



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Information Society and Media Directorate-General

Electronic Communications Policy  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
**RSPG Secretariat**

Brussels, 1 June 2012  
DG INFSO/B4/RSPG Secretariat

**RSPG12-422 rev1**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Draft Request for an Opinion on the preparation of Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15**

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### 1 Introduction

ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) are held every 3-4 years in order to revise the Radio Regulations and take key decisions on the management of the Radiocommunications Sector. The conference has UN Treaty making status and attracts a significant level of participation from both member states and industry.

The ITU process encourages the preparation for WRCs to be conducted in six Regional Groups, in the case of Europe this process is managed by CEPT/ECC. The ECC conducts detailed preparations supported by detailed technical studies leading to the preparation of European Common Proposals (ECPs). These ECPs normally address virtually the whole WRC agenda and are formally signed by most CEPT administrations; objections are permitted but are highly unusual.

It is important that during the ECC process to prepare ECPs, EU Member States act in a consistent manner with the EU Policy Objectives and the RSPG has developed opinions for recent WRCs to facilitate this. The possibility may exist where there is existing EU legislation that must be applied by the member states during the preparations and negotiations.

The RSPG opinion on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme<sup>1</sup> addressed the issue of EU external relations in relation with preparations of international conference such as WRC:

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26. *It is the Opinion of the RSPG that the EU's interest in relevant international spectrum bodies, such as the ITU, should be driven at the political level. In order that the European positions on spectrum use are successfully represented in dynamic international negotiations, the European Commission, taking due account of the RSPG opinion 8, should identify areas of policy interest and priorities on forthcoming World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) agendas as soon as possible and should present policy objectives to the Council and the European Parliament at the earliest stage in the preparation of WRCs. In this process, where possible and desirable, an increased importance should be given to ensuring that the ITU Radio Regulations provide sufficient flexibility, facilitate harmonisation at European level and do not constrain the EU from acting in the best interests of European citizens and businesses.*
28. *Where a potential for conflict of interest between differing groups of stakeholders arises, the Commission should provide guidance on European priorities in regard to those WRC agenda items relevant to the EU. This guidance should be based on an evaluation of social and economic consequences which should be undertaken in parallel with the compatibility analysis conducted by CEPT. The assessment of the social and economic impacts for all stakeholders should be discussed with Member States through RSPG;*
29. *During the conferences, Member States should make their best efforts to coordinate the evolution of ECPs in line with EU and CEPT policy objectives and to find a balanced compromise on all WRC agenda items taking into account the relevant policy objectives;*

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<sup>1</sup> See RSPG10-330 RSPG Opinion on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

30. *The identification of European spectrum interests and priorities shall be followed by the development of a programme for regular discussions on spectrum policies with non-EU countries and other regions. This programme should contain actions aimed at presenting EU spectrum policy objectives and understanding those of non-EU countries and other regions in order to obtain their understanding and support to reach the EU policy goals.”*

The RSPG opinion on Common Policy Objectives for WRC-12<sup>2</sup> included elements which are directly relevant to the objectives for WRC-15, particularly the objective to secure an agenda item related to harmonisation of spectrum for electronic communications services.

## 2 Request for opinion

As outlined in the introduction the European spectrum community should address those issues with relevance for the Unions policies in a comprehensive way. As part of the preparation for the next World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15) the RSPG shall again assist the Member States and the EU with common approaches in order to bring the best out of the negotiations. The RSPG should firstly identify the main themes of the WRC-15 agenda related to EU policies at the earliest possible time and secondly the common policy objectives for WRC-15 in relation to those themes.

The opinion should identify the main themes of the WRC-15 agenda , where there is a relevant EU policy in place. Among others the following issues should be addressed:

- Electronic communications services, in particular the issue of availability of spectrum for wireless broadband data applications.
- Spectrum for aviation, maritime and road safety purposes in relation to EU transport policy.
- The importance of the availability of spectrum under appropriate conditions for scientific use which may have important environmental and safety implications.
- The international regulatory procedures associated with satellite operation and WRC-15 agenda items on satellite allocation issues in relation with EU space policy.

To provide sufficient information the Group shall consider the policy areas of information society, internal market, environment, transport, space, audiovisual, research and development and, if necessary, common security and defence.

The objective of the development of such an opinion for WRC-15 is:

- to assist the Commission in preparing a Commission communication on EU Common Policy Objectives in time for WRC-15 to the Council and the European Parliament by identifying the main themes from an EU perspective and by identifying the common policy objectives for WRC-15;
- to offer guidance to Member States in developing ECPs;
- to suggest, if necessary, actions for the European Commission in order to provide political support to promote common policy objectives in regular meetings between EC and non-EU countries.

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<sup>2</sup> See RSPG10-350 RSPG Opinion on common policy objectives for WRC-12

3 Organisation aspects

Deliverable:	RSPG Opinion
Timing:	First draft February 2013 (addressing the main themes only)  Final draft June 2014 (including the common policy objectives)
Public Consultation:	Yes
Rapporteur:	[Stephen Bond (Ofcom UK)]

## Annex: WRC-15 Agenda

1 on the basis of proposals from administrations, taking account of the results of WRC-12 and the Report of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, and with due regard to the requirements of existing and future services in the bands under consideration, to consider and take appropriate action in respect of the following items:

1.1 to consider additional spectrum allocations to the mobile service on a primary basis and identification of additional frequency bands for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) and related regulatory provisions, to facilitate the development of terrestrial mobile broadband applications, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/8 (WRC-12)**;

