



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**

**RSPG Secretariat**

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## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy**

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## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 51st meeting of the RSPG on 05 February 2020 (RSPG#51). The paper concentrates on activities which have most relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities.

### 2. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF RADIO SPECTRUM

Connectivity has clearly shown its vital role during this COVID-19 crisis, enabling large-scale remote working, education and entertainment, provision of advanced healthcare services as well as real time monitoring of manufacturing and supply chain.; 5G (wireless) networks represent a pillar of our socio-economic recovery; this is amplified by their important role to support mission-critical services in vertical industries, such as automated mobility; 5G has become a major benchmark for Europe's industrial potency and international competitiveness as compared to rival developments in China, Korea or the US.

In order to foster recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and mitigate its impact on providing spectrum for continued 5G rollout, the planned joint RSPG/BEREC workshop will be a good opportunity to exchange views. The Commission is keen on ensuring the timely assignment of 5G spectrum across the EU under conditions which are conducive to investments and network roll-out and taking into account potential current delays.

### 3. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since RSPG#51, there has been one meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee on 11-12 March 2020 July, with the following outcomes:

- **ITS:** The Commission presented a working document on initial draft elements of an Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/671/EC on the harmonised use of

the frequency band 5875-5935 MHz for safety related applications of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The main elements of the proposal consisted of an extension by 30 MHz of the harmonised band in the 2008 Decision, the setting of a common policy framework for both Road and Urban-Rail ITS applications, and the prioritisation of parts of the band for Road-ITS and Urban-Rail-ITS, respectively. All Delegations (apart from one) agreed on the main lines of the proposed Decision and their comments focused on the scope of Road ITS and relevant definitions of Road-ITS and Urban-Rail-ITS, clarifications concerning the prioritisation of the upper part of the band (5915-5935 MHz), the interface with RLAN, and clarifications concerning the parameters in the Annex. A stable text was reached after the discussions and the Delegations were invited to send any additional (editorial only) comments by 23 March with an aim to go for an examination procedure at the July RSC. The Commission is currently finalising the internal consultation part of the process regarding the above Implementing Decision.

- **Paired 2 GHz:** The Commission services presented the working document RSCOM19-38rev2, which constitutes the second revision of the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2012/688/EU as regards an update of relevant technical conditions applicable to the frequency bands 1920-1980 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz (paired terrestrial 2 GHz band) for terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services. In December 2019 the Radio Spectrum Committee at its 69th meeting (RSC#69) and following further exchange of comments/proposals with its Members agreed a stable text of the draft Implementing Decision (RSCOM19-38rev1). The RSC#70 gave a positive opinion to this revised draft Decision. The Commission implementing decision was published on 6 May 2020 ((EU) 2020/667)<sup>1</sup>.
- **2.6 GHz:** The Commission services presented the working document RSCOM19-39rev1, which constituted the first revision of the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/477/EC, as regards an update of relevant technical conditions applicable to the frequency band 2 500-2 690 MHz, for terrestrial systems

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1589878031931&uri=CELEX:32020D0667>

capable of providing electronic communications services, that was introduced at RSC #69 meeting. This revised version incorporated the written comments MSs had submitted by 7 January 2020. Prior to the RSC #70 meeting and in response to the RSCOM19-39rev1, further comments were submitted by the MSs. The Commission services took account of the comments as well as the discussions during the meeting and came up with two consecutive revised versions (rev2 and rev3). The RSC#70 gave a positive opinion to the last revised draft Decision. The Commission implementing decision was published on 8 May 2020 ((EU) 2020/636)<sup>2</sup>.

- **26 GHz:** The Commission services presented a draft Commission implementing decision which amends Commission Decision (EU) 2019/784 on the designation and making available the 26 GHz frequency band for wireless broadband electronic communications services under harmonised technical conditions, with particular focus on 5G. The purpose of the amendment is solely to adapt the technical conditions for protecting passive satellite services in the 23.6-24 GHz band taking into account the outcome of WRC-19. The draft decision reflects the CEPT input in response to a Commission request for additional technical contribution. The draft decision was discussed and amended, also with view to addressing the issue of authorisation regimes other than individual rights of use. The Committee gave a positive opinion to the revised draft Decision (RSCOM2005rev3). The Commission implementing decision was published on 24 April 2020 ((EU) 2020/590)<sup>3</sup>.
- **Mandate on the mm-wave bands:** The Commission services presented a draft Mandate to CEPT to develop least restrictive harmonised technical conditions suitable for next-generation (5G) terrestrial wireless systems for the 40.5-43.5 GHz and 66-71 GHz frequency bands. It reflects EU-level spectrum policy priorities for providing spectrum for very high-capacity networks as well as the outcome of the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019, and follows the Commission's 5G spectrum roadmap. The draft Decision was discussed and amended, and a stable revised version agreed (RSCOM2007rev2). On that basis, the Commission has

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<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1589361039474&uri=CELEX:32020D0636>

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1588257184465&uri=CELEX:32020D0590>

requested the opinion of the RSC in a written procedure. Following a positive opinion of the Committee, the mandate was adopted and submitted to CEPT on 14 April 2020.

- **Mandate on WAS/RLANs in the 5 GHz band:** The RSC reached a stable text of draft Mandate to CEPT to amend Commission Decision 2005/513/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 GHz frequency band for the implementation of WAS/RLANs (RSCOM20-09rev2). This is the result of WRC-19 which revised Resolution 229 by providing new options for WAS/RLANs within the 5150-5250 MHz band and allowing the use of WAS/RLAN equipment on board vehicles (aircraft, road vehicles, trains). Following a positive opinion of the Committee via written procedure, the mandate<sup>4</sup> was adopted and submitted to CEPT on 14 April 2020.
- **Spectrum usage below 9 kHz:** The Commission submitted a summary document on spectrum usage below 9 kHz, including a short questionnaire on the spectrum-regulatory situation under the national legislations of the Member States (RSCOM20-08), which the Committee briefly discussed. Since the Radio Spectrum Decision has its lower limit at 9 kHz, the Commission intends to help solving the spectrum-regulatory situation under 9 kHz coherently and will follow-up accordingly on the questionnaire.

The next meeting of the RSC (RSC#71) is scheduled for 8 July 2020.

#### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

##### **Draft Implementing Regulation on small-area wireless access points, EECC Article 57(2)**

The Commission is seeking an opinion from the Communications Committee (COCOM), under the examination procedure, on the Draft Commission Implementation Regulation on small-area wireless access points (SAWAPs or small cells) by means of a written procedure.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/radio-spectrum-cept-mandates-0>

The relevant documents are available to COCOM Members and the written procedure started on May 28 and it will end on 11 June 2020.

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