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RSPG Work Programme 2007 and outlook 2008

I. Major themes

1. EU spectrum policy implications of the Digital Dividend
Outline The year 2007 will probably be the main window of opportunity to reach an agreement at EU level regarding the coordination of the use of the digital dividend. The Commission will have to rely extensively on the advice of the RSPG to build a solid EU policy proposal on the topic, which should then be discussed with Member States during the latter part of year 2007 and possibly early 2008.
Expected main deliverables: a) Finalisation of the RSPG Opinion on the Digital Dividend The planned Opinion should be adopted at RSPG#12 (14/02/2007). It will have to be complemented by technical studies undertaken by the CEPT, framed by a Commission Mandate(s) following RSC approval. This Opinion will require adequate follow-up on issues by the RSPG as the policy discussion will progress and the results of the technical investigations will become available. b) Follow-up of the RSPG Opinion on multimedia services This Opinion, already adopted at RSPG#11 (25/10/2006), has obvious implications on requirements regarding the digital dividend. In addition, it is expected that Industry will deliver its recommendations on spectrum for mobile broadcasting by end January 2007. In addition, the RSPG may have to address any strategic issue arising from the RSC work on the opening-up of the L-band to multimedia services. In this context, the RSPG will have to monitor carefully the overall progress of implementation of

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this Opinion and possibly complement the previous Opinion by additional guidelines.
Time table / key milestones: o Planned adoption of the Opinion on the digital dividend: 14 February 2007. o Possible advice required following the results of technical studies by the CEPT during H1 2007 (L-band, co-existence between network types, etc). o Recurrent RSPG meeting topic during 2007-2008.
Public consultation: Already conducted in 2006 (30/10/2006-15/12/2006).

2. Final Opinion on WRC-07
Outline The RSPG is expected to adopt a final Opinion on the EU policy priorities for the preparation of WRC-07 at RSPG#12 (14/02/2007). This activity is likely to require regular follow-up during the run-up, and after, the WRC-07 conference due to take place in November 2007 (in particular in relation with the development of the European Common Positions in CEPT),.
Expected main deliverables: a) <u>Final RSPG Opinion on WRC-07</u> The planned final Opinion should be adopted at RSPG#12 (14/02/2007). b) <u>Debriefing of WRC-07</u>: expected to be given at RSPG#15 (Feb. 2008).
Time table / key milestones: o Planned adoption of the Opinion on WRC-7: 14 February 2007. o Expected recurrent topic during 2007 and early 2008.
Public consultation: NO. There was already a public call for input when the first Opinion was developed in 2005.

3. Exploring licence-exempt solutions as a spectrum management method and opportunities for the development of new wireless applications
Outline In the context of examining options to efficient spectrum management at EU level, the RSPG should consider the possible extension of licence-exempt solutions from an EU perspective, assess the most appropriate use of this method in the overall mix of

spectrum management methodologies and help determining the needs for licence-exempt spectrum in the EU. The Commission has recently presented to the RSC some initial thoughts on possible improvements regarding spectrum management for Short Range Device applications[1]. It would be appropriate that the RSPG now addresses the most strategic elements in a broader perspective, and in particular the increasing integration of intelligence in radio systems and its effect on the policy and regulation of the radio spectrum in the long term. The EU would benefit from a common understanding relating to the development of cognitive radios and underlay use of spectrum, and taking into account common views on the related opportunities and threats for all spectrum users. The Internal market dimension for mass market equipment and services and the impact on innovation should be taken into account when addressing this theme. It will also be important to ensure a proper coordination between the RSPG strategic reflection and the technical progress at RSC level.

Expected main deliverables:

RSPG Opinion on an EU perspective to licence exempt spectrum
Such an Opinion could be discussed as early as RSPG#12 (14/02/2007) with a view of being launched at RSPG#13 and conclude at RSPG#15. This timing would allow the RSPG Opinion to serve as a response from administrations to the forthcoming Commission Communication on license-exempt use of spectrum (tentatively announced for Q2 2006).

Time table / key milestones:

- RSPG#12 (14 February 2007): discussion on priorities and review of a draft Request for Opinion.
- RSPG#13 (8 May 2007): launch of Request for Opinion.
- RSPG#15 (early 2008): planned adoption.

Public consultation: YES, in principle.

4. Streamlining the environment for EU spectrum regulation

Outline

Several EU regulations are impacting the availability and the efficient use of radio spectrum. In addition, there are various bodies which are involved in spectrum management within Europe and which are interacting in the process of regulation of spectrum (EC, CEPT, ETSI …). By developing an Opinion or providing expert advice on the subject, the RSPG could accompany and support the development and functioning of the various spectrum policies: process of spectrum regulation, consistency between the regulatory framework and other directives such as the R&TTE directive, coordination between various bodies involved in spectrum policy (EC, CEPT, ETSI).

