



Brussels, 5 November 2009

**RSPG ELECTS 2010 CHAIRMAN AND EXPLORES WAYS TO ASSIGN AND PRICE SPECTRUM,
DISCUSSES COGNITIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND A MORE COORDINATED EU POSITION ON SPECTRUM
INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA**

The RSPG during its plenary meeting today finalized its work on a series of reports and opinions thus completing its 2009 work plan. The Group adopted its report on *Assignment and pricing methods* providing guidance on the issue, approved a draft report on cognitive technologies which will now be submitted for public input, and adopted two first opinions on Coordination of EU spectrum interests in view of WRC-12. The RSPG also elected its 2010 Chairman as well as a new Vice Chairman. The main lines for the RSPG Work Programme 2010 were agreed, confirming the strong commitment of the Group to assisting the EU in making the best use of spectrum to the benefit of European consumers and industries alike.

In its report on *Assignment and pricing methods for more effective spectrum usage*, the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) identified the main criteria regulators have available to determine the most appropriate assignment method. The report presents the potential elements and tools to develop spectrum assignment and pricing strategies aiming at efficient and effective use of spectrum.

The RSPG also discussed its report on *Cognitive technologies*, examining how best to support this very innovative and nascent sector in the coming years. Cognitive radio technologies can be a key driver of innovation resulting in a more efficient use and a more dynamic management of spectrum. Policy-makers need to be informed well in advance of the challenges they may raise for cognitive technologies to realise their full potential. The report recognises that the EU would benefit from adopting a harmonised approach to cognitive radio technologies. It will now be submitted to call for public input in view of final adoption at the next RSPG plenary meeting.

The RSPG has been pursuing its efforts towards a more finely-tuned EU approach at international fora such as the ITU Radiocommunications Conferences. Following public consultation on the draft, the final version of the opinion on *Coordination of EU spectrum interests* presented at today's plenary insists on the need to enhance cooperation and strengthen dialogue within the EU and with neighbouring countries. Early preparation of international meetings, upstream agreement on EU strategic objectives and a stronger involvement of the RSPG early in the process should contribute to ensuring the EU speaks with one voice on spectrum on the international arena.

As the Chairmanship of Dániel Pataki, president of the Hungary's telecoms regulator, comes to an end, the RSPG has elected Roberto Viola, Secretary General of the Italian regulatory authority, as its new Chairman. In 2010, as mentioned in its *Work Programme*, the RSPG will focus on the development of the 1st multiannual EU Spectrum Policy Programme as foreseen in the telecom package that is now on the path for adoption. RSPG will also contribute to the implementation of the European Commission's roadmap on the digital dividend and continue a joint effort with the ERG, the European Regulators Group of market regulatory authorities, and BEREC in the future, to ensure a better coordination of spectrum management and market regulation.

Dániel Pataki, outgoing Chairman, said: *"2009 was a decisive year for the RSPG and for spectrum in the EU. I believe the work we have carried out on our two priority issues, i.e. the digital dividend and wireless broadband, have helped the EU move forward. Spectrum can be a key driver of innovation and growth and I hope the EU will reap the fruit of the digital dividend"*. Roberto Viola, incoming Chairman, added: *"I am very grateful to Daniel for raising the standing of the Group and I do hope to be able to continue his work in the same direction. The entry into force of the telecoms reform implies a new and more important role for RSPG and I will be working to consolidate this role in the EU institutional set-up and make RSPG a recognised source of policy advice in Europe"*.

All the documents will be available on the RSGP's website from 6 November:
http://rspg.ec.europa.eu/ref_doc/index_en.htm

Note to the editor:

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was created by a European Commission Decision in 2002. Comprising the national spectrum authorities of the 27 EU Member States, the RSPG provides the Commission with advice on high level policy matters in relation to spectrum. Representatives of the EEA countries, the European Parliament and the regional and international bodies may attend as observers. Before being transmitted to the Commission, the RSPG's expert opinions are submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as any other interested stakeholders. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and co-ordinate regulation of radio spectrum.