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RSPG - Radio Spectrum Policy Group

- RSPG is the policy advisor of the Commission for spectrum
- RSPG is made by the spectrum authorities of the 27 EU countries and the Commission
- The reform of the regulatory framework foresees a new role for RSPG with more responsibility on advice on policy matters
- Over the last 2 years the links with ERG have been strengthened. In 2010 the cooperation with ERG (BEREC) will also be a top issue
- 2010 priority is the advice on the multiannual radio spectrum policy programme (RSPP) and on ad-hoc issues that might be raised by European Parliament and Council
- RSPG approved its 2010 Work Programme in February, after public consultation (in December 2009)

RSPG in 2010: Multiannual Policy Programme

- Delivery of opinion contributing to the drafting of the first multiannual EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme to be prepared by the EC
- Opinion will take into consideration a number of issues such as technology neutrality, service neutrality, flexible spectrum management, promotion of spectrum trading and the development of common policy objectives with a view to ensure more effective, more efficient and more co-ordinated spectrum use
- Aim is to provide detailed views on the EU policy orientations and objectives for the strategic planning and harmonisation of the use of the radio spectrum in the European Union

RSPG in 2010: Harmonised EU participation in international negotiations

- Expanding and developing the policy issues related to the WRC agenda items identified in the 2009 opinion, providing guidance on strategic objectives during the next preparation phases.
- The work could be also extended to other international aspects (such as relation with CEPT, etc.) and on exploring the possibility to create synergies with other regions of the world in order to try to benefit from potentially world-wide economies of scale.
- Aim is to assist Member States and the Community with common approaches preparing the negotiations and apply the recommended methods while developing the main themes in the WRC-12 agenda to be backed by EU-wide support

RSPG in 2010: Digital Dividend

- Centred on policy issues identified by the Commission (Communication and Recommendation of 28th October 2009).
- The work will concentrate on supporting the implementation of the EU roadmap, once this has been endorsed by EP and Council and as outlined in the forthcoming Radio Spectrum Policy Programme.
- This may require the development of several workstreams, such as:
 - development of a strategy for increasing spectrum efficiency and spectrum utilization
 - assessing the merit of the development of a co-operative process supported by the Commission to assist and encourage Member States in their efforts to coordinate frequency with non-EU countries and to avoid cross-border harmful interference
 - further developing the recommendations in the 2009 Opinion, taking into account the forthcoming Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

RSPG in 2010: Competition Aspects in spectrum assignment and usage

- Priority will be to continue the ERG(BEREC)-RSPG cooperation, ensuring that issues that are related both to spectrum policy and to market regulation are jointly discussed
- Further increase in cooperation is desirable in view of the application of the new regulatory framework and the start up of BEREC
- The work on competition (transitional) issues, already started in 2009, should be continued by focusing on refarming and the impact of the new GSM Directive, offering guidance regarding the way of implementing its provisions and on potential distortions of competition. The issue of refarming will also be examined in connection with the availability of the 800 MHz spectrum band.
- To be examined also the impact on competition and market development of the various methods of spectrum assignment and pricing, further developing the work started in 2009
- An other issue regards the possible effects on competition of electronic communications infrastructure sharing, including in particular spectrum sharing

RSPG in 2010: Technology impact in spectrum management

1 - Continuing the 2009 activities on Cognitive Technologies

- Aim is to set some recommendations for the Commission and spectrum regulators in order to better prepare for the introduction of Cognitive Technologies.
- Identify regulatory models deemed most suitable for an early introduction of such innovative radio technologies

2 - Radio Broadcasting

- Highlighting the spectrum usage situation by radio broadcasting services, both in VHF bands and 1.5 GHz, identifying the needs and the opportunities of the sector and the strategic objectives for the future more efficient use of the bands.
- Discussing the pros and cons of indicating a target date for analog radio broadcasting switch off and assessing the efficient use of L band frequencies
- The work could be also extended to AM and SW radios where appropriate, and a liaison can be started with the ongoing work in the COCOM

Radio Spectrum Policy Programme Timeline

- Presentation of a draft preliminary Opinion to the Spectrum Summit – 22-23 March
- Extraordinary RSPG meeting soon after the Spectrum Summit
- Public consultation from 31 March to 30 April
- Commission already launched a consultation on its own on a more general level with a broader set of questions ended on 9 April
- First RSPG conclusions by end May to be approved in the next Plenary on 9 June or earlier
- Opinion to be delivered to the Commission for the preparation of its legislative proposal

