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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

3rd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the Spectrum aspects of the Digital Single Market

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RSPG at its Meeting #41 (Brussels, 9 November 2016) approved the 2nd Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group. This described the establishment of a Peer Review platform accessible to all RSPG members (Member States and Commission). The meeting also considered the issue of mobile coverage following a workshop on the topic which was held the day before the RSPG Plenary.

I. THE RSPG PEER REVIEW PLATFORM

The purpose of the platform is to provide a forum for RSPG members to exchange experiences and views on spectrum awards and national assignment regulations of spectrum harmonised for ECS¹. The RSPG Peer Review platform consists of three main sub-sections:

- the **Library** section
- the **Peer assistance** section
- the **Contact point** section

The basic structure of the RSPG Peer Review platform was agreed at the RSPG Plenary on 9 November 2016. The aim of the platform is to enable RSPG members to learn from each other's experiences and to seek support, as appropriate, from peers on issues of spectrum management, focusing on spectrum harmonised for ECS. The RSPG Peer Review platform is based on voluntary principles and is not intended to impose additional obligations for the members.

Following the RSPG Plenary, Member States were encouraged to provide contact information to the Rapporteurs so that access to the platform could be provided to these contact persons. This has now happened and, as a result, individuals from those Member States that have provided contact details have been able to start to test out the platform. This testing phase is ongoing but some information has already been uploaded onto the platform. Member States are encouraged to upload further information over the coming weeks and ideally by **31st March 2017**.

The success of the platform will ultimately largely depend upon the information uploaded to it. In particular, RSPG members are encouraged to complete templates providing basic information about upcoming awards. This should be done by **31 March 2017**. This information can be easily updated as plans progress and more information comes to light. We believe that the provision of such information will provide a basis sharing of experience, providing greater opportunity for individual

¹ Spectrum subject to technical harmonisation under Spectrum Decision (700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1452-1492 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2,1 GHz, 2,6 GHz and 3,4-3,8 GHz)

experts from each Member State to ask questions of one another, consider areas of common challenge and identify issues that are being faced across different countries.

II. RSPG WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC COVERAGE ISSUES

The RSPG held a workshop to share experiences about strategic coverage issues amongst RSPG Members States on 8th November 2016 in Brussels. The workshop was well attended by a number of Member States and provided an opportunity to consider some of the different approaches to addressing coverage issues that are being looked at across Europe.

The RSPG and BEREC Chairs have also discussed coverage, including the possibility of joint work between RSPG and BEREC. Coverage (both in terms of policy issues and the measurement of coverage) has been included on the BEREC Work Programme for 2017 which also proposes the idea of joint work with RSPG.

BEREC held a first Working Group meeting addressing coverage in January 2017. Issues discussed at this meeting included:

- Identification of challenging areas, such as roads, trains, indoor coverage, rural areas of various topographies, protected areas like national parks;
- Potential tools, including Govt/NRA measures and commercial approaches to the issue, and the advantages and disadvantages of these;
- Gaining a better understanding of who is doing what in relation to the measurement of coverage.

This work is expected to lead to a Report later in 2017. One question therefore for RSPG is to consider how it might want to feed into this work and what implications it might have for any further work that RSPG was intending to undertake on the subject of coverage following its Workshop last year. In particular, we should discuss the idea of a joint report on the issue as proposed in the BEREC Work Programme.

III. PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION

The RSPG Plenary Meeting #42 requests:

1. RSPG members that have not yet provided contact details from their Member State for the Peer Review Platform do so as soon as possible (this should cover name, organisation represented, role, country name, e-mail and phone number);
2. Member States continue to upload relevant information relating to spectrum awards to the Peer Review Platform and complete the templates in relation to upcoming awards – **by 31 March 2017**;

3. RSPG members to consider how we might work with BEREC on the issue of mobile coverage, noting its inclusion in the BEREC Work Programme for 2017 and the proposal for a joint report with RSPG.

Rapporteurs:

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