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## **RADIO SPECTRUM COMMITTEE**

### **Working Document**

Subject: **Timeframe and guidance to CEPT for the sixth update of the SRD Decision**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The SRD Decision (Decision 2006/771/EC) harmonises frequency bands and the related technical parameters for spectrum usage by short-range devices (SRDs). The harmonisation of frequency bands throughout the European Union ensures that a growing number of wireless devices benefits from economies of scale that can be achieved within the internal market. SRDs play an important role in the daily life of citizens, with numerous types of wireless applications such as alarms, local communications equipment, RFID, door openers, medical devices and intelligent transport systems.

A regular update of the SRD Decision is foreseen in the Decision itself<sup>1</sup> based on an annual review. Regular updates of the harmonised spectrum usage conditions for SRDs are necessary due to rapid changes in technology and societal demands as well as the emergence of new short-range applications. The SRD Decision foresees the update of the technical parameters for spectrum use by SRDs. The permanent Mandate to CEPT on SRDs<sup>2</sup> supports this update.

Those regular updates of the applicable technical conditions ensure innovation and shared spectrum access across the internal market for tens of millions of devices sold annually. The technical annex to the SRD Decision (Decision 2006/771/EC) was amended for a fifth time by Commission Decision 2013/752/EU which was adopted on 13 December 2013. During RSC#47 a sixth amendment of the SRD Decision will be discussed (document RSCOM13-78rev1) with the aim of agreement.

## 2. TIMEFRAMES FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE SRD DECISION

According to the permanent Mandate, CEPT should deliver a proposal for the amendment of the technical annex to the SRD Decision in July of each year. Additionally, the Commission services may provide guidance to CEPT on the priorities of update exercise.

Taking account of concerns on the part of Member States that the decreasing number of urgent additions and changes to the technical annex if implemented on an annual basis would cause a regulatory burden for Member States, the Commission services had proposed to allow more time for CEPT to study certain issues but to retain the permanent Mandate in order to maintain the ability to respond to technological developments.

Accordingly, for the sixth update a draft of the guidance document to CEPT is annexed to this document describing the broad lines for the sixth update.

Member States are invited to give their final comments on the revised draft of the guidance document, which takes into account comments received from Member States following the last RSC meeting as well as the discussions in CEPT (see RSCOM14-25). The aim is to finalise the text for submission to CEPT.

<sup>1</sup> Recital 11 of Commission Decision 2006/771/EC states that: “..... Regular updates of this Decision will therefore be necessary to respond to new developments in the market and technology. The Annex will be reviewed at least once every year on the basis of the information collected by Member States and provided to the Commission.”

<sup>2</sup> RSCOM 06-27 Rev (5 July 2006)

**GUIDANCE TO CEPT****ON THE SIXTH UPDATE OF THE SRD DECISION****1. PERMANENT MANDATE ON UPDATING THE TECHNICAL ANNEX TO THE SRD DECISION**

This document provides the Commission services' guidance to CEPT for the sixth update of the technical annex to the SRD Decision. Such guidance is foreseen in the permanent Mandate to CEPT regarding the annual update of the technical annex of the Commission Decision on harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short range devices<sup>3</sup>.

**2. RECOMMENDED FOCUS FOR THE NEXT UPDATE**

The recently published ECC report 189 [Feb 2014] assesses future demand and technical feasibility for the deployment of key SRD applications, including Internet of Things [IoT] applications. Report 189 also emphasises that increasing the spectrum available for use by SRDs is key to meet forecasted future demand and boost the social-economic potential of SRDs in the short-medium term. Furthermore, emerging SRD applications like home automation, smart metering, smart grids and mesh networks, will also create additional demand for more spectrum in the short/medium term. The technical parameters recommended by the report are now part of ERC recommendation 70-03 of Feb 2014.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- a. *consider making the bands recently added in ERC Recommendation 70-03 available to SRD usage and eventual inclusion in the next update of the SRD decision;*

Also, in response to the Commission's mandate M/512, ETSI is currently working on standards for Reconfigurable Radio Systems (RRS). Although the on-going work is more focused on TV white space devices and associated geolocation databases, Cognitive Radio is a potentially interesting approach for fast SRD deployment in spectrum bands that are problematic due to diversified and/or sensitive primary usage.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- b. *start investigations on assessing the requirements for cognitive radio enabled SRDs and any potential implications in terms of SRD harmonised technical conditions, taking into account the on-going work in ETSI under mandate M/512;*

Some 'usage restrictions', currently in the annex of Decision 2006/771/EC, may hinder the quick deployment of SRD solutions in certain categories. In specific cases, it might be possible to relax such restrictions without substantially affecting the primary services operating in those bands, increasing market penetration and socio-economic benefits of SRDs.

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<sup>3</sup> RSCOM06-27 Rev.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- c. *re-assess, on a demand basis from stakeholders, the relevance and appropriateness of 'other usage restrictions' for the relevant SRD categories;*

At the present there are three Commission Decisions dealing with SRD harmonisation: the SRD decision itself [2006/771/EC]; the RFID decision [2006/804/EC] and the UWB decision [2007/131/EC]. In order to streamline the SRD regulatory framework it would be desirable to integrate these three decisions into just one decision.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- d. *consider merging the existent decisions pertaining to SRDs into one encompassing decision.*

The above does not pre-empt CEPT to pursue their investigations on the specific work items already identified in CEPT report #44.

### **3. ROADMAP FOR THE 2014/2015/2016 UPDATE CYCLE**

1. ECC (August 2014): launch of the sixth update cycle. CEPT starts work on the update proposal pursuant to the permanent Mandate and this guidance document.
2. RSC (March 2016): CEPT to submit its report (subject to public consultation) pursuant to the permanent Mandate. Commission services examine the CEPT proposal for amendment of the technical annex.
3. RSC (July 2016): CEPT submits final CEPT report and the Commission services present a draft Commission Decision updating the technical annex to the SRD Decision. If agreement is reached swiftly on the draft text, publication can be envisaged for early 2017.

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