



Brussels, 22 November 2007
DG INFSO/B4

RSPG07-194 Final

REQUEST BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TO THE RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP

FOR AN OPINION

ON

SPECTRUM ISSUES CONCERNING OUTER EU BORDERS

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 4 of the Commission Decision establishing the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG Decision) and with Article 6 of the provisional Rules of Procedure of the RSPG (document RSPG03-12), the RSPG is hereby requested to develop and adopt an Opinion on “Spectrum issues concerning outer EU borders”.

2. CONTEXT

The implementation of EU spectrum policies and related harmonisation measures often require specific frequency coordination activities between Member States located at the outer borders of the European Union and their neighbouring third countries. This coordination is usually conducted either in the wider context of ITU coordination or via bilateral contacts, or both.

The purpose of this opinion would be to explore how to better use the tools available in the context of the European Union (which were presented in document RSPG07-178 "Initial reflection third countries outside EU") to support and assist individual Member States, or a sub-group of Member States, who need to coordinate spectrum issues with non-EU countries, including acceding countries, when implementing harmonisation measure adopted at EU level. Such an approach would allow to mobilise the "political weight" of the European Union as a whole to support agreed objectives and to help implementing EU legislation relating to spectrum. Developing a coherent strategy could help addressing the external impact of the EU spectrum policy.

3. MAIN OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Opinion is to provide advice to the Commission on strategic and operational elements of an EU-level assistance mechanism to address the issues of international spectrum coordination existing at outer EU borders as described above.

4. ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE OPINION

The RSPG Opinion should consider the following issues:

- Preparation an inventory of practical cases for analysis of underlying issues;
- The identification of appropriate criteria to select spectrum coordination situations eligible for EU-level support;
- A recommendation on modalities and appropriate tools to be used (including brief assessment of legal bases and where appropriate international conventions or agreements) in order to implement the proposed EU-level assistance mechanism, including in particular the role of the various institutions and of the RSPG;
- In the case of a choice between several approaches, an estimate of the merits and disadvantages of each of the proposed approach, as well as possibly their costs and benefits, in order to identify the most appropriate one corresponding to the situation in consideration;
- A strategy to monitor the results and added-value of the proposed mechanism on a periodic basis.

5. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

- RSPG#14 (November 2007): acceptance of the request for an RSPG Opinion and nomination of a Rapporteur.
- RSPG#15 (February 2008): discussion on the proposed recommendations and possibly on a preliminary draft Opinion
- RSPG#16: (June 2008): adoption of the RSPG Opinion.

6. ORGANISATION OF WORK

In accordance with Article 10 of the provisional Rules of Procedure of the RSPG, a working group may be established.

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