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COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper is to report on Commission activities related to radio spectrum policy since the 10th meeting of RSPG on 11 May 2006. The paper includes only activities which have a relevance to RSPG's scope of responsibilities, in particular activities which may influence priorities in the RSPG work programme.

2. RSC-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The 16th and 17th meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee was held on 29-30 June and 4-5 October 2006, respectively. Since the last RSPG meeting the following initiatives should be noted:

- **Short Range Devices.** Consensus on a stable text for a draft Commission Decision on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by SRD equipment in the Community was reached at RSC 16 and the regulatory opinion of the RSC was adopted on August 17. Commission adoption of the decision is expected before the end of the year. An advisory opinion of the Committee regarding a permanent Mandate to CEPT to support the scheduled annual revisions of the technical annex to the EC Decision on SRD was adopted at RSC 16. A final report on the second EC Mandate on SRDs was presented and welcomed by delegations. Follow-up actions on "collective use of spectrum" will be discussed at the next meeting
- **UHF RFID.** After discussion at RSC 16, The Committee gave a positive regulatory opinion on a draft Commission Decision on the harmonisation of radio spectrum for use for RFIDs in the UHF band at RSC 17. This opens the way to the adoption of the Decision by the Commission early next year.

- **Ultra-Wide Band (UWB).** The final CEPT report on UWB specific applications was presented at RSC 17. No consensus was reached when discussing elements for a draft Commission Decision on the harmonisation of radio spectrum use for UWB above 6 GHz. The matter will be revisited at the next meeting
- **MSS at 2 GHz.** The final CEPT report under the EC Mandate on 2 GHz MSS was presented at RSC 17. Agreement was reached on the main elements for a draft EC Decision on 2 GHz spectrum allocation for MSS. A draft Decision will be submitted to RSC for its regulatory opinion at the next meeting.
- **Spectrum Information.** A final CEPT report on the EC Mandate on spectrum information was presented at RSC 17. Administrations supported the enhancement of the current EFIS information system set up by the European Radio communications Office to cover the complete set of relevant information elements to establish an EU single portal providing information on spectrum usage.
- **Broadband wireless access.** An interim report on the Mandate given to CEPT on Broadband Wireless Access was presented at RSC 17 as well as the results of a questionnaire on national approaches to public consultations. A final report is expected by December 15,2006
- **Issues relating to harmonisation Decisions and their implementation:** The results of a questionnaire on the implementation of Commission Decision on ERMES band were presented. A Commission paper addressed the need of consistency between draft spectrum harmonisation Decisions discussed in RSC and draft radio interfaces notified by Member States on the basis of Directive 98/34/EC which aims is to prevent technical barriers to the internal market. The Commission services presented the approach they intend to follow when handling derogation requests submitted by Member States on the basis of Article 4.5 of the Radio Spectrum Decision.
- **Multimedia services:** A draft EC Mandate to CEPT was given a positive advisory opinion by the Committee Its aim is to harmonise the band 1452-1479.5 MHz (lower part of the L-band) to allow flexible use by mobile multimedia technologies. This Mandate follows the work done by RSPG on the topic.
- **Mobile communications on board aircraft:** A draft EC Mandate to CEPT was given a positive advisory opinion by the Committee. The definition of harmonised technical parameters will facilitate the use of mobile phones in air planes.
- **Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) at 5 GHz:** It was agreed to amend the Decision 2005/513/EC on 5 GHz RLANs, with the aim to avoid discrepancies on technical provisions with the corresponding ETSI Standard, thus removing uncertainties from the market. A draft Decision will be submitted to RSC for its regulatory opinion at the next meeting.
- **GSM-R:** On the basis of information given by Member States, no immediate need for additional frequencies for GSM in railways was identified.
- **Frequency bands formerly used by the TFTS system:** The information provided by administrations showed that the ECC Decision concerning the lower part of the ex-TFTS band was implemented in 10 Member States and implementation was foreseen in

11 other Member States. So no further action by RSC was seen necessary for the moment.

3. STUDY ACTIVITIES

The results of the study on **Legal, Economic & Technical Aspects of “Collective Use” of Spectrum in the European Community** were presented at a public meeting on 3rd October and the final report will be published by end of November. Together with the previously mentioned CEPT report on an EU strategy for Short Range Devices (in response to the earlier second EC Mandate), the study recommendations will constitute the basis of the upcoming reflection of the Commission on the topic. In 2007, the Commission intends to formulate its strategy regarding the Collective Use Model at EU level and plans to involve the RSPG in this process.

Following the suspension of the previous call in 2005 (due to the lack of suitable tenders), the renewed call for tender for the study on **Radio Interference Regulatory Models in the European Community** should result in a selection of a consultant before the end of the year.