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DG INFSO/B4/RSPG Secretariat

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PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE RSPG WORKING GROUP ON DIGITAL DIVIDEND

This document is provided to RSPG for information at this stage
and has yet to be discussed in the Working Group

Progress to date

Since RSPG#21 WGDD has held one meeting on 25 March 2010 to further develop the RSPG Report on Improving Spectrum Efficiency & Utilisation in Frequency Bands Relevant to the Digital Dividend. A meeting scheduled for 19th May was cancelled due to travel difficulties associated with the volcanic ash problem. Instead the working group progressed finalisation of the Report by correspondence.

The draft Report addresses a range of issues relevant to improving spectrum efficiency in bands associated with the digital dividend, including frequency planning, the use of white spaces, the use of more efficient equipment standards. The Report concludes with a non-exhaustive list of seven strategic steps which could be taken by the EC and Member States to improve efficiency in frequency bands relevant to the digital dividend.

The draft Report is submitted to RSPG#23 for adoption.

Next Phase Work

In line with the RSPG 2010 Work Programme, for the next phase of the work stream the Working Group secretariat has prepared an outline structure for a Report on frequency coordination and other issues concerning the digital dividend. The secretariat is proposing that the report should focus on two areas, viz:

- i) the development of a process aimed at encouraging and assisting member States, on a voluntary basis, in their effort to coordinate frequencies with non-EU countries;
- ii) The WGDD may also select other items on the Commission roadmap, once this has been endorsed by the EU institutions including, where appropriate, further developing the recommendations in the 2009 Opinion, while taking account of the forthcoming multiannual Radio Spectrum policy Programme.

This is currently under discussion in the working group and it is intended that the proposed structure and content of the report will be finalised at the next meeting of the working group.

Expected deliverables and timeframes

The Report on frequency coordination and other issues is planned to be delivered to the meeting of RSPG#23 in November 2010.

Further meetings

The working group's meeting schedule for the 2nd half of the year will be finalised soon.