

## **RSPG Chair News Release on RSPG42 Plenary Outcomes**

**14/02/2017**

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) has published an Opinion on the spectrum provisions in the new European Electronic Communications Code proposed by the European Commission.

The RSPG:

- Supports the efforts to simplify the regulatory framework and to build on the successful mechanisms and principles embedded in the existing framework.
- Remains committed to the principle of applying the least restrictive measures in spectrum regulation in order to avoid stifling spectrum use.
- Emphasises the necessity to maintain an appropriate balance of competences between Member States and the Commission.
- Considers the proposal for a mandatory peer review process is in contradiction with the Commission's stated aims and risks causing delay to future awards as well as increasing legal and regulatory uncertainty and bureaucracy.
- Emphasises that a spectrum licence period should be clearly defined and articulated by the Member State and be of sufficient duration to provide legal certainty and promote investment, taking into account diverse national situations and priorities.
- Emphasises the importance of Member States working together, sharing best practice and learning from one another's experience. This will support innovation and investment by facilitating regulatory best practice.

The RSPG has also published Opinions on the spectrum requirements for the Internet of Things and the next generation of road and rail technologies, known as 'Intelligent Transport Systems'. These found:

- The IoT ecosystem has diverse spectrum needs according to the different requirements for IoT use cases. A diversity of spectrum bands and authorisation models will be needed, given different requirements for coverage, bandwidth, security and reliability.
- A range of bands are accessible to IoT and spectrum scarcity has not been a constraint on IoT growth to date.
- The current designations and harmonised arrangements for road and rail spectrum - the core band for safety-related road systems, and the GSM-R system for rail - remain important.

Philip Marnick, Chairman of RSPG, said:

*"Europe's digital future will need world class wireless networks, and spectrum managers need the tools to deliver this vision. There is a need to learn from each other, but unnecessary and inflexible rules risk stifling innovation."*

*The RSPG's work on the Internet of Things and Intelligent Transport Systems shows that technological innovation is already enabled by diverse spectrum solutions, without needing to centralise spectrum management."*

The RSPG's Work Programme will focus now on further work on 5G, as well as the strategic spectrum needs for PMSE (Programme Making and Special Events) and preparations for the next World Radiocommunications Conference. The RSPG will also work jointly with BEREC on mobile coverage, and on spectrum for innovation.

#### Notes for Editors

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group is a high-level advisory group assisting the Commission in the development of radio spectrum policy in the Community. It comprises the relevant expert authorities from EU Member States.

The new European Electronic Communications Code has been proposed by the European Commission as a consequence of its Review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services. See <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/proposed-directive-establishing-european-electronic-communications-code>

The RSPG's Opinion on the Framework Review adopted on 7 February 2017 can be found here: [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/8406c9db-21a9-47df-b797-56692e4674d4/RSPG17-017-final\\_RSPG\\_Opinion\\_Common\\_Vision.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/8406c9db-21a9-47df-b797-56692e4674d4/RSPG17-017-final_RSPG_Opinion_Common_Vision.pdf)

The Opinion on IoT adopted on 7 February 2017 can be found here: [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/a0faa1a5-ca41-42c3-83d5-561b197419b0/RSPG17-006-Final\\_IoT\\_Opinion.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/a0faa1a5-ca41-42c3-83d5-561b197419b0/RSPG17-006-Final_IoT_Opinion.pdf)

The Opinion on Intelligent Transport Systems adopted on 7 February 2017 can be found here: [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/b30590d7-5190-480b-b1d1-def24719e061/RSPG17-008-Final\\_opinion\\_ITS.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/b30590d7-5190-480b-b1d1-def24719e061/RSPG17-008-Final_opinion_ITS.pdf)

The European Commission is able to decide on harmonised spectrum use under the Radio Spectrum Decision, based on technical input from CEPT. Common EU priorities and policy guidelines for spectrum management are set out by the Council and Parliament in the multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP).