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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

2nd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group

on the review of the RSPP

(Radio Spectrum Policy Programme)

2nd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the review of the RSPP

The RSPG WG on ‘the review of the RSPP’ met twice since the last RSPG plenary. A one and a half days meeting on 11 and 12 March in Brussels at the kind invitation of BIPT and a one day meeting on 5 May in London kindly hosted by OFCOM. The work is progressing well and a preliminary draft of an Opinion is being discussed in the group.

There is active participation of some 10 Member States and ETSI.

Some of the topics raised discussions, in particular at the last meeting:

- **Draft structure of the Opinion**

The draft structure of the Opinion, as it was in principle endorsed by the last RSPG plenary, has been re-ordered and amended by the group (see Annex).

- **Timing of the next RSPP**

In view of the Digital Single Market Strategy published by the European Commission (6 may) and the foreseen review of the Telecom Package (presumably in 2016), the group discussed the timing of the next RSPP. The European Commission confirmed that this issue is also under discussion internally. It was noted recital 10 of the current RSPP mentions that “*the RSPP should specify guiding principles and objectives up to 2015 and set out specific implementation initiatives*”.

So, two options have been considered during the discussion:

- A new/revised RSPP to be proposed for a short time frame, covering the period from 2016 up to the implementation date of the reviewed Telecom Package. A follow up RSPP should then be developed for (a longer period) after the implementation of the reviewed Telecom Package (for 2019/2020 onwards)
- To wait until the end of the review of the Telecom Package and to develop a new RSPP around 2019/2020 and to address specific targeted actions by individual Decisions from European Parliament and the Council.

The group agreed to reconsider this issue at the next meeting and confirmed its support for developing future RSPP’s.

Nevertheless, if the European Commission does not engage in the review of the RSPP and focuses on spectrum issues in the context of the Telecom review, it would still be appropriate to finalise the RSPG Opinion on RSPP as initially planned

In addition RSPG could investigate prior the next RSPG plenary the spectrum issues which need to be addressed in the context of Telecom Review in the parallel with the on-going work of the RSPG on “efficient use of spectrum and spectrum awards”.

- **Harmonisation needs for Wireless Broadband**

The group agreed that, as it has been done for the 800 MHz band in the current RSPP, a legal basis is needed for making the band 700 MHz band (the 2 x 30 MHz portion) available in the Member States for ECS by the end of 2020.

Diverging views were expressed on the merit of specifying in a future RSPP a deadline for making the bands 1452-1492 MHz and 2.3-2.4 GHz available for ECS.

The meeting discussed the distinction between the obligation of “making available” in the EC implementing decisions and in the RSPP. The European Commission was invited to investigate whether there is a legal difference and whether it would be easier for the European Commission to enforce such an obligation if it is in the RSPP.

The meeting also discussed the merit of specifying, as in the current RSPG, that Member States (subject to demand) shall carry out the authorization process of specified bands before a certain date. The example of the 800 MHz has shown that the “making available” is really what matters in terms of spectrum management.

Issues to be addressed in the next RSPP

The group has already identified a number of objectives/issues that need to be addressed in a new/revised RSPP and has formulated draft recommendations on the approach and/or on actions to take:

- the 5G challenges to be addressed by RSPG,
- the need to streamline the spectrum inventory,
- the coherence of various EU public objectives,
- the external relation issues,
- the increasing role of spectrum sharing.

This on-going work identified also the need to better reflect the increasing role and influence of the RSPG and its commitment to support EU Policy Objectives addressing spectrum challenges.

Dates of next meetings

- 8th July – Amsterdam – NL
- 23rd September – Maisons Alfort – France [**kick-off meeting on spectrum issues in the context of telecom review**]

The RSPG Plenary Meeting #37 is invited

1. to note the 2nd progress report from the RSPG Working Group on the review of the RSPP;

2. to provide comments and guidance, as appropriate on strategic issues to be addressed by this draft Opinion (see draft new structure of the Opinion attached)
3. to agree on the proposed approach to start the discussion, prior the next RSPG plenary, on the spectrum issues which need to be addressed by RSPG in the context of Telecom Review in the parallel with the on-going work of the RSPG on “efficient use of spectrum and spectrum awards

Didier Chauveau, Fokko Bos
Co-Chairmen