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PUBLIC DOCUMENT

RADIO SPECTRUM COMMITTEE

Working Document

Subject: Discussion document on the focus and timeframe 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 itself¹ 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 SRDs² 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/xxx/EU which was adopted on dd mm 2013. During RSC#46 a sixth amendment of the SRD Decision will be discussed (document RSCOM13-78).

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.

¹ 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.”

² RSCOM 06-27 Rev (5 July 2006)

Member States are invited to share their views on the priorities for the 6th update of the SRD decision and to raise other specific issues that could be usefully addressed within the next revision of the EC Decision.

ANNEX

DRAFT GUIDANCE TO CEPT

ON THE FIFTH 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 fifth 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 devices³.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In line with previous updates CEPT is requested to take the following general principles into account when preparing its response to the permanent mandate (in addition to the general objectives of the Mandate).

- The **SRD Decision is a legal document** and must fulfil the legal standards applicable to Commission Decisions.
- The updating exercise aims to modify the SRD Decision in place. The relevant technical parameters should be presented in a manner compatible with the RIG II template⁴, where appropriate.
- The overall focus of the next update should be on **widening the scope** of the Decision in terms of:
 - i. Extending the frequency bands available for use by SRDs. New bands should be considered for harmonisation in one or more of the 14 SRD categories, with a preference for non/specific default categories. No new categories should be added. One of the key target bands that should be considered is the 870-876 MHz and 915-921 MHz band;
 - ii. Extending the frequency bands that each SRD category can use through sharing;
 - iii. Removing as many existing "other usage restrictions" as possible based on re-assessment of the need for such restrictions. Where needed CEPT should to undertake necessary studies to justify why restrictions need to be kept: The burden of proof needs to be placed on those stakeholders that want the restrictions.
 - iv. Revising and updating allocations and parameters as necessary;

³ RSCOM06-27 Rev.

⁴ RSCOM08-23

- v. Investigating the possibility to integrate in the near future Decision 2006/804/EC (RFID) and 2006/771/EC (SRD) into one EC decision. Starting a reflection regarding advantages and disadvantages linked to a medium to long term integration of all existing EC decisions covering aspects pertaining to SRDs, including UWB.

The objective is to allow for as much flexibility as possible for manufacturers and users alike.

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

3. OTHER SPECIFIC ISSUES

- To be discussed/identified as necessary.

4. ROADMAP FOR THE 2014/15 UPDATE CYCLE

- To be finalised once feedback from MS is received.
