

## **Request for an RSPG Opinion on the introduction of multimedia services in particular in the frequency bands allocated to the broadcasting services**

**RSPG 06-119 Rev.**

### **1 Introduction**

In accordance with Article 4 of the European 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 the introduction scenarios for multimedia services in particular in the frequency bands allocated to the broadcasting service (e.g. mobile TV), to be addressed to the European Commission.

### **2 Objective**

The RSPG had developed and adopted an Opinion on spectrum implications of switchover to digital broadcasting as published on 19 November 2004 (Document RSPG04-55 Rev final). The Commission concluded activities and spectrum policy questions which need to be tackled and as they were explained in several documents (Communication from the Commission (COM(2005)461); Commission activities on radio spectrum policies (RSPG 05-109); Follow-up activities after RRC-06 (RSPG 05-107) and the WAPECS Opinion (RSPG05-102)).

In the meantime field trials of mobile TV technology have been already conducted and similar systems have already been introduced in Korea which is considered to be ahead of European market development. In Germany, for example, there are proposals to assign frequencies to deliver services to customers during the FIFA World Cup. Such applications together with hybrid solutions could also lead to more efficiency in spectrum usage. The ability to realise the advantage of pan-European scale could be key to the success of these innovative applications. Complementary to the development of a strategy regarding the digital dividend, and the consideration of the WAPECS, the RSPG should investigate these scenarios to facilitate the introduction of multimedia services in particular in the frequency bands allocated to the broadcasting services.

One of the key questions as outlined in the above mentioned documents is the use of the digital dividend for applications of multimedia services as a direct consequence of switchover to digital broadcasting. The availability and supply of high quality multimedia services with attractive new features could bring significant benefits to all consumers on a pan-European basis.

Therefore it is proposed to establish an RSPG working group in order to study this urgent issue in detail and to develop an Opinion on introduction scenarios for multimedia services in particular in the frequency bands allocated to the broadcasting service. This initiative should be complementary to the Request for an RSPG Opinion on the EU implications of the digital dividend which is expected to be adopted at RSPG#9, as multimedia services is a practical case of one of the possible long term use of the digital dividend.

### **3 Main conclusions of the RSPG Opinion on spectrum implications of switchover to digital broadcasting for the ongoing work**

The RSPG Opinion on spectrum implications of switchover to digital broadcasting concluded on the important potential of the “spectrum dividend” and highlighted its possible allocation to specific services (Question 4 of the Opinion).

The main conclusions of the RSPG Opinion on the spectrum dividend are:

- Member States should, given the diversity in needs and objectives, be able to allocate any dividend to such services that best serve their demands.
- Potential new services include a number of alternatives such as:
  - o Increase the number of programme services and/or enhance the TV experience (e.g. multi-camera angles for sports, individual news streams and other quasi-interactive options that are accessed using the remote control)
  - o Deliver services with higher technical quality (notably HDTV) or to portable and mobile receivers
  - o Enable electronic communication services other than broadcasting.

Therefore, the RSPG proposed further European activities for determination of the spectrum dividend and the description of foreseen national uses of the spectrum dividend.

Furthermore the RSPG recommended that these national responses should be evaluated at the policy, technical and spectrum management levels in order to identify the potential for, and benefits of harmonisation.

This outcome of the RSPG Opinion on spectrum implications of switchover to digital broadcasting should form the basis for the work of the proposed RSPG Working Group for Multimedia and Broadcasting.

#### **4 Tasks to be performed and issues to be addressed in the Opinion**

The work of the RSPG Working Group on multimedia services should be based on the following terms of reference:

- The Working Group should develop a draft Opinion on introduction scenarios for multimedia services, in particular in the frequency bands allocated to broadcasting services.
- The draft Opinion should consider how spectrum could be made available in a way that would allow use by multimedia services, taking into account the principles of the WAPECS Opinion, as regards technology and service neutrality as defined in the WAPECS Opinion, and thus minimising unjustified constraints on spectrum use.
- The draft Opinion should consider the potential advantages and disadvantages of action at European level in relation to the potential introduction of multimedia services, including any need for regulatory action as compared to reliance on industry or market activity.
- The draft Opinion should also take into account the preparation for RRC-06, and the outcome of the conference, and other RSPG Opinions, including on the spectrum implications of the digital switchover and on preparation for the digital dividend.

- Focus in particular on frequency bands allocated to broadcasting services such as:

174 – 230 MHz (Band III),  
470 – 862 MHz (Band IV/V),  
1452 – 1492 MHz (L-Band).

## **5 Timing**

- First discussion of this request for an opinion at RSPG#9 on 22 February 2006.
- RSPG#10 (11 May 2006): discussion on a 1st draft and progress report followed by a public consultation.
- RSPG#11 (25 October 2006): adoption of the Opinion.

## **5 Organisation of work**

In accordance with Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the RSPG, a working group may be established or other appropriate proceedings be used.