1.2 to examine the results of ITU-R studies, in accordance with Resolution **COM5/10 (WRC-12)**, on the use of the frequency band 694-790 MHz by the mobile, except aeronautical mobile, service in Region 1 and take the appropriate measures;

1.3 to review and revise Resolution **646 (Rev.WRC-12)** for broadband public protection and disaster relief (PPDR), in accordance with Resolution **COM6/11 (WRC-12)**;

1.4 to consider possible new allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis within the band 5 250-5 450 kHz in accordance with Resolution **COM6/12 (WRC-12)**;

1.5 to consider the use of frequency bands allocated to the fixed-satellite service not subject to Appendices **30, 30A** and **30B** for the control and non-payload communications of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in non-segregated airspaces, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/13 (WRC-12)**;

1.6 to consider possible additional primary allocations:

1.6.1 to the fixed-satellite service (Earth-to-space and space-to-Earth) of 250 MHz in the range between 10 GHz and 17 GHz in Region 1;

1.6.2 to the fixed-satellite service (Earth-to-space) of 250 MHz in Region 2 and 300 MHz in Region 3 within the range 13-17 GHz;

and review the regulatory provisions on the current allocations to the fixed-satellite service within each range, taking into account the results of ITU-R studies, in accordance with Resolutions **COM6/4 (WRC-12)** and **COM6/5 (WRC-12)**, respectively;

1.7 to review the use of the band 5 091-5 150 MHz by the fixed-satellite service (Earth-to-space) (limited to feeder links of the non-geostationary mobile-satellite systems in the mobile-satellite service) in accordance with Resolution **114 (Rev.WRC-12)**;

1.8 to review the provisions relating to earth stations located on board vessels (ESVs), based on studies conducted in accordance with Resolution **COM6/14 (WRC-12)**;

1.9 to consider, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/15 (WRC-12)**:

1.9.1 possible new allocations to the fixed-satellite service in the frequency bands 7 150-7 250 MHz (space-to-Earth) and 8 400-8 500 MHz (Earth-to-space), subject to appropriate sharing conditions;

- 1.9.2 the possibility of allocating the bands 7 375-7 750 MHz and 8 025-8 400 MHz to the maritime-mobile satellite service and additional regulatory measures, depending on the results of appropriate studies;
- 1.10 to consider spectrum requirements and possible additional spectrum allocations for the mobile-satellite service in the Earth-to-space and space-to-Earth directions, including the satellite component for broadband applications, including International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), within the frequency range from 22 GHz to 26 GHz, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/16 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.11 to consider a primary allocation for the Earth exploration-satellite service (Earth-to-space) in the 7-8 GHz range, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/17 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.12** to consider an extension of the current worldwide allocation to the Earth exploration-satellite (active) service in the frequency band 9 300-9 900 MHz by up to 600 MHz within the frequency bands 8 700-9 300 MHz and/or 9 900-10 500 MHz, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/18 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.13** to review No. **5.268** with a view to examining the possibility for increasing the 5 km distance limitation and allowing space research service (space-to-space) use for proximity operations by space vehicles communicating with an orbiting manned space vehicle, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/19 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.14 to consider the feasibility of achieving a continuous reference time-scale, whether by the modification of coordinated universal time (UTC) or some other method, and take appropriate action, in accordance with Resolution **COM6/20 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.15 to consider spectrum demands for on-board communication stations in the maritime mobile service in accordance with Resolution **COM6/3(WRC-12)**;
- 1.16 to consider regulatory provisions and spectrum allocations to enable possible new Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology applications and possible new applications to improve maritime radiocommunication in accordance with Resolution **COM6/21 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.17** to consider possible spectrum requirements and regulatory actions, including appropriate aeronautical allocations, to support wireless avionics intra-communications (WAIC), in accordance with Resolution **COM6/22 (WRC-12)**;
- 1.18 to consider a primary allocation to the radiolocation service for automotive applications in the 77.5-78.0 GHz frequency band in accordance with Resolution **COM6/23 (WRC-12)**;
- 2 to examine the revised ITU-R Recommendations incorporated by reference in the Radio Regulations communicated by the Radiocommunication Assembly, in accordance with Resolution **28 (Rev.WRC-03)**, and to decide whether or not to update the corresponding references in the Radio Regulations, in accordance with the principles contained in Annex 1 to Resolution **27 (Rev.WRC-12)**;
- 3 to consider such consequential changes and amendments to the Radio Regulations as may be necessitated by the decisions of the Conference;
- 4 in accordance with Resolution **95 (Rev.WRC-07)**, to review the resolutions and recommendations of previous conferences with a view to their possible revision, replacement or abrogation;

- 5 to review, and take appropriate action on, the Report from the Radiocommunication Assembly submitted in accordance with Nos. 135 and 136 of the Convention;
- 6 to identify those items requiring urgent action by the Radiocommunication Study Groups in preparation for the next world radiocommunication conference;
- 7 to consider possible changes, and other options, in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, an advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks, in accordance with Resolution **86 (Rev.WRC-07)** to facilitate rational, efficient, and economical use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit;
- 8 to consider and take appropriate action on requests from administrations to delete their country footnotes or to have their country name deleted from footnotes, if no longer required, taking into account Resolution **26 (Rev.WRC-07)**;
- 9 to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:
  - 9.1 on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector since WRC-12;
  - 9.2 on any difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations; and
  - 9.3 on action in response to Resolution **80 (Rev.WRC-07)**;
- 10 to recommend to the Council items for inclusion in the agenda for the next WRC, and to give its views on the preliminary agenda for the subsequent conference and on possible agenda items for future conferences, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention