



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Information Society and Media Directorate-General

Communications Services: Policy and Regulatory Framework
Radio Spectrum Policy Group
RSPG Secretariat

Brussels, 22 October 2009
DG INFSO/B4/RSPG Secretariat

RSPG09-300

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 19th meeting of RSPG on 13 May 2009. 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. It also contains a brief update on the Review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications and on ongoing studies.

2. DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS

On 16 October the revised GSM Directive was formally adopted. The Directive enables the use of the 900 MHz band by UMTS in addition to GSM. In parallel, the RSD Decision setting out the technical harmonisation for both this band and the 1800 MHz band was adopted by the Commission. Future technologies (that have to be compatible with GSM in the 900 MHz band) can also be introduced through the mechanisms of the Decision.

3. COMMUNICATION AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDEND

The Commission has planned to adopt a Commission Recommendation and Communication on the digital dividend on 28 October 2009. The main purpose of this initiative is to make concrete proposals for a coordinated approach to the digital dividend including three types of actions: urgent actions including the definition of harmonised technical conditions of use of the 800 MHz sub-band if, and when, Member States decide to open up the sub-band for electronic communications services, strategic actions to be agreed with the European Parliament and Council and longer term development issues to prepare the ground for further opportunities in the digital dividend.

4. HARMONISATION AND TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Since the last RSPG meeting, the following activities should be noted:

- **Implementation of Commission Decisions**: Administrations were informed about the results of the Commission services' assessment of compliance (verification) of the national implementation of EC Decisions. RSC delegates took note of the written status report by ECO on spectrum information in EFIS database as of September 2009).
- **Short-range devices (SRD)**: A preliminary draft of the third update of the technical annex to the SRD Decision [2006/771/EC], based on the draft CEPT report 35, was presented. RSC delegations were invited to comment and to send written comments on this draft. The Commission services will present a first complete draft of a Decision at the next RSC meeting after receiving the final CEPT report 35.
- **EC Decision 2008/411/EC on the 3.4-3.8 GHz band**: A discussion took place on the Member States' comments on the Commission draft guidance document on the effective implementation of Commission Decision 2008/411/EC on the 3.4-3.8 GHz band. RSC delegates were asked to complete the information on existing authorised Earth stations in Member States. On the basis of further comments received from RSC delegates following RSC#29 and the outcome of discussions between stakeholders regarding coordination, the Commission will prepare a revised version of this document for the next RSC meeting.
- **MCV**: The RSC discussed a draft of the Commission Decision on harmonised spectrum usage conditions for mobile communications on-board vessels (MCV). A revised draft has subsequently been submitted to RSC delegations for further comments in order to reach a stable version. The intention of the Commission services is to finalise the work on the draft MCV Decision in parallel with the work of the Communications Committee (COCOM) which is dealing with the authorisation related aspects of MCV.
- **Short Range Radar**: The RSC delegates were informed about the review of the 2005/50/EC Decision on the time-limited use of automotive short range radar equipment in the 24 GHz band that is under way. A mandate was given to CEPT to assist in this review. The discussion on the results of the CEPT deliverables and on the fundamental review in general will take place during the next RSC meeting in December.
- **WAPECS**: Two Mandates to CEPT on the 900/1800 MHz and the 2 GHz bands have been adopted. CEPT confirmed that its work had started.
- **Digital Dividend**: A first discussion took place with the Committee in view of a future EC Decision on the technical harmonisation of the 800 MHz band when used for electronic communications services.

5. STUDY ACTIVITIES

The final presentation of the results of the Commission study on “**Exploiting the digital dividend - a European approach**” was held on 9 September 2009 in Brussels. The materials from the final presentation are available on the consultant's website¹. The Study provided major input to the Commission to perform the required impact assessment regarding the measures which are envisaged.

¹ <http://www.analysismason.com/Consulting/Services/Strategy-consulting/Regulation-and-policy-development/Spectrum-management/Digital-dividend/Exploiting-the-digital-dividend--a-European-approach/Materials-from-the-final-presentation-on-9-September-2009/>