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Radio Spectrum Policy Group
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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 8th meeting of RSPG on 23 November 2005. 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 14th meeting of the Radio Spectrum Committee was held on 14 December 2005. Since the last RSPG meeting the following initiatives should be noted:

- **Short Range Devices.** The Commission presented an explanatory memorandum and a revised version of the proposed EC Decision establishing a framework for the harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short-range devices in the Community. There was a general agreement on the principle and on main elements of the draft decision. There were however some suggestions for improvement on specific points, and more detailed comments on the selection of bands and associated technical information which have been received in writing since RSC#14 and which will require further consideration before the next meeting
- **Ultra-Wide Band (UWB).** A draft Commission Decision was presented at RSC 14 following the Final Report from the CEPT. Taking into account subsequent comments by Member States, the topic will be tabled at the joint RSC-TCAM meeting in March. CEPT was requested to periodically report under the existing mandate.
- **Frequency bands formerly used by the TFFS system.** Debate on this issue will be resumed after further work has been done to identify new possible solutions. Meanwhile, Member States are encouraged to avoid eroding the harmonised status of the upper band by early national assignments which could pre-empt a future decision on harmonised usage.

- **IMT 2000.** At RSC 14, there was no consensus on the level of harmonisation and the level of flexibility that should be applicable to the band 2500-2690 MHz, or on a common way forward. Member States were asked to reflect on the discussions at the meeting and have submitted their comments in writing (available on the RSC website). The Commission is at present considering its options for further action..
- **MSS at 2 GHz.** An *ad-hoc* meeting of experts from RSC, COCOM, CEPT and ETSI on 2GHz MSS regulatory issues took place on 16 November. At the December RSC meeting, it was agreed to address further some issues, in particular the assignment process and the legality of justifications to reserve these bands exclusively for MSS. The expert meeting will be convened again when the remaining open issues have been considered in more details. COCOM has also been kept updated on the progress.
- **Spectrum Information.** Following the adoption of a Mandate, the CEPT is scheduled to report on the conditions required to develop the EFIS database into an effective EU portal for publication and access to spectrum information at RSC 15
- **Broadband wireless access.** A Mandate to CEPT to identify the most suitable harmonised frequency bands for BWA and to work out harmonised usage conditions was issued at RSC 14 on Dec 14. CEPT will submit an interim report by July 15 and its final report on December 15, 2006.
- **Implementation of Harmonisation Decisions.** Following the review of the status of implementation of harmonisation measures taken pursuant to the Radio Spectrum Decision (Decisions on 79 GHz and 24 GHz automotive short-range radars and on 5 Ghz RLANs), the results have been published on the Commission's Radio Spectrum Policy website.
- **Impact assessments.** Upon request from some Member States the Commission submitted a document intended to explore how impact assessments could suitably be applied to Decisions under the Radio Spectrum Decision. Following comments from Member States the topic will be table at RSC 15.

3. STUDY ACTIVITIES

The study on **Legal, Economic & Technical Aspects of “Collective Use” of Spectrum in the European Community**, i.e. the “Commons”, was launched on Jan 1, with a consortium led by Mott MacDonald awarded the contract. Initial findings will be presented at a public workshop scheduled for April 24. There will be a renewed call for tender for the study on **Radio Interference Regulatory Models in the European Community**

4. OTHER COMMISSION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Concerning the harmonised usage of the ERMES bands, the Directive repealing the former ERMES Directive 90/544/ECC and the Commission Decision have been published in the OJ on 27 December 2005.

A Workshop on the WAPECS concept is scheduled for Feb 21, the day preceding the present RSPG meeting.

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