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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy

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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 45th meeting of the RSPG on 30 January 2018 (RSPG#45). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

With regard to the inter-institutional discussions on the Commission's proposal for a European Electronic Communications Code (the Code), the Commission is pleased to report that the co-legislators' achieved a provisional agreement on spectrum issues in the trilogue on 1st March 2018. This agreement will pave the way for wireless broadband communications, including for connected cars and the Internet of Things, and *inter alia* it will ensure:

- the availability of pioneer bands for 5G by the end of 2020;
- the necessary investment certainty and usage flexibility, through long term 20-years spectrum usage rights and clear rules for renewal of such rights;
- specific rules for radio spectrum fees;
- practical solutions to solve cross-border interference issues;
- better coordination of licensing processes through peer review;
- and the facilitation of small area wireless access points and Wi-Fi deployment.

Connected cars and the Internet of Things will in addition benefit from the provisions that stress the need to pursue wireless broadband coverage of national territories and populations at high speed and quality and the coverage of major national and European transport paths.

The assignment of the 5G pioneer bands by 2020 will pave the way for deploying 5G technologies and services in order to meet the connectivity targets for a Gigabit Society. In particular 5G Fixed Wireless Access solutions, especially in the mm-waves bands (26 GHz band), will offer significant investment opportunities. Moreover shared infrastructure and

spectrum usage models will facilitate the economy of deployment, which will be framed by competition principles in the single market.

A final agreement between the co-legislators is expected in June 2018.

3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#45, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee on 14 March 2018. The following issues were discussed:

- **1.5GHz extension**

The Commission presented a revision of the draft Commission Implementing Decision (RSCOM17-41rev6) amending Decision (EU) 2015/750 on the harmonisation of the 1452-1492 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services in the Union, which is based on the deliverables of CEPT Report 65. Following an amendment in recital 16, on a biennial report of national measures to enhance coexistence with services in adjacent bands as well as a specific reference to further national measures to protect adjacent services in the Annex, the Commission requested the Opinion of the RSC on a revised draft Decision (RSCOM17-41rev7). The RSC gave a positive Opinion. The final Decision can be found [here](#)

- **IoT in unlicensed spectrum in the 874-876 MHz and 915-921MHz bands**

The Commission presented a revised draft Commission Implementing Decision on the harmonisation of the bands 874-876 and 915-921 MHz for use by short range devices (RSCOM17-60rev1). The revisions, explained in the corresponding explanatory document (RSCOM18-4), were of editorial nature and aimed at improved clarity, but did not touch upon the balanced approach to reconcile all the different interests expressed by Member States and stakeholders, which was achieved during the previous meetings. Final editorial comments of Member States have been integrated and the final draft of the Decision will be submitted to the Radio Spectrum Committee for its opinion during the next meeting in July 2018.

- **IoT in licensed spectrum at 900MHz and 1800MHz**

The Commission presented a revised draft Decision (RSCOM17-50rev2) amending the harmonised technical conditions for the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequency bands in the Union in support of state-of-the-art cellular Internet of Things (IoT) applications, which is based on the deliverables of the CEPT Report 66. Following a minor amendment of the annex, the Commission requested the Opinion of the RSC on a revised draft Decision (RSCOM17-50rev3). The RSC gave a positive Opinion. The Decision was adopted by the Commission on 20 April 2018 ((EU) 2018/637¹).

- **Mandate on Spectrum for railway**

The Commission presented a first draft of a mandate to the CEPT with the aim to identify and harmonize appropriate spectrum bands for the future railway mobile communication system. Main bands to be studied are 874.4-880 MHz and 919.4-925 MHz as well as 1900-1920 MHz. Further spectrum bands, including use of commercial networks will also be considered. Member States welcomed the mandate, but had further comments, which will be integrated into a revision of the draft text. Pending final comments of the Member States, the aim will be to finalise the mandate at the next meeting of the RSC.

The next meeting of the RSC (RSC#64) is scheduled for 11 and 12 July in Brussels.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES

On 17 May the Commission adopted a Communication *“On the road to automated mobility: an EU strategy for mobility of the future”*². On vehicle-to-vehicle communications, the Commission follows a technology-neutral approach in line with the EU Strategy on Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems⁴⁶ and has not proposed mandatory deployment of specific technologies in the 5.9 GHz spectrum band, while taking into account the principles of uncompromised safety, technology neutrality and efficient spectrum use. Demonstrations and large-scale testing are already taking place in the EU Member States. The Commission supports these through research funding programme and deployment projects, and will help to better coordinate cross-border testing on 5G and V2V technologies.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1524732569519&uri=CELEX:32018D0637>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0283&rid=1>

Stakeholder workshop of the Study on using millimetre waves bands for the deployment of the 5G ecosystem in the Union (SMART 2017/0015)

This workshop took place in Brussels on 30 May 2018. The main objectives of the workshop were to gather necessary evidence and information from relevant stakeholders and experts to improve the findings on the major tasks of the study. The study is expected to deliver its final report in Q4/18.

Study on small cells (SMART 2018/0017)

The Commission will procure a study in July 2018 to assist it in implementing the requirements of draft Article 56 (Deployment of small area wireless access points)³ of the EECC. Draft Article 56 of the EECC provides for the exemption from any individual prior town planning permit or other individual prior permit for the deployment of small-area wireless access points (small cells) if they meet the characteristics set out in a Commission implementing act. Hence, the Commission should specify the physical and technical characteristics, such as the maximum size, weight and where appropriate emission power, of small-area wireless access points that will benefit from the exemption. Removing administrative barriers to their deployment will facilitate installation and encourage rollout, while ensuring a single market for them on the basis of "a light deployment regime" across the Union⁴.

To that end, the study will analyse the existing definitions/categories of small-area wireless access points, identify any specific regulatory regimes and based on that analysis propose elements of a light regulatory regime for small-area wireless access points. The study will estimate the costs and benefits for the development of the 5G ecosystem that can be expected to flow from the exemption, depending on its technical characteristics. The duration of the study is foreseen to be 9 months, as of signature of the contract. A stakeholder workshop is likely to take place in Q4 of 2018 as part of the study.

³ Provisionally agreed in the third informal trilogue on 1 February 2018

⁴ The exemption does not cover the authorisation regime applicable for the use of the relevant radio spectrum.