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Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services  
**Spectrum**

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DG CONNECT/B4

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

**Subject: Chairman's Report of RSPG#37 on 11 June 2015**

**RSPG #37**  
**Brussels, 11 June 2015**

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

The RSPG welcomed and adopted the report on "Wireless backhaul" (RSPG15-607). This work has now been completed. Some of the elements of the report, e.g. in relation to 5G, could be the basis for further development in the context a new work item to be discussed in the context of the work programme for 2016.

The RSPG also reviewed progress of the RSPG working groups on:

- Efficient Awards and Use of Spectrum
- Review of the RSPP
- EU Assistance in Bilateral Coordination

With regard to the working group on "Efficient awards and use of spectrum", the RSPG agreed that there should be a public consultation on the draft report prior to the adoption of the final report by the RSPG. The public consultation has been delayed until after the October RSPG meeting to allow time to finalise the draft report. The Commission urged the RSPG to complete this activity in good time to enable any output to be taken into account in the telecom review planned for 2016.

The RSPG also discussed a draft future work programme (post 2015) presented by the Vice-Chair and a draft document entitled "Follow up RSPG Opinion on WRC 15".

- RSPG agreed to adopt at its next meeting the first document for public consultation
- After discussion, the RSPG agreed on the second document and the RSPG Chair accepted that it would not be published by the RSPG.

## MEETING REPORT

### (1) Introduction to RSPG #37

The RSPG Chairman, Mr Gilles Brégant (ANFR, France), assisted by RSPG Deputy Chairman, Mr Finn Petersen (DBA, Denmark), opened the meeting.

The European Commission was represented by Mr Roberto Viola, Deputy Director General (for part of the meeting) and Anthony Whelan, Director for Electronic Communications Networks and Services, DG CONNECT.

### (2) Update on Commission Initiatives

The European Commission confirmed that spectrum was a key priority for the Juncker Commission, as well as for the European Parliament and the Council. The proposals for a "Digital Single Market" (DSM) were the next step in this process, notwithstanding the ongoing discussions on the "Telecoms Single Market" (TSM). He noted that the emphasis on spectrum in the DSM related to 2 key issues: greater coordination in the assignment of spectrum within the EU as well as the usual technical harmonisation activities. The review of the Telecoms Framework planned for the middle of next year would also be relevant, where the RSPG would be considered a major stakeholder for the associated public consultation processes. The Commission suggested two mechanisms, either a dedicated (fast-tracked) RSPG opinion and dedicated workshops or *what if* meetings, mirroring the cooperation with BEREC in the past. That said, any inputs that the RSPG wished to make to the telecoms review should be provided at the latest by early next year if the Commission were to be able to take them into account in their proposals for the review. He also noted that while the Commission had already identified the RSPG as a candidate for an enhanced role in the overall policy-making process, it would be unlikely that an RSPG review could be accommodated as a priority given the multiple processes already identified as priorities in the coming year.

### (3) Follow-up RSPG opinion on WRC-15

The RSPG Chair introduced the RSPG views on defining European positions and negotiating at WRC-15 (document RSPG15-616). In addition to the RSPG Opinion, this document highlights some issues which the RSPG believes should be considered during the relevant discussions on the Commission's proposal to the Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15).

The European Commission explained that this document, circulated just before the RSPG meeting by the Chair, was unexpected and raised some issues to be considered by the meeting as (1) the RSPG had already adopted an Opinion on the WRC 15 at its previous meeting in March which had already been taken into account by the Commission in preparing the proposal for a Council decision and (2) the proposal for a Council decision was now formally before the Council and, according to the Commission, was not therefore properly a matter for discussion in the RSPG. After

discussion, the RSPG improved the document and agreed on it. The RSPG also, decided that it would not be published by the RSPG since it concerns internal EU discussions. The RSPG chair encouraged all participants to use the document as briefing for telecoms attachés in the Council Working Group. To this end, he will ensure the circulation of the document to the said attachés. The RSPG chair proposed that, further to WRC 15, RSPG should develop an analysis of the results of WRC 15 on the common policy objectives (see RSPG Opinion on WRC 15). This has been endorsed by the meeting.

