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Radio Spectrum Policy Group
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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

DRAFT Request for a Report on “Strategic sectoral spectrum needs”

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1. INTRODUCTION

Article 7 of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) sets out the approach to spectrum to support further development of innovative audiovisual media and other services. Article 8 highlights specific EU policies other than electronic communication networks (ECNS), for which spectrum needs should be studied and protected, in particular:

- Galileo
- Global monitoring for environment and security (GMES)
- Intelligent transport management systems
- Smart energy grids and smart meters
- Safety services and public protection and disaster relief (PPDR)
- Scientific research
- Programme making and special events (PMSE)
- The Internet of things including RFIDs

The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) held in Geneva made decisions which affect some of the areas above and those have to be taken into account when developing the report. Furthermore, a number of agenda items for the next conference (WRC-15) include or will have implications on at least one of the applications in the list. During the CEPT process to prepare ECPs, EU Member States should act in a manner which takes into account EU Policy Objectives. This has also to be considered in the preparation of the report.

The RSPG work should take into account other ongoing processes such as the work on the RSPP inventory, the interim results of the ITU and CEPT/ECC studies. In this context, parts of this work may serve as a basis or reference material for developing the strategic RSPG report, which should focus on spectrum needs for different types of functionality, and not specific spectrum users.

This focus on use instead of users is aimed to facilitate flexibility in accordance with the RSPP, which promotes technology and service-neutral authorisations as a general regulatory principle. Restrictions on the principle of technology neutrality should be appropriate and justified by the need to avoid harmful interference, while not necessarily precluding the possibility of using more than one service in the same frequency band, to ensure proper sharing of spectrum to safeguard efficient use of spectrum. As the allocation or identification of spectrum to specific technologies or services is an exception to the principles of technology and service neutrality and reduces the freedom to choose the service provided or technology used, any proposal for such allocation or identification should be transparent and subject to public consultation.

2. REQUEST FOR REPORT

The RSPG plans to examine the likely development of each sectoral category of service listed in the RSPP in order to identify emerging spectrum needs and demand over the coming years. Furthermore, the RSPG seeks to explore the possibility to foster generic spectrum allocation including for broadband services with common and least restrictive technical conditions in order to avoid standalone sector specific solutions. This should include the consideration of the potential for commercial networks to provide capacity for some of the identified policy areas.

The work should consider that the RSPP already anticipates some actions, for example where it calls upon ensuring that the PMSE sector is least affected as a consequence of the process of assigning the

digital dividend band (790-862 MHz) to mobile and fixed broadband. In this respect the Commission has already specifically issued a mandate to the CEPT, in order to find earlier solutions to meet this sectoral demand.

The Report should:

1. Describe the regulatory background where necessary.
2. Collect any supplementary information which is needed.
3. Describe the various types of applications and services to be addressed in this report (work item 5 on strategic sectoral spectrum needs in the RSPG work programme for 2012 and beyond).
4. Identify the needs and demand of the various types of applications and services from a functional point of view, including variances in Member States. Attempt to quantify the future evolution of the various needs and demand, possibly by developing the most likely scenarios, with a time horizon until 2020.
5. Assess specific or exceptional needs for protection as well as any needs that have the potential for using existing commercial networks.
6. Address the principles which should be indicative for future work with respect to strategic sectoral spectrum needs.
7. Identify and describe the regulatory options available.
8. Propose where appropriate ways of satisfying the need and demand for spectrum or capacity for each functional group, including the need for further regulatory measures.
9. Report on progress at RSPG meetings

Depending on the outcome of this report and/or the developments of the regulatory and technological context, other reports and/or opinions may be required.

3. ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

Deliverable: RSPG Report

Timing: Interim report February 2013

Final report November 2013

Public Consultation: No

Rapporteur: Morgan Westring (Sweden)