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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND  
TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity  
**Radio Spectrum Policy Group**  
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 16 June 2021

**RSPG21-021 FINAL**

## **RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP**

### **Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group on Spectrum Sharing**

## Progress Report to the Plenary of the sub-group on Spectrum Sharing

During the Plenary meeting on 10 February 2021 the Report RSPG21-016 on Spectrum Sharing was approved for publication and the draft Opinion RSPG21-006 was approved for public consultation. So, following the previous activities described in the last progress report, the Group worked with the Secretariat in order to publish the Report and submit the Opinion to public consultation.

The public consultation was held from 15 February 2021 until 26 March 2021. In total 27 responses were received, one confidential. The following respondents provided comments:

APWPT	EUTC	Telefonica
BNE	Facebook	Tele Industrien
BTG	Federated Wireless	ULWIMO
COMMSCOPE	GSA	United Internet
DIGITALEUROPE	GSMA	University of Oulu
DSA	MVNO Europe	VCI
ECTA	NOKIA	VDMA
ESOA	PMSE	ZVEI
ETNO	Sigma Wireless	1 confidential contribution

All non confidential answers will be published on the RSPG web site.

From the analysis of the contributions, broadly speaking, five different categories were identified: traditional MNOs, highlighting the need to keep the traditional way of using spectrum (i.e. by individual and exclusive rights of use), other spectrum users like broadcasters, satellite, PMSE, etc. basically aimed at assuring the continued availability of the spectrum they use in a changing environment, classical ECS new entrants, very keen on sharing, but under conditions that facilitate their entry, in particular in specific bands, and asking for the introduction of access obligations to ease their entry, and vertical users, expressing their need to get possibly direct access to spectrum and favorable on developing spectrum sharing provided that a set of specific conditions are fulfilled. Additionally, some manufacturers recommended developing some specific sharing approaches (i.e. CBRS). All in all it was a very comprehensive public consultation with numerous detailed comments and suggestions.

The Group carefully considered all answers provided in the public consultation and discussed if and how to improve the draft Opinion where appropriate in the meeting of 19 April and subsequently via email exchange. The Group also considered the answers filed to the public consultations on the RSPG and Additional Spectrum Needs draft Opinions that were run in parallel, in the parts that dealt with spectrum sharing issues.

The Group decided that, since the present Opinion is aimed at devising policy recommendations to the European Commission and Member States, all suggestions from the public consultation related to actual regulatory measures or working approaches of EU bodies and Member States' competent authorities are outside the scope of the Opinion and will be more appropriately addressed for consideration in the activity of those spectrum regulators. Since the answers will be published, all suggestions, requests, activities in specific bands, will be transparently known.

The Group then decided to take on board some comments and suggestions coming from the respondents mostly having the scope of clarifying the meaning or the extent of a given recommendation, and to add a new recommend (n. 3) that is meant as well to introduce more clarity in the process of developing a sharing framework.

A text of the new draft Opinion with track changes to show the targeted proposed modifications compared with the text approved on 10 February is then presented to the Plenary.

Other than the draft Opinion on Spectrum Sharing, the Group prepared an input text highlighting the proposed modification to the draft RSPP Opinion in the parts dealing with spectrum sharing issues. The suggested modifications are in line with the proposed modifications for the own draft Opinion.

The co-Chairs sent this text to the RSPP sub-group and those proposed changes are now reflected in the new draft RSPP Opinion.

Since the modifications to the draft Opinion on Spectrum Sharing were agreed by the end of April, there was no need to organise a new meeting in May.

We would like to renew the thanks to the Commission for making the virtual room available for the last meeting and providing support, and to the members of the sub-group for their highly valuable input and active participation that lead to the proposal of the final deliverable in line with the RSPG Work Programme schedule.

So we have the pleasure to present to the Plenary the final draft Opinion and:

**Request to the Plenary**

- To approve the proposed final Opinion for publication
- To dissolve the Sub-Group

The Rapporteurs

Mauro Martino (Italy)

Julia Inmaculada Criado Casado (Spain)

## Annex

RSPG work item: Spectrum Sharing	
<b>Work item</b>	Spectrum sharing - Pioneer initiatives and bands
<b>Rapporteurs</b>	Mauro Martino (AGCOM, Italy), Julia Criado Casado (MINECO, Spain)
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Today, spectrum sharing is rather static and, in some cases, overly conservative. As also highlighted by the results of the working group on European Spectrum Strategy, spectrum sharing needs further action, especially regarding its potential to achieve more efficient use of radio spectrum, and to give incentives for innovation. The promotion of the shared use of radio spectrum is also a key objective of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC), as in Articles 45 (2e) and 46 (1).</p> <p>New technologies create new opportunities for more dynamic and efficient spectrum sharing. However, before such new technologies can be introduced on a wider scale, there is a need to build trust among users as well as Member States. Strategically, it is therefore important to facilitate trials, exchange of experiences and collaboration among Member States. A proof of concept helps facilitate a change in the mind-set.</p> <p>Therefore, the means to improve spectrum sharing and to implement innovative sharing solutions should be investigated, especially by promoting trials (sandboxes), pioneer scenarios/bands, new forms of licensing and a strategic focus on take-up of methods using databases and LSA. In addition, the development and market opportunities for methods, including Artificial Intelligence, should be studied with a view to making concrete proposals for coordinated actions at EU level that bring added value to the Member States.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	Building on the rationale and the previous relevant works from RSPG as well as taking into account different spectrum sharing options, this activity aims at investigating more dynamic spectrum sharing options, developing a roadmap for increased spectrum sharing and identifying key pioneer initiatives and bands.
<b>Planned deliverable and timing</b>	<p>RSPG Opinion.</p> <p>Time schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Opinion: January 2021;</li> <li>• Final Opinion: June 2021.</li> </ul>