Radio Spectrum Policy Programme

- Covers the period from 2010 to 2015, with a longer term perspective
- Based on three main pillars
 - Contribution to the EU's 2020 vision
 - Efficient spectrum use for growth and competitiveness
 - Spectrum governance in EU
 - Spectrum is a national resource which should be coordinated and managed in a common European way by Member States
 - External relationship
 - "One common European voice" regarding spectrum issues providing clear guidance
- Objectives
 - Identification of high priority monitorable steps

Contribution to EU'S 2020 Vision

1. Improving European citizens' quality of life through investing in research, developing standards and promoting enabling technologies

- strong links between spectrum policy and other EU sectoral policy objectives
- focus on research in order to develop standards and enabling technologies to develop markets and maintain industry competitiveness
- spectrum management to serve the continued promotion of a truly effective and efficient use of spectrum at European level

2. Increasing economies of scope and scale at EU level

- considering possible date for using digital dividend (800 MHz band) in a coordinated way for ECS other than broadcasting
- review and identify developing and potential future significant uses of spectrum

3. Promotion of efficient spectrum use by means of regulatory and non regulatory tools in the EU for growth, competitiveness and innovation

- create opportunities for new and innovative spectrum usage (i.e. improved transmissions, intelligent spectrum sharing, etc.)
- facilitate the application of the new measures of the revised EU Directives on electronic communications to remove unnecessary rigidity in spectrum management by all available means

Spectrum Governance in EU

1. Enhanced cooperation and coherence

- reviewing management of spectrum for military and civil, commercial and non commercial use and identifying best practices
- facilitating the development of the internal market and increase access possibilities where demand is growing
- common objectives for competent national authorities, the European Commission, CEPT and ETSI
- all sectoral interests (ECS, broadcasting, transport, military, public, environment, space, etc.) should be considered

2. Flexibility regarding the use of spectrum and harmonisation of technical parameters

- flexible regional and bilateral agreements to allow for maximum usage of spectrum
- „collective support mechanism” on voluntary basis

External Relations

1. The EU's interest in relevant international spectrum bodies should be driven at the political level

- policy interest and priorities backed by EU common guidance on the forthcoming WRC agendas
- social and economic impact to be undertaken in parallel with the compatibility analysis
- development of a programme for regular discussions on spectrum policies with non-EU countries and other regions

2. Political and technical support for individual member states during negotiations with non-EU countries


- in particular concerning EU coordinated bands at EU borders (i.e. 800 MHz band)
- use of all legal and political powers to promote the implementation of EU policies
- such assistance should constitute an integral part of the EU's wider international engagements and policy

High priority Spectrum Policy objectives (1/2)

- Identify EU level policies that have a spectrum dimension and assess how to facilitate the achievement of such policies
- Ensure that sufficient spectrum for coverage and capacity purposes is allocated within the EU so that all citizens could have access to ubiquitous high-speed broadband.
- Achieve coordinated availability of the 800 MHz band for ECS other than broadcasting in all the EU Member States by 2015 (with possibility of postponement in justified and exceptional cases)
- Identify developing and potential future significant uses of spectrum taking into account market and technology trends.
- Take all actions to designate more 'new' spectrum and liberalise, where possible, currently used spectrum under service and technology neutral regimes (i.e. WAPECS).
- Make more spectrum available under a collective use model in order to facilitate rapid access to spectrum, promote innovation and competition

High priority Spectrum Policy objectives (2/2)

- Create appropriate regulatory mechanisms to foster more efficient use of spectrum, both for the commercial and public sector.
- Develop a spectrum policy approach for intelligent spectrum sharing which should, inter alia, promote the use of cognitive technologies, and enable the use of spectrum that is currently unused.
- Ensure that competent national authorities, the European Commission, CEPT and ETSI work towards the same objectives, enhancing collaboration and cooperation to reach those objectives, and clearly defining their respective roles and responsibilities
- Ensure that European spectrum interests and policy objectives are promoted in all relevant EU and international fora and discussed with non-EU countries and other regions.
- Ensure that all Member States are given the necessary assistance when negotiating with neighbouring countries on frequency coordination issues.



Thank you
for your attention