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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Third Progress Report of the RSPG Working Group on the Review of the “Telecoms” Regulatory Framework

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The RSPG WG met on 21 November 16 (Budapest), 13 January 17 (Brussels) and 25 January 17 (Dublin). The meetings have been attended by between 11 and 14 representatives from Member States and the European Commission. An ad-hoc mailing list is in place with 59 subscribers including the European Commission representatives. The co-rapporteurs thank the hosts of the meetings and, in particular, ComReg (IE) which organised the second January meeting in a tight timeframe.

1. Interactions with the European Commission

At the WG meeting in November, the European Commission representative provided final responses to the questions raised by the Member States. Relevant minutes of meetings summarising the debates and the exchange of views with the European Commission have been circulated and agreed by the WG.

During the January meeting, the European Commission representative provided information on the relevant time frame from the Council and some information about the internal organisation of the European and how it will develop of its respective position on the proposal from the European Commission. Both entities intend to develop their respective position on the proposal after a first reading for June 17. Taking into account this information, the WG agreed to make all effort to finalise a short and focused RSPG common vision on time as requested by the last Plenary. An additional meeting has been organised before the end of January in order to finalise the common vision to be submitted to the RSPG plenary.

2. Drafting a Common Vision

The WG started to develop the RSPG common vision after its November meeting where an initial preliminary skeleton was discussed and the WG agreed on a roadmap to draft it before the first January meeting. During the first January meeting, the WG agreed to focus its effort on a shorter deliverable and to maintain in a working document all the detailed material already collected and developed by the co-rapporteurs.

The second January meeting focused its effort on the shorter document. The main issues have been addressed:

- Spectrum management framework
- Promoting consistency and predictability on Spectrum awards for electronic communications networks
- Granting individual rights of spectrum use for electronic communications networks

- Key challenges for a shared uses of spectrum
- Maintaining a balance of competencies
- Institutional arrangements

The WG developed also a “Conclusion”, recollecting the main messages. The WG agreed to refer to the RSPG “Manifesto” in a foot note and to add as an annex of the common vision an update of the “Annex 1” of the RSPG Opinion on RSPP describing the RSPG deliverables and their impacts on EU (and beyond) Spectrum policy.

The WG agreed also to continue to further develop the working document in order to provide a more thorough RSPG analysis when appropriate. There are several issues that have to be further discussed such as ”shared use of spectrum” and “small cells” (but not limited to). At this stage, this working document is internal to the WG. Nevertheless, it could be sent under request to RSPG members.

3. Interaction with stakeholders

As mentioned in the previous progress report, further to the RSPG stakeholder’s workshop, the GSMA established contact with the co rapporteurs in order to present its view on spectrum issues on the Commission’s proposals. The GSMA position has been published by mid of December 16. GSMA representatives presented their views and positions during January meeting. The GSMA position and the relevant presentation have been circulated to the WG.

The co rapporteurs noted that ECTA published also its views on the proposal from the European Commission. It focuses mainly on fixed networks regulation, market analysis and competition issues. The ECTA position has been circulated to the WG.

4. Next Steps

The next meetings will take place the 8 February (Brussels), 14 March (Brussels).

Proposed course of actions

The RSPG Plenary Meeting #42 is invited:

- to note the progress report
- to consider, approve and publish the RSPG common vision (including its annex)
- to agree on the continuation on the work on a more detailed analysis on sensitive topics in relation with spectrum issues

Emilia Ulelay, Didier Chauveau
Co-rapporteurs