**(4) Efficient Awards and use of Spectrum**

The Rapporteur, Mr Chris Woolford (UK) introduced the 4<sup>th</sup> progress report of the RSPG working group's activities (RSPG15-605) and the draft report on this subject (RSPG15-612). Given the scope of and level of interest in the issues covered by this work item and based on positive comments received, the RSPG agreed that the draft report should be put out for public consultation prior to its finalisation and planned adoption at the February 2016 RSPG meeting. The RSPG agreed on a delay compared to the original planned adoption at the October 2015 meeting. The Commission also welcomed the progress made to date by the working group and noted that it could be useful to look ex ante at specific case histories regarding awards procedures to help inform the future reflections on these issues. RSPG noted that this report could serve during the review of the Telecom Package

**(5) Spectrum issues on Wireless Backhaul**

The Rapporteur, Mr Peter Gal (HU), introduced the 3<sup>rd</sup> progress report of the working group's activities (RSPG15-606) and the final report for adoption by the RSPG. RSPG members welcomed the detailed and extensive report presented by the working group and agreed to its adoption and publication. Some of the elements of the report, e.g. in relation to 5G, could be the basis for further development in the context a new work item to be discussed in the context of the work programme for 2016.

**(6) Review of the RSPP**

The co-rapporteur, Mr Fokko Bos (NL) introduced the 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report of the working group on this subject (RSPG15-608rev1), along with his co-rapporteur Mr Didier Chauveau (FR). Noting the plans of the Commission resulting from the DSM strategy, it was proposed to finalise the draft Opinion during the summer period and to start focusing relevant spectrum issues for the Telecoms Review at the meeting of the ad hoc group in September (September 23rd in Maisons-Alfort(F). The RSPG endorsed this approach.

**(7) EU assistance in bilateral coordination**

The Rapporteur, Mr Eric Fournier (FR) presented the 9<sup>th</sup> progress report of the working group dealing with this issue (RSPG15-609). Regarding bilateral coordination between Italy and Malta, it was reported that the new law in Italy aimed at facilitating the transition of relevant broadcasting channels had been delayed. The vice chairman requested Italy to do its utmost to publish a transition roadmap that it will apply and stick to it. The Working Group also met in the margins of the RSPG meeting in order to discuss a number of questions pertaining to interferences experienced by countries on the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas.

**(8) RSPG Work Programme**

The RSPG Vice-Chair, Mr Finn Petersen, introduced a draft document (RSPG15-613) to initiate discussion on the next RSPG work programme post-2015. During discussions, RSPG members welcomed this preliminary draft work programme and in particular identified the importance of the need for the RSPG to initiate future work related to 5G. The RSPG vice-Chair welcomed the comments and feedback provided and proposed that further discussions can take place in a meeting which is scheduled on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Maisons-Alfort (F).

**(9) Other Policy matters**

The Commission report (RSPG15-610) was noted without discussion.

**(10) Administrative/organisational matters**

**The RSPG Chair introduced the "RSPG Manifesto"** as a factual document (RSPG15-615) which had been prepared to provide additional information for stakeholders. This document was endorsed by RSPG members and the RSPG Secretariat were asked to provide (suitably formatted) copies to the Chair/Vice Chair (and RSPG members as required) for future distribution as they see fit.

RSPG members were also informed that, according to Article 8 of the RSPG Rules of procedure, the term of the current RSPG Chair and vice chair is due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> December this year. Article 8 states that the elections for the new Chair and vice-chair should be conducted 3 months before the end of the outgoing Chairperson's term of office. This normally means that the next chair and vice-chair should be elected at the next RSPG meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October. **RSPG members were therefore invited to declare their interest to stand for election** to these 2 positions by the end of August 2015. During the meeting, the Vice-Chair, Finn Petersen (DK) already declared his intention to stand for the position of Chairperson. Mr Philip Marnick from the UK also indicated his intention to stand for the position of vice-chairperson.

**RSPG members were also informed** that a request has been received from a consultant for access to the responses sent by Member States to an internal RSPG UHF. It was agreed that RSPG members that were comfortable with sharing their replies should notify the RSPG secretariat by the end of June.

The **next RSPG meeting** (RSPG#38) will take place in Brussels on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Dates for meetings in 2016 were confirmed as:

- RSPG#39 - 24/02/2016
- RSPG#40 - 08/06/2016
- RSPG#41 – 09/11/2016

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