[1] Document RSCOM06-93 presented by the Commission at RSC#18 on 4-5 December 2006.

Expected main deliverables: <u>RSPG Opinion on the environment for EU spectrum regulation.</u>
Time table / key milestones: o RSPG#12 (14 February 2007): discussion on principle, scope and objective. o Timing and modalities of launch of the work on an Opinion to be discussed.
Public consultation: YES, in principle.

5. Strategic review of government service use of radio spectrum and implications on spectrum resource optimisation on EU level
Outline Government services use a significant share of the limited radio resources (e.g. police, emergency services, defence, transport etc). These last years, several Member States have launched studies/analyses to better understand the overall use of spectrum by those services and in some cases have drawn plans and principles to "foster" a more efficient use of the spectrum resources by the various operators of those services (e.g. incentive pricing, re-farming funds, recommending the use of commercial radio equipment operating on commercial frequencies whenever possible, public efficiency plans, etc). The proposed initiative in the RSPG would be to reflect on the various possible approaches, exchange experience and identify possible courses of action on European level to ensure more efficient and cost-effective use of spectrum by the actors.
Expected main deliverables: <u>RSPG Opinion on governmental use of spectrum</u>
Time table / key milestones: o Such an Opinion could be discussed as early as RSPG#12 (14 February 2007) with a view of being launched at RSPG#13 (8 May 2007) and conclude at RSPG#15 (early 2008).
Public consultation: YES

6. Strategic issues concerning third countries outside of the European Union
Outline This topic would address a set of strategic issues which would concern more than one EU Member States and one or several non-EU countries. It may include interference issues with neighbouring countries, strategic spectrum harmonisation initiatives (e.g. Beyond 3G), expansion of the "flexibility" concept outside the EU, improving

synergies between EU and CEPT Members which are not part of the Union, etc.
Expected main deliverables: <u>RSPG Opinion on recommended approaches concerning strategy vis-à-vis third countries</u>
Time table / key milestones: o Such an Opinion could be discussed as early as RSPG#13 (8 May 2007) with a view of being launched at RSPG#14 (22 November 2007) and conclude at RSPG#16 (mid 2008).
Public consultation: t.b.c.

7. Review of implementation of previous RSPG Opinions
Outline RSPG will regularly discuss the follow-up given to earlier Opinions.
Expected main deliverables: <u>Identification of issues arising from the implementation of earlier RSPG Opinions and examining whether RSPG needs to resume work on earlier Opinions.</u>
Time table / key milestones: o To be programmed at future RSPG meetings as the need arises
Public consultation: t.b.c.

II. Other activities for consideration for the work programme 2007 and/or 2008

These are additional issues which importance and priority would have to be considered in due time. The listed items have yet to be agreed by RSPG before becoming scheduled work.

II. 1 Topics of a generic nature

8. RSPG's advice on implementation strategies and issues regarding overall spectrum policy in the context of the implementation of the revised regulatory framework

By developing a framework Opinion, or providing regular expert advice on the subject, the RSPG could accompany and support the development and functioning of the various spectrum policy reforms proposed in the context of the revision of the regulatory framework, in particular on issues such as technology neutrality, service neutrality, and flexibility.
In general, key challenges are mainly those already identified in the WAPECS and the secondary trading Opinions, the consistency between various EU regulations relating to spectrum and a good coordination between bodies involved in spectrum policies. The RSPG should, in cooperation with the RSC, provide a validation of the developed measures and additional guidance on the implementation of WAPECS and the coordinated introduction of secondary trading of spectrum.

RSPG Framework Opinion on overall spectrum and/or "ad-hoc" (timing to be defined, depending on adoption of new regulatory framework)

9. Interplay between EU spectrum harmonisation and authorisation procedures.

This proposed initiative would be aimed at facilitating a further consolidation of the Internal Market for pan-European services relying on spectrum use, by fostering a proper integration/coordination of all the required steps to bring harmonised spectrum into use on EU level (various levels of allocation, authorisation/licensing, assignments, dispute regarding interference issues, etc), where appropriate.

Possible deliverable(s): [To be discussed further/developed]

Joint RSPG, ERG reflection on improving the consistency, and speed, of regulatory procedures regarding access to harmonised spectrum in the Community

II.2. Spectrum issues related to sectoral demand

10. A common EU approach on spectrum for systems beyond 3G

[Relevance and timeliness of this topic still unclear. To be discussed.]

11. Implication of the European Space Policy on spectrum matters

This topic could rise in importance once the Commission has finalised its developing space policy next year.

12. Public Protection / Disaster Relief

The interest in improving communication functions for emergency services is still growing but very little has been achieved outside of national initiatives. It might therefore be useful to assess spectrum needs and possible harmonisation at Community level regarding Public Protection / Disaster Relief. It is proposed to keep this item as a secondary priority for 2007.

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