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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

Connectivity
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 09 February 2022

RSPG22-009 FINAL

RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

Subject: Chairman's Report of RSPG #57 on 9 February 2022

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The Plenary meeting was Chaired by RSPG Chair Eric Fournier (France) and took place on-line given the restrictions in force as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

During the meeting the RSPG adopted a new work programme for the period 2022 and beyond (document RSPG22-006) and reviewed progress related to the award of spectrum by Member States for the pioneer bands for 5G (see document RSPG22-002).

The RSPG also adopted a report on the Peer Review Process as foreseen under Article 35.8 of the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC).

The RSPG also received progress reports from the Sub Groups dealing with:

- Peer Review and Member State cooperation on authorisation and awards
- Good Offices
- WRC23

Part of the meeting was also attended by Roberto Viola, Director General for DG CONNECT in the European Commission, who shared his views on a number of spectrum-related issues.

MEETING REPORT

(1) Introduction to RSPG #57

The RSPG Chairman, Eric Fournier opened the meeting and presented the draft agenda (RSPG22-001) which was adopted.

The European Commission was represented by Rita Wezenbeek, Director for Connectivity, DG CONNECT. Roberto Viola, Director General DG CONNECT, also attended for part of the meeting.

(2) Update from the Chair and former Chair on activities since the last meeting

The RSPG Chair provided RSPG members with an oral report on his activities since taking up his post on 1 January 2022. Frank Krüger (Germany), the former RSPG Chair, also provided an oral report on the RSPG stakeholder workshop that was held in December 2021.

(3) 5G pioneer bands: state of play on authorisations and awards

The Chair thanked RSPG members for providing updates regarding their national award situations. The Group took note of the current state of play as set out in document RSPG22-002. The Commission made a presentation summarising developments and welcomed the

progress since the last Plenary meeting but also noted that further action was still required by several Member States to make spectrum in the three bands (700 MHz, 3.6 GHz and 26 GHz) fully available. The Commission also reminded RSPG members that any decision by a Member State authority not to award spectrum in the 26 GHz band on the basis of a lack of demand needed to be properly justified on the basis of the results of a public consultation.

(4) RSPG Sub Group on Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards

The Sub Group co-chair Aleksander Sołtysik (Poland) presented a progress report (RSPG22-008) from the working group on peer review and Member State authorisations and awards. The Group noted that since the last Plenary meeting, the RSPG had been formally requested by Estonia to organise a Peer Review Forum as foreseen under Article 35.1 of the European Electronic Communications Code (“the Code”) and that this workshop had subsequently taken place on 12 January.

Aleksander Sołtysik also presented a draft annual report (RSPG22-008) as foreseen under Article 35.8 of the Code which was adopted by RSPG members.

(5) RSPG Sub Group on "Good offices"

The RSPG considered a progress report (RSPG22-004) from the Sub-Group on “Good Offices” presented by the Co-Chairs Mindaugas Zilinskas (Lithuania) and Adrian Galea (Malta).

The RSPG noted the progress made in respect of cross-border interference problems between Italy and Croatia, and urged all parties involved to take all necessary steps to resolve the remaining problems. The Commission expressed concern that the deadlines set by the June 2021 RSPG opinion (on the application of Article 28(3) of the EECC in relation to cross-border interference problems between Italy and Croatia in the UHF band) had still not been completely met and urged Italy to make additional efforts to avoid further delay and minimise interference to neighbouring Member States. For the FM bands, the Commission again invited Italy to urgently take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the EECC and relevant international agreements.

(6) RSPG Sub Group on the WRC

The Group considered a progress report (RSPG22-005) presented by the Co-Chairs of the Sub Group Nadia Katsanou (Greece) and Alexander Kühn (Germany).

(7) RSPG Work Programme 2022-2023

The Chair of the RSPG presented a draft future work programme for the period beginning 1 January 2022 which had been revised following comments received during a public

consultation. The group adopted the work programme, noting that for the UHF work item, the description of the work item was the result of a delicate compromise. It was also noted that the date of publication of the final Opinion for the UHF and the WRC-23 work items would be discussed in the relevant sub-groups, so as to take account potential impact on EU interests in WRC negotiations.

(8) Creation of RSPG Subgroups

The RSPG Secretariat confirmed the Commission's intention to create sub groups to assist the RSPG in its work. The Group considered the merging of *Mobile technology evolution* work item together with *The development of 6G and possible implications for spectrum needs* under one sub group. It was agreed that the following RSPG members would act as co-Chairs for the various work items and their related Sub Groups, noting the need to identify another co-chair for the UHF sub-group:

The development of 6G and possible implications for spectrum needs, and mobile technology evolution – experiences and strategies: Bo Andersson (Sweden), Tassos Lyratzis (Greece) and Heidi Himmanen (Finland);

Role of Radio Spectrum Policy to help combat Climate Change: Rory Hinch (Ireland) and Víctor Fernández López (Denmark);

Good Offices and cross-border coordination: Mindaugas Zilinskas (Lithuania) and Adrian Galea (Malta);

Peer review and Member State cooperation on authorisations and awards: Aleksander Sołtysik (Poland) and Andreas Johann (Germany);

WRC23: Alexander Kühn (Germany) and Nadia Katsanou (Greece)

Digital Decade/Radio Spectrum Policy Programme: Jonas Wessel (Sweden) and Didier Chauveau (France)

Strategy on the future use of the frequency band 470-694 MHz beyond 2030 in the EU: Umberto Mascia (Italy)
