



Brussels, 11 February 2010

RSPG APPROVES ITS FINAL 2010 WORK PROGRAMME AND THE PRELIMINARY LINES OF THE FIRST OPINION ON THE EUROPEAN MULTIANNUAL RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY PROGRAMME

The RSPG during its plenary meeting today finalised its 2010 Work Programme after public consultation. RSPG also approved the time plan and preliminary lines of work for providing the Commission with the Opinion on the first Multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP). The Group also adopted its report on Cognitive Technology and the way forward for this area of activity. Finally RSPG discussed the revised Rules of Procedure after the modification of the institutive Decision and the adoption of the new framework, in order to cater for the new responsibilities. The RSPG is strongly committed to assisting the EU in making the best use of spectrum to the benefit of European consumers and industries alike and to being recognised as one of the best source of policy advice in spectrum matters.

After public consultation, the RSPG approved its final 2010 Work Programme with minor modifications. The Group welcomed the numerous inputs to the consultation and more specifically the broad consensus that was expressed on the content of the programme. The RSPG thanks all contributors for sending these useful comments. The views and suggestions have now been passed on to the relevant working groups for further consideration. The RSPG acknowledged the stakeholders' requests to open further its activity in terms of direct participation. While recalling the fact that the level of transparency and scope of participation is already relatively high for an advisory body to the Commission, those objectives have now been coded in the new Rules of Procedures. In particular a specific time plan has been devised to allow consultation also on the RSPP opinion as requested by many stakeholders.

The RSPG today also approved the preliminary orientations and the time plan for providing the Commission with an opinion on the first multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme. The draft plan is very challenging and has been devised in order to be both delivered on time for the Commission to develop its proposal and, at the same time, offer stakeholders the possibility to provide their views. The public consultation on the RSPG draft opinion is likely to take place in April, after the Spectrum Summit to be held at the European Parliament.

Following the public consultation, the RSPG has also approved its report on *Cognitive technologies*, examining how best to support this innovative and nascent sector over the coming years. The RSPG wishes to thank all contributors for the valuable input, most of which has been incorporated in the report. It is clear that cognitive radio technologies can be a key driver of innovation resulting in a more efficient use and a more dynamic management of spectrum. The report recognises that the EU would benefit from adopting a harmonised approach to spectrum access by cognitive radio technologies and concludes by identifying a series of key issues for further consideration in order to best advice policy makers and spectrum regulators. Along these lines, the

RSPG discussed the way forward regarding the work to be carried out in 2010 as outlined in the Work Programme.

The RSPG also discussed the way forward in a number of key work areas. In particular, in the area of the Digital Dividend, the Group confirmed its firm commitment to foster the objectives of the EU roadmap for future developments. In the joint cooperation area with BEREC on the impact of spectrum assignment and pricing on competition, the Group continued the discussion of the report on Market Definition issue, and highlighted the priorities for the new work streams on transitional issues and infrastructure and spectrum sharing. On Radio Broadcasting, the Group recalled that the activity should have as first objective the assessment of the current use of the various bands, then suggesting the appropriate way forward for a more efficient spectrum use.

Finally the Group discussed the draft version of the new Rules of Procedures, necessary after the modification in the institutive Decision and the approval of the new Electronic Communication framework, in order to cater for the enhanced responsibilities of the Group. Changes were made to improve the functioning of the Group, especially to provide for the new requests of policy advice that may come from the EU institution such as Parliament and Council. The objective of more transparency and wider participation of stakeholders in the Group's activity has now been coded in the draft Rules. In order to provide more stability and to better benefit from the experience of chairmanships, the term for the Chair has now been extended to two years, starting from the new chairman for 2011 that will be elected in November this year. The new Rules will now be submitted to the Commission internal legal Service before publication and should be formally adopted by the RSPG at its next plenary meeting in June.

Roberto Viola, Chairman 2010, said: *"2010 will be a transitional year, while waiting for the new regulatory framework to be formally in force, some important changes in the EU institutional set up started to happen. Among those the increased responsibility of RSPG in providing professional advice to the Commission and other EU institution in spectrum matters. RSPG today approved its Work Programme 2010 and the main work outline for the foreseen deliverables, including the opinion on the first EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, demonstrating its firm commitment in supporting the EU development roadmap"*.

All the documents will be available on the RSGP's website from 15 February or as soon as finalised:
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, amended in December 2009. Comprising the national spectrum authorities of the 27 EU Member States, the RSPG provides the Commission and other EU institutions 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 normally submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as of 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.