



Brussels, 23 June 2010

**THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY GROUP HANDS OVER TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S VICE PRESIDENT KROES
THE RSPG OPINION ON THE FIRST EU MULTIANNUAL RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY PROGRAMME**

Mr Roberto Viola, Chairman of the Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), has today handed over the Opinion on the first Multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) to Vice President Mrs Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for the Digital Agenda. This document was finalised during the last RSPG plenary meeting held on 9 June, following public consultation, and now it will serve as input for the preparation of the Commission's legislative proposal. At the same 9 June plenary meeting, the RSPG also approved its revised Rules of Procedure, in order to make its work more effective and transparent. The Group also adopted two other reports. The first, on the competitive impact of spectrum on Market Definitions, has been developed in a joint working group with BEREC, the new Group of EU Market Regulators that succeeded the ERG. The second, the Report on improving spectrum efficiency in the Digital Dividend band, is the first RSPG deliverable aimed at supporting the EU roadmap in this area.

After a notable effort employed to respecting the challenging work plan defined in its previous meeting in February, that included an extraordinary plenary meeting on 23 March, RSPG approved the first Opinion on the European Multiannual Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, as foreseen in its 2010 Work Programme. This Opinion, provided today to the European Commission, takes account of the results of the Spectrum Summit held at the European Parliament and involving all relevant EU institutions and stakeholders. It also follows the public consultation launched on the draft Opinion at the end of March. The RSPG received 28 responses in the consultation, and is very pleased with the very valuable contributions and the broad support received.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Programme is a legislative act foreseen in the new regulatory framework approved in November last year, that calls on the Commission to take utmost account of the Opinion of the RSPG in presenting its proposal to the EU Parliament and Council. This proposal is also one of the cornerstone initiatives of the Digital Agenda announced in May. On the basis of the RSPG Opinion, the Commission will now work on preparing its proposal, which is expected by this autumn.

In the RSPG Opinion, the RSPG builds its policy recommendations on three main pillars: contribution to the EU2020 vision (and Digital Agenda), spectrum governance in the EU, and external relations. The Opinion also includes high priority policy objectives to facilitate a regular review of progress.

The Group also approved in the same 9 June plenary meeting its new Rules of Procedures, following the amendment of the Decision establishing the RSPG, and the approval of the new Electronic Communication framework, in order to cater for the enhanced responsibilities of the Group. Changes were made to improve the functioning of the Group, especially to cater for the new possibility to give policy advice, upon request, to the Parliament and Council. The objective of more transparency and wider participation of stakeholders in the Group's activity has now been enshrined in the Rules. In order to provide more stability and to better benefit from the experience of chairmanships, the duration of the regular term of the Chair will now be normally two years instead of one, starting from the new chairman 2012, whose election will be held next year.

The RSPG also adopted the third Report in the series of assessment of the competition impact in Electronic Communications Services (ECS) markets deriving from spectrum management. This report is focused on the issue of Market Definition, after the two reports published last year regarding transitional issues and the avoidance of anticompetitive practices. This work has been carried out in a joint working group with BEREC, the new advisory Group that replaced ERG as forum for EU Member States' Market Regulators. The group will now concentrate its effort on the new areas identified in the 2010 RSPG Work Programme, namely the evolving transitional issues and impacts of infrastructure and spectrum sharing in ECS markets.

RSPG also approved the Report on improving spectrum efficiency and utilisation of the Digital Dividend, the first of two deliverables foreseen in the 2010 Work Programme. This Report examines from a policy perspective a range of issues of relevance to the aim of efficient use of spectrum in the 800 MHz band.

Finally the RSPG discussed the way forward in the other working areas of the 2010 Work Programme, namely the regulatory orientations regarding the wider use of Cognitive Technologies, the spectrum implications of Radio Broadcasting developments, the coordinated EU participation in international negotiations and WRC-12. In all these working areas the RSPG will prepare deliverables to be published.

Vice President Kroes commented: "I welcome the RSPG Opinion as an important step in preparation of the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, which represents a breakthrough for European cooperation on strategic spectrum policy issues. This Opinion provides clear policy indications on all key topics and recognizes the importance of moving rapidly ahead on the Digital Dividend to be used for high speed wireless broadband. It will be instrumental in bringing actors together to achieve some of the most ambitious goals of the Digital Agenda, in particular to help extending broadband access to all and to complete the digital Single Market."

Roberto Viola, RSPG Chairman 2010, said: "In the Opinion on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme provided today to the Commission, the RSPG intends to give a precise contribution to the EU2020 vision and specifically to the Digital Agenda. RSPG believes spectrum related activities in EU should be focused on a coherent set of objectives, one of the most important being that spectrum should be

used in the most efficient way. Renovated effort should be put on research as the cultural humus for development of enabling technologies and commercial standards, in turn fundamental for reaching economies of scale and scope at EU level. Coordinated actions in refarming, use of digital dividend, assistance to Member States in cross-border coordination issues, promotion of innovative technologies and intelligent sharing, are also key recommendations in maintaining EU leadership in wireless communications and ensuring innovation, social inclusion and development in green economy. In a few word, in enhancing the quality of life of EU citizens.”.

All the documents are available on the RSGP’s website:

http://rspg.ec.europa.eu/ref_doc/index_en.htm

Note to the editor:

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) was created by a European Commission Decision in 2002, amended in December 2009. Comprising the national spectrum authorities of the 27 EU Member States, the RSPG provides the Commission and other EU institutions with advice on high level policy matters in relation to spectrum. Representatives of the EEA countries, the European Parliament and the regional and international bodies may attend as observers. Before being transmitted to the Commission, the RSPG’s expert opinions are normally submitted to public consultations of all spectrum users, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as of any other interested stakeholders. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and coordinate regulation of radio spectrum.