



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

Radio Spectrum Policy Group

RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 19 February

DG CNECT/B4/RSPG Secretariat

RSPG15-594

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

3rd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the future use of the UHF Band

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The RSPG Working Group on the future use of the UHF band held its 6th meeting on the 22nd of January 2015 in Madrid.

This meeting had two main objectives: To consider the comments received from the public consultation and to reach a conclusion related to the use of the 700 MHz band, in particular on the date to make the 700 MHz band available for WBB.

The meeting had 13 participants representing 10 countries (Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and UK), the European Commission and ETSI.

The public consultation on the draft version of the Opinion was held from 14th of November 2014 until 12nd of January 2015. In all, **54** responses were received. 6 of these responses were received after the deadline and 2 responses were confidential.

All responses (with the exception of the 2 confidential contributions) can be found on the RSPG website <http://rspg-spectrum.eu/public-consultations/>.

The responses received can be classified in the following groups: Member States; Manufacturers; Broadcasting sector; Mobile Sector and Specific interest groups.

The group noted the high number of responses received to the public consultation as well as the positive and constructive character of the contributions. In general, the responses are supportive of the Opinion, having welcomed the timeliness and the opportunity to express their views on the different issues at stake. A wide range of topics have been referred by the contributors among which, those that have captured more attention are related to the 700 MHz band clearance process (including the transition/migration phase) and the long term view on the sub-700 MHz spectrum. Other issues such as the sector specific spectrum requirements (e.g. PMSE, PPDR, SRDs, Railways, WSD), platform convergence/cooperation between DTT and wireless broadband, TV receiver specification, compensation issues and technology developments have also been mentioned.

The group developed a new point (section 9) in the draft document, taking into account the different responses to the consultation process.

The group considered adequate to take into consideration some observations of the respondents in order to improve and clarify the text (in track changes in annex 1). However no substantial modifications were made to the main decisions contained in the main body of the document.

On one of the key issues of the Opinion, i.e. in relation to the question of the use of 700 MHz band for WBB, an alternative new text was discussed in the meeting and approved unanimously as follows:

“3. RSPG recommends Member States to make the 700 MHz band available for WBB as early as possible. RSPG supports making the band available for effective use for ECS by the end of 2020, noting that Member states may decide for duly justified reasons and without the need for derogation to delay the availability of the band by up to two years. This is without prejudice to constraints arising from cross border frequency coordination with third countries.”

The group strongly recommends RSPG to adopt this formulation as this represents a careful and delicate compromise which provides a stable basis to move forward on this highly sensitive topic.

The annex 1 to this document contains the draft Opinion with the modifications in track changes (against the document sent out into public consultation) and the document in annex 2 is the clean version of the Opinion submitted for final adoption of the RSPG.

The group considers its work as concluded and the rapporteur wishes to thank wholeheartedly all the participants in the group for their hard work and all the fruitful discussions which led to the conclusion of this work item.

The rapporteur of the group

26/01/2015

Luísa Mendes