**Members, stakeholders and resources**

<b>Members and Observers</b>	<p>Austria, RTR  Austria, BMLRT  Belgium, BIPT  Czech Republic, CTU  Denmark, ENS  European Commission  Finland, TRAFICOM  France, ANFR  France, ARCEP  Germany, BNETZA  Germany, BMVI  Greece, EETT  Hungary, NMHH  Ireland, DCCA</p>
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	Italy, AGCOM Latvia, SAM Malta, MCA Norway, KMD Portugal, ANACOM Romania, ANCOM Slovenia, AKOS Spain, MINECO Sweden, PTS The Netherlands, MINEZK Turkey, BTK
Key stakeholders	
Other resources	CEPT ECC ETSI

**Work flow (internal and external milestones)**

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
Year 2020			
6 <sup>th</sup> March (AVC meeting)	First meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: – scope and plan following the work item on Spectrum Sharing included in the new RSPG Work Programme; - organisation of the work for 2020; - draft index of the opinion; - collection of ideas on the main propositions of the opinion.  Number of participants: 15 from 11 MS + EC	Work group	
7 <sup>th</sup> May (AVC meeting)	Second meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: – overall structure of the circulated draft opinion; - draft text section-by-section.  Number of participants: 26 from 15 MS + 1 Obs + EC	Work group	
9 <sup>th</sup> June (Brussels, AVC)	Progress of the work presented to Plenary	Rapporteurs	Plenary
25 <sup>th</sup> June (AVC meeting)	Third meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: - feedback of the GSMA roundtable; - progress of the circulated draft opinion; - draft text section-by-section; - focus on possible recommendations (e.g. which bands to consider, which sharing approaches, ideas for cross border sharing and trial bands/sandboxes, etc.).  Number of participants: 24 from 14 MS +EC	Work group	

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Work group only	External Plenary, Publication
14 <sup>th</sup> September (AVC meeting)	Fourth meeting of the work group. Main items discussed: - progress of the circulated draft opinion; - draft text section-by-section; - focus on the draft recommendations; - proposal of moving some sections into an accompanying Report of the final Opinion; - possible participation in the workshop made by RSPP (15 October).  Number of participants: 28 from 14 MS +EC	Work group	
7 <sup>th</sup> October (Brussels, AVC)	Progress of the work presented to Plenary	Rapporteurs	Plenary
27 <sup>th</sup> October (AVC meeting)	Fifth meeting of the work group Main items discussed: - comments on the circulated updated version of the draft Opinion; - discussion on what feedback to give to the RSPP SG based on the circulated draft text; - discussion on the draft contribution to the Commission "Toolbox"; - comments on the circulated updated version of the accompanying Report.  Number of participants: 31 from 18 MS +EC	Work group	
16 <sup>th</sup> November (AVC meeting)	Sixth meeting of the work group Main items discussed: - comments on the circulated updated version of the draft Opinion; - discussion on the updated contribution for the RSPP SG; - discussion on the updated contribution to the Commission "Toolbox"; - comments on the circulated updated version of the accompanying Report.  Number of participants: 21 from 12 MS +EC	Work group	
15 <sup>th</sup> December (AVC meeting)	Seventh meeting of the work group Main items discussed: - comments on the circulated updated version of the draft Opinion; - comments on the circulated updated version of the accompanying Report.  Number of participants: 26 from 15 MS +EC	Work group	
Year 2021			
18 <sup>th</sup> January (AVC meeting)	Eighth meeting of the work group Main items discussed: - finalize the Opinion; - finalize the accompanying Report.  Number of participants: 23 from 16 MS +EC	Work group	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action / deliverable</b>	<b>Internal</b> Work group only	<b>External</b> Plenary, Publication
10 <sup>th</sup> February (Brussels, AVC)	Progress of the work presented to Plenary  Draft Opinion RSPG21-006 approved for public consultation Report RSPG21-016 approved for publication	Rapporteurs	Plenary
19 <sup>th</sup> April (AVC meeting)	Ninth meeting of the work group - discussion and preparation of some targeted modification to the draft Opinion after public consultation - discussion and preparation of an input note to the RSPP sub group with proposed modifications for the spectrum sharing issues in RSPP draft opinion  Number of participants 23 from 16 MS + EC	Work group	
16 <sup>th</sup> June (Brussels, AVC)	Progress of the work presented to Plenary  Draft Final Opinion on Spectrum Sharing presented	Rapporteurs	Plenary
The work of the Sub Group is completed			