



Brussels, 13 June 2013

RSPG RECOMMENDS ROADMAP TOWARDS MORE SPECTRUM FOR WIRELESS BROADBAND, IDENTIFIES EU PRIORITIES FOR THE WORLD RADIO CONFERENCE 2015, AND LAUNCHES A PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON LICENSED SHARED ACCESS (LSA)

In its latest plenary meeting on 13 June 2013 the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) has adopted:

- a ground breaking Opinion on future spectrum for Wireless Broadband including the 700 MHz band.
- a report on Spectrum for Wireless Broadband and Broadcasting in the frequency range 400 MHz to 6 GHz complementing the Opinion on Wireless Broadband
- an Interim Opinion on the EU's priorities for the World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC15)
- a draft Opinion for public consultation on the new concept of Licensed Shared Access (LSA)
- a report addressing the approach for cross-border coordination in the 700 MHz band
- a report on efficient interference management

In presenting the result of the work, the RSPG Chairman, Mr Brégant, declared: *"I am proud that we have delivered one of the key policy documents in the area of wireless broadband. I believe that it provides the Commission and the Member States with an important input for the overall policy framework by listing candidate bands for reallocation of spectrum in this field. In addition, we provide transparent orientation on Europe's priorities for the next World Radio Conference and we clearly define an innovative licensing approach based on a common framework for Licensed Shared Access (LSA) in the EU. After today's discussions I am confident that we will succeed in delivering the foreseen other items of the RSPG work programme and am looking forward to collaborate with Deputy Chairman Finn Petersen and the Commission to provide the basis for a new Work Programme 2014 and beyond."*

All public documents related to RSPG 31 are available here:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8ac8a9a1-73fd-4c71-9287-84c228e478c6>

Spectrum for wireless broadband

The RSPG has reviewed the current allocations of spectrum in Europe within the frequency range from 400 MHz to 6 GHz and outlined a roadmap to make particular candidate frequency bands available for wireless broadband. Regarding spectrum for terrestrial cellular systems the group

identified a further 140 MHz with near future potential and 886 MHz potentially in the medium term (beyond 2015) on top of the 990 MHz available today for such terrestrial applications. 210 MHz would be needed to reach the target set out in the RSPG to make available 1200 MHz of spectrum available for wireless broadband. The findings are based on the group's analysis of all of the frequency bands within the range 400 MHz to 6 GHz considering their potential for wireless broadband services on a harmonised basis, whether the band is already in use for wireless broadband and if not, the likely timeframe in which it could be made available.

The group recognises the growing importance of complementary wireless broadband solutions such as WiFi access or satellite based networks. Therefore the group notes in this analysis the 173 MHz currently available for satellite-based broadband and 538.50 MHz already available for Wi-Fi-type applications for which an additional spectrum of 320 MHz could be studied.

With regard to the 700 MHz band, which has been allocated to the mobile services alongside broadcasting in WRC-12, the group recommends the development by the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, of a long-term strategic policy on the future use of the UHF band (470-790 MHz). The strategy should take account of, in particular, the spectrum needs of the DTT platforms in the EU, the spectrum needs of PMSE, and the possible benefits arising from future convergent broadcasting-mobile platforms to deliver linear media/audiovisual services and high-audience video and data to mobile devices (smartphones, tablets, etc.).

RSPG also approved a report complementing the Opinion on potential candidate bands. The broadcasting needs and relevant 700 MHz migration issues are also addressed based on results of an earlier survey.

World Radio Conference (WRC-15)

Furthermore the RSPG has adopted for publication an interim opinion on the preparation of the next World Radio Conference (WRC-15). This interim deliverable sets out first considerations with regard to EU policies in light of the agenda items of the conference. Among others, the following priorities are addressed:

- Electronic communications services, in particular the issue of availability of spectrum for wireless broadband data applications.
- Spectrum for aviation, maritime and road safety purposes in relation to EU transport policy.
- The importance of the availability of spectrum under appropriate conditions for scientific use which may have important environmental and safety implications.
- The international regulatory procedures associated with satellite operation and WRC-15 agenda items on satellite allocation issues in relation with EU space policy.

The RSPG will develop advice on EU common policy objectives for WRC-15 to be included in the final opinion that is planned for June 2014.

Public Consultation on Licensed Shared Access (LSA)

The RSPG decided to ask stakeholders for their views on how an operational LSA concept in the European Union should look like. Following the 2011 RSPG Report on collective use of spectrum and other sharing approaches, the Commission had requested the RSPG to provide it with advice on the main features of an operational LSA and to develop recommendations how such an approach to spectrum authorisations should be taken forward to encourage more shared use of spectrum, at EU level and its possible implementation in the EU Member States.

Based on the 2012 RSPG work programme, which foresees an in-depth assessment of the LSA the Member States experts have developed a draft Opinion in which the definition of LSA and the role of administrations/NRA and others stakeholders are clarified. It considers how this approach could be implemented at national level in a frequency band subject to EU harmonisation.

In the coming days stakeholders will be invited to comment on the draft RSPG Opinion, the public consultation is planned to end at 23 August 2013.

EU Assistance in Bilateral coordination

RSPG adopted a Report addressing the approach for cross-border coordination in the 700 MHz band as it will be necessary to reconstitute broadcasting rights of Member states in the band 470-694 MHz if 700 MHz will be used for mobile broadband.

Efficient interference management through exchange of regulatory best practices concerning regulation and/or standardisation

RSPG approved a report on efficient interference management and agreed that this report is an input to the current negotiation on Radio Equipment Directive (RED) RSPG highlights the increasing role of receiver parameters in spectrum management. The group suggests that the new Radio Equipment Directive (RED) should cover all radio receivers including receive-only equipment. The report will be made publicly available in the coming weeks.

Strategic sectoral spectrum needs

RSPG welcomed the progress made by the group and agreed on the new structure of the draft report. RSPG discussed and agreed on some basic strategic principles for managing sectoral needs (to be further developed by the group). RSPG noted the progress made in large number of sectors (Smart meters, Smart energy grids, ITS, Galileo, Scientific services and GMES) and the time plan to further develop the report

The final report is expected for the next RSPG plenary meeting.

Update of the RSPG Work Programme

RSPG agreed on the principle to convene an ad hoc meeting in autumn to assess strategic topics that could be considered in the next RSPG Work Programme.

All public documents will be made available on the RSGP website:

<http://rspg-spectrum.eu>

Note to the editor:

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was created by a European Commission Decision in 2002, amended in December 2009. Comprising the national spectrum authorities of the 27 EU Member

States, the RSPG provides the Commission and other EU institutions with advice on high level policy matters in relation to spectrum. Representatives of the EEA countries, the European Parliament and the regional and international bodies may attend as observers. Before being transmitted to the Commission, the RSPG's expert opinions are normally submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as of any other interested stakeholders. The RSPG also publishes Reports on key issues in spectrum matters. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and co-ordinate regulation of radio spectrum.