



Brussels, 19 February 2014

RSPG KICKS OFF WORK PROGRAMME 2014 AND BEYOND

The RSPG today adopted the Work Programme “2014 and beyond” following a public consultation. The group launched two new working groups on the future of the UHF band and efficient awards and use of spectrum. It also features the continuation of the activities on common policy objectives for WRC-15 and assistance in bilateral coordination as well as a new activity on the update of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, which is planned to be launched later this year.

In presenting the outcome of the plenary meeting, the RSPG Chairman, Mr Brégant, declared: “The new Work Programme sets out the strategic issues in European spectrum policy to be addressed by the group during the next two years. Stakeholders have broadly endorsed the activities that had been proposed and provided detailed comments on the specific activities that will be considered in the working groups. The first new activity should lead to a common European approach with regard to the 700 MHz band, while providing a perspective for the usage of the whole UHF band. The second activity that we launched today will give the RSPG the opportunity to deliver on best practices for spectrum awards and related usage conditions with a view to make sure that spectrum bands for electronic communication services are used efficiently. I am confident that the programme is flexible enough to react to the outcome of ongoing legislation.”

All public documents related to RSPG 33 are available here:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8b034b7d-c303-42eb-97df-147dd8eb4111>

Background

Update of the RSPG Work Programme

The RSPG adopted the new Work Programme “2014 and beyond” following the public consultation, which ended on 6 January. The final WP and the replies to the consultation have been published on <http://rspg-spectrum.eu>. The RSPG improved its Work programme “2014 and beyond” following the public input received. References to recent reports on “Interference Management” and “Sectoral Needs” have been introduced in the WP text.

The RSPG agreed to develop:

- An Opinion on “A long-term strategy on the future of the UHF band in EU” (Final Opinion Feb 15¹)
- Report(s) on “Efficient awards and use of spectrum in harmonised ECS bands” (Final Report Nov 15). Cooperation with BEREC is foreseen with a common workshop.
- An Opinion on “the update of RSPP”. This activity will be launched at the end of 2014.
- A draft for an additional Work Item on “Wireless Backhaul including small cell issues” to be confirmed at the next plenary meeting.

Furthermore the RSPG confirmed the “WRC-15 preparation (common policy objectives for WRC-15)” and the need to maintain as a permanent activity the “Good Offices” to assist in bilateral negotiations between EU Member States.

RSPG confirmed its intention to organise a consultation meeting with the Defence sector in June (see also the previous RSPG Opinion on Public Use of Spectrum). The aim is to

- identify evolving spectrum needs of the Defence sector
- assess how Defence spectrum needs are addressed at national level
- identify actions to promote efficient use of spectrum in particular spectrum sharing with civil usage

A long-term strategy on the future of the UHF band in the EU

The RSPG confirmed Ms Luísa Mendes (Anacom, Portugal) as the rapporteur of this activity. RSPG noted the outcome of an ad-hoc meeting in January outlining the way towards a draft Opinion planned for November 2014 and advised on the next steps on the basis of the initial work and the agreed work item.

The RSPG took note of the draft Request for Opinion (RfO) tabled by the European Commission. A final RfO will be issued soon and will be taken in due consideration by the working group when drafting the Opinion.

Through its request the European Commission seeks the advice of the RSPG on the major elements of a strategic policy for the UHF band in the EU with the long-term objective to ensure a sustainable 'win-win' situation for the sectors concerned as well as consumer benefits while promoting the single market and fostering EU's role in global developments. Likely short-term developments in the 700 MHz band are requested to be taken into account within an integrated approach.

Efficient awards and use of spectrum in harmonised ECS bands

The RSPG nominated Mr Chris Woolford (OFCOM, UK) as the rapporteur of this activity. The group invited the rapporteur with the support of the RSPG vice chairman to set up a suitable cooperation with BEREC and to organise later this year a joint workshop on topics of common interest.

RSPG noted the draft Request for Report (RfR) tabled by the European Commission. A final RfR will be issued soon and will be taken in due consideration by the working group when drafting the Report.

¹ to be reviewed in June 14

Through its request the European Commission seeks the advice of the RSPG on best practices with regard to efficient awards approaches and efficient use of spectrum for ECS and an assessment as to how award approaches and non-technical usage conditions can best contribute to meeting the requirements of future wireless broadband systems and the efficient use of spectrum.

The RSPG took note of the recent state-of-play concerning the Commission proposal on a Telecoms Single Market. According to the results of the on-going negotiations, the scope of this RSPG activity may be reviewed/refined at a later stage.

World Radio Conference (WRC-15)

RSPG confirmed the main themes within the agenda of WRC-15 with relevance to specific EU policy areas to be further considered and noted the ongoing update of the draft Opinion on EU common policy objectives (CPOs).

The RSPG put in context the recent proposals from the European Commission on international negotiations. RSPG agreed to develop Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15 in accordance with the requirements of the principle of sincere cooperation, as pointed out in RSPP Art. 10.1 (b).

According to the updated work item a draft Opinion for public consultation is planned for November 2014 at the latest and a final Opinion for February 2015.

EU Assistance in bi-lateral coordination

The RSPG's role to provide "good-offices" for cross-border coordination is on-going for the following bi-lateral negotiation processes: Italy – Malta (in relation with the 800 MHz derogation process regarding Malta), Italy – France, Italy-Slovenia, and Germany – Belgium. All cases are related to TV coordination.

The RSPG noted the progress made on each case.

The RSPG confirmed this strategic role and agreed to maintain it in the updated Work Programme 2014 and beyond.

European research towards 5th generation communication systems (5G)

RSPG welcomed the presentation of the ongoing European research projects METIS and MiWave on 5G communication systems and the EC initiative to establish a 5G Public Private Partnership (5G PPP) within the framework of the Union Research programme Horizon 2020.

RSPG took note of the trends towards radio systems with larger bandwidth and the current research on possible systems to use higher frequency bands.

RSPG confirmed the need to address 5G issues as appropriate in the upcoming update of the RSPP.

All public documents will be made available on the RSGP website:
<http://rspg-spectrum.eu>

Note to the editor:

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was created by a European Commission Decision in 2002, amended in December 2009. Comprising the national spectrum authorities of the 28 EU Member States, the RSPG provides the Commission and other EU institutions with advice on high level policy matters in relation to spectrum. Representatives of the EEA countries, the European Parliament and the regional and international bodies may attend as observers. Before being transmitted to the Commission, the RSPG's expert opinions are normally submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as of any other interested stakeholders. The RSPG also publishes Reports on key issues in spectrum matters. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and co-ordinate regulation of radio spectrum.