



The Radio Spectrum Policy Group is a high-level advisory group that assists the European Commission in the development of radio spectrum policy

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 2nd September 2014

RSPG WELCOMES PASCAL LAMY'S REPORT ON THE FUTURE USE OF THE UHF BAND

Yesterday, Pascal Lamy presented to the European Commission its report concluding the work of the High Level Group on the future use of the frequencies for TV - the UHF band (470-790 MHz).

The RSPG welcomes this valuable contribution which frames the complex debate on the future use of the UHF band, currently used for television broadcasting and radio microphones. RSPG will consider these recommendations when developing its opinions on a long-term strategy on the future use of the UHF band, as well as on the preparation of the next World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC-15). Both are intended to be sent into public consultation by the end of this year and adopted in February 2015.

Addressing strategic issues on the future use of the UHF band

This contribution by Pascal Lamy to the current policy debate on the future use of the UHF, stemming from the discussions of industry executives within the High Level Group, identified some common ground as, for example, a future scenario based on platforms coexistence, possible measures to be implemented at national level when releasing the 700 MHz, a transition roadmap, and the need to respond to the spectrum requirement for radio microphones. It proposes a three-step formula "2020-2030-2025" to reallocate the 700 MHz for wireless broadband and to secure investment for terrestrial television broadcasting below 694 MHz in a balance way.

The RSPG working group chaired by Luísa Mendes (Anacom, Portugal) addressing the major elements of a strategic policy for the UHF band in the EU, e.g. with the long-term objective to ensure a sustainable 'win-win' situation for the sectors concerned as well as consumer benefits will carefully consider this report and the proposals from Pascal Lamy. This will complement the contributions already received from Member States about the current and

future plan for the 700 MHz, terrestrial digital broadcasting migration and technology evolution issues (i.e., DVB-T2, MPEG4, HEVC).

A common acceptable deadline for releasing 700 MHz will be a key topic to be addressed. The draft RSPG Opinion on the future of the UHF band will be considered at the next RSPG plenary in November. The Final Opinion is planned in February 2015 following a public consultation.

Towards Common Policy Objectives for WRC-15

Pascal Lamy has made further recommendations regarding the European position for the band 470-694 MHz at WRC-15.

RSPG is currently drafting an Opinion on EU Common Policy Objectives for the WRC-15 agenda items, where EU policies are most relevant. It includes WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1 on possible additional bands for wireless broadband, under which the band 470-694 MHz will be considered. RSPG will finalise its work for publication of the Final Opinion in February 2015. A public consultation is planned by the end of this year.

The next RSPG plenary meeting, planned for the 12th November in Brussels, will consider draft Opinions on “Future use of the UHF band” and “Common policy objectives for WRC 15” as well as progress of other activities including “Good Offices” in EU assistance in bilateral cross-border coordination, efficient awards and use of spectrum in harmonised ECS bands, and spectrum issues on wireless backhaul.

All published and available RSPG documents are available on the RSPG 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 27 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.

RSPG develops Opinions and Reports at its own initiative or in response to:

- Requests from European Commission to advise or assist on issues related to multiannual radio spectrum policy program, internal market (harmonisation needs), EU Common Policy Objectives for WRC*
- Requests to the Commission from Council and European Parliament on radio spectrum policy issues relating to electronic communications*
- RSPG is also playing the role of "good offices" in bilateral cross-border coordination*