent to ECC in order to guide the mandate to the ECC for the 6<sup>th</sup> update of the SRD decision foreseen for 2017.

**GSM-R:**

An oral update was made by the Commission on the progress made in technical solutions, on railways regulation and in the coordination processes between public operators and GSM-R operators. Thereafter, Mr Robert Sarfati gave a presentation on behalf of ETSI, highlighting the cooperation with UIC which had led to the adoption of new technical standards in the field of GSM-R.

**3. INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES****Report on the Spectrum inventory**

On 1 September 2014, the Commission adopted the Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the radio spectrum inventory in accordance with Art. 9.4 and Art. 6(5) of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme.

The report presents the state of play concerning collection of data from the Member States, results of the analysis in terms of spectrum demand and supply as well as the Commission's key findings that could lead to actions during the next years. It outlines the bands currently under technical study, which may result in the Commission proposing harmonised technical conditions for use across Europe and comes to the conclusion that there is currently no need for spectrum harmonisation, beyond the 1200 MHz target, in the range 400 MHz to 6 GHz for licensed wireless broadband. Several other topics (Shared use of radar bands, safeguarding growth of satellite services and availability of spectrum for the Internet of Things) are also dealt with.

The Commission presented the key findings of the report to Member States at the Radio Spectrum Committee meeting in October (RSCOM14-37) and asked Member States for their comments on the key findings of the report and suggestions for the next steps.

**4. HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE****High Level Group (HLG) on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz):**

The HLG concluded its work in July and its Chairman Pascal Lamy presented to Vice-President Neelie Kroes on 1 September 2014 a report on the outcome of the Group's work prepared under his own responsibility. The report proposes a "2020-2030-2025"

formula with the aim of enabling Europe to fulfil the Digital Agenda for Europe broadband targets, while giving broadcasting a clear path to invest and develop further. It comprises the following elements: (i) the 700 MHz band should be dedicated to wireless broadband across Europe by 2020 (+/- two years); (ii) regulatory security and stability for terrestrial broadcasters in the remaining UHF spectrum below 700 MHz to be safeguarded until 2030; (iii) review by 2025 to assess technology and market developments. The report suggest inter alia a common EU position against the co-primary allocation to the mobile service of sub-700 MHz spectrum at WRC-15 as well as a flexibility option of using sub-700 MHz spectrum with priority for broadcasting and possibly for wireless broadband depending on national circumstances.

## 5. WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Second (interim) and third (final) workshops of the study "Challenges and opportunities of broadcast-broadband convergence and its impact on spectrum and network use"** (SMART 2013/0014)<sup>1</sup>:

The workshops took place on 8 July and 4 November 2014, respectively, and were attended by more than 100 participants. The study team – composed of consultants from Plum (leader) and Farncombe – presented their conclusions and recommendations on the developments of terrestrial broadcasting and broadband platforms and the prospects of emergence of converged networks. A presentation by the consultants took place at the meeting of 16-17 September 2014 of the RSPG WG on the Opinion regarding a long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz). The study team will deliver its final report to the Commission in December 2014.

**The presentation<sup>2</sup> of the draft final report of the Study "Use of commercial mobile networks and equipment for mission-critical high-speed broadband communications in specific sectors"** (SMART 2013/0016)

Took place in Brussels on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The goal of the event was to inform relevant stakeholders and experts about the findings of the final report. The draft final report has been made available for comments to all registered workshop participants. The final version of the Study report should be ready in November.

**Stakeholder workshop on wireless resources for advanced manufacturing:**

The workshop<sup>3</sup> organised by DG Enterprise took place on 30 October 2014 in order to ensure that the needs of advanced manufacturing are integrated in the policies for

<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-challenges-and-opportunities-broadcast-broadband-convergence-and-its-impact-spectrum-an-0>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/studies-workshops-consultations-other-activities>

<sup>3</sup> Information is available on [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=7816&lang=fr&title=Workshop%3A%2DWireless%2Dresources%2Dfor%2DAdvanced%2DManufacturing](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=7816&lang=fr&title=Workshop%3A%2DWireless%2Dresources%2Dfor%2DAdvanced%2DManufacturing)

spectrum management and related standardisation. Wireless applications are a key enabler of advanced manufacturing and are increasingly present in the manufacturing environment. Views were shared on the availability of appropriate radio spectrum resources and a sound approach for coexistence issues.

#### **First EU workshop on spectrum planning for 5G:**

The workshop<sup>4</sup> is taking place in Brussels on 13 November 2014 and is gathering representatives from national spectrum regulators, industry and research, as well as selected international participants from Asia and America. The debates will focus on the needs for spectrum for 5G arising from the various anticipated usages on the one hand, and on the technical and regulatory aspects on the other.

#### **Commission workshop on coexistence challenges in view of the evolution in the use of the UHF band:**

This workshop is taking place on 12 December 2014 in Brussels<sup>5</sup> and is organised by DG Enterprise. It is aimed at stimulating a debate among stakeholders and experts on the contribution of standards in the 700 MHz band and other possible measures in view of the coexistence challenges arising with the evolution in the use of the UHF band. The workshop will focus on the experience with the 800 MHz band and the future perspectives, challenges and possible actions.

#### **Launch of the study "Socio-economic benefits of network sharing "(SMART 2014/0024)<sup>6</sup>:**

The contract was awarded to TNO and the study was launched in November 2014. The goal of the Study is to support the Commission building up its knowledge base on the technological and economic models of network sharing in the context of possible EU policy initiatives on the issue. The study team will organise two public workshops, the first of which is planned for February 2015. The final report should be available in July 2015.

#### **Study "Identification of the market of radio equipment operating in license-exempt frequency bands to assess medium and long-term spectrum usage densities" (SMART 2014/0012):**

The contract award procedure is ongoing.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/eu-workshop-spectrum-planning-5g>

<sup>5</sup> Further information will be available in a few weeks at <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/events/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-socio-economic-benefits-network-sharing-smart-20140024>