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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Draft Request for Report on furthering efficient interference management through exchange of regulatory best practices concerning regulation and/or standardisation

DRAFT REQUEST FOR REPORT ON FURTHERING EFFICIENT INTERFERENCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH EXCHANGE OF REGULATORY BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING REGULATION AND/OR STANDARDISATION

1. INTRODUCTION

Efficient interference management is one of the key issues of Administrations in order to ensure that the available radio spectrum with its limited resources can be used and exploited as extensively and efficiently as possible without causing any harmful interference to existing and planned radio-communication services. In addition to some basic principles and approaches of the ITU and CEPT and under consideration of the RSPG Opinion on “Streamlining the regulatory environment for the use of spectrum”, administrations have developed and introduced rules for interference management on a national basis in order to meet best their national expectations for the market, operators, providers, manufacturers and consumers.

On a European perspective, an exchange of national best practices concerning regulation and/or standardisation may help and support to further an efficient interference management.

In order to focus on the priorities of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme¹, Member States and the Commission shall cooperate to support and achieve inter alia the policy objective of its Article 3 k):

“Avoid harmful interference or disturbance by other radio or non-radio devices, inter alia, by facilitating the development of standards which contribute to the efficient use of spectrum, and by increasing immunity of receivers to interference, taking particular account of the cumulative impact of the increasing volumes and density of radio devices and applications.”

Article 4 par. 3 of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme states:

“Member States and the Commission shall cooperate to foster the development and harmonisation of standards for radio equipment and telecommunications terminals as well as for electric and electronic equipment and networks based, where necessary, upon standardisation mandates from the Commission to the relevant standardisation bodies. Special attention shall also be given to standards for equipment to be used by disabled people.”

2. BACKGROUND

In 2008 the RSPG Opinion on “Streamlining the regulatory environment for the use of spectrum”² proposed solutions to ensure consistency between various regulations affecting spectrum and to improve the cooperation between bodies involved in spectrum policies, in order to facilitate making spectrum available for new applications and improving the efficient use of radio spectrum in conjunction with the avoidance of harmful interference.

¹ The Radio Spectrum Policy Programme is published in the Official Journal on 21 March 2012: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:081:0007:0017:EN:PDF>

² RSPG 08-246, http://rspg.groups.eu.int/documents/documents/meeting/rspg17/rspg08246_finalopinion_streamlining.pdf

3. REQUEST FOR REPORT

In its “Work Programme for 2012 and beyond” the RSPG announces that it intends to address the issue of interference management through an exchange of regulatory best practices.

The overall aim of this activity will be to identify how to take advantage of the characteristics and capabilities of the most advanced digital technologies and filtering techniques, including in receivers, and how these advances are reflected in the best practices concerning regulation and standardisation in order to foster a more efficient use of spectrum. In particular, this activity should create a common understanding on the solutions found at national level to address interference issues and on the specific role that could be played by improved standards in helping devices to avoid interference from other users and, thereby, to improve spectrum efficiency.

More particularly, an exchange of best practices could support the policy objective of Article 3 k) as concretised in Article 4 par. 3 of the RSPP which refers to the benefit of fostering the development and harmonisation of standards for radio equipment terminals as well as for electric and electronic equipment and networks, where necessary, upon standardisation mandates from the Commission to the relevant standardisation bodies.

Furthermore, this activity may include considerations on the outcome of the Commission study on improved interference management conducted in 2007³ in relation to national interference management practices and shall evaluate the implementation degree of the recommendations in the Opinion on “Streamlining the regulatory environment for the use of spectrum”² approved in November 2008.

The Commission therefore requests the RSPG to develop a Report on "**Furthering efficient interference management through exchange of regulatory best practices concerning regulation and/or standardisation**".

The Report should focus on:

- Identify ways for the promotion of improved receiver standards within the current ETSI process and the EU institutional set up as well as indicate how the role of European institutions could facilitate such a breakthrough;
- Examine, through the analysis of best practices, what role EU spectrum policy and specifically of the R&TTE Directive, taking into account the review when published, could play in promoting improved receiver standards;
- Identify basic principles and approaches of an efficient Interference Management as well as Member States best practices in managing interference taking into account increasingly flexible conditions of use in spectrum rights.

³ Study on radio interference regulatory models in the European Community commissioned to

Eurostrategies and LS Telecom,

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomms/radio_spectrum/document_storage/studies/interference/interference_final_report.pdf

4. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

Deliverable:	RSPG Report
Timing:	First Interim Report December 2012, Final Report Mid 2013
Public Consultation:	No
Rapporteur:	Bernd Weinauge (BNetzA, Germany)