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RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Progress Report of the RSPG Sub-Group on WRC

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Progress Report of RSPG SG WRC

The Group met once at the beginning of October after the last Plenary, where the interim Opinion on WRC-23 has been finally adopted. Representatives from numerous MS participated: Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and the European Commission. In addition, observers from Turkey and Norway attended as well.

The Group considered the following:

1. New Work item

The task of the group is currently defined as continuation of the work towards a final Opinion on WRC-23. Taking into account that the Plenary will consider a new work program for RSPG, it was noted that the specifics of the work item is currently subject to review. It is expected that the Plenary will adopt a new work program at its first meeting 2022. Until that time, the group agreed to continue its activities in light of the draft work program, which is subject to a public consultation.

2. Timeline

The Group is fully aware of the possible deadline for the presentation of the final opinion to the European Commission. As such, it has been agreed to plan with further 5 meetings, mainly virtually to extend the participation. This is currently well reflected in the draft new work item on WRC-23.

3. Progress

The work on the final Opinion will base on the interim Opinion. The Group agreed to task for each item a specific member of the group to provide initial texts on recommendations to the EC on the identified eleven issues.

Furthermore, an additional issue has been raised for inclusion in the final Opinion as new item: the consideration on the RR Art 21.5. However, there was no unanimous view within the group on the inclusion. As such the group will continue a more detailed consideration at its next meeting and invited further inputs.

4. Coordination at WRC

An additional question has been raised regarding the handling of controversial views on an EU position at WRC. This may create difficulties for the Council presidency at the conference. After consideration, it has been initially concluded that such controversies are on a case-by-case basis.

As such it has been further concluded that the final Opinion should provide clear recommendations for EU positions to the EC. If MS have different, diverging or opposing views, it's the task of RSPG and later the Council to find a compromise as the Council's Decision needs to be applied during WRC. Furthermore, for clarity sake, the opinion is limited to those AI relevant to EU policies/EU law and providing guidance to EC. However, MS may provide further thoughts on this question and the group will then analyse if further action is necessary.

The next (web)meeting of the Sub-Group is scheduled for January 24th 2022 (14h00). If deemed necessary, short meeting(s) after the RSPG Plenary, can be arranged.

Recommended action for RSPG:

Noting of this Progress Report.

Documents/Annexes: 0