



Brussels, 17 November 2010

**RSPG DISCUSSED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON
THE FIRST MULTIANNUAL RADIO SPECTRUM POLICY PROGRAMME IN VIEW OF THE 2011
ACTIVITY AND CONCLUDED ITS 2010 WORK PROGRAMME UNDER ITALIAN AGCOM
CHAIRMANSHIP**

The RSPG during today's plenary meeting discussed the main implications of the new Commission legislative proposal and approved the objectives and the main lines of the next work programme for 2011. The RSPG today also concluded the 2010 Work Programme, by adopting a number of documents, notably the second Report on the Digital Dividend roadmap, addressing ways for improving frequency coordination, a new Opinion on the regulatory implications of the introduction of Cognitive Technology, a revised Opinion on improving coordination of EU participation in, and priorities for, the forthcoming ITU WRC-12, a report highlighting issues around the future of Radio Broadcasting. Two additional reports in the context of the joint work with Berec, the Group of EU Market Regulators that succeeded the ERG, were also discussed and further input to this work will be given in a joint workshop with Berec scheduled on the next day, 18 November 2010.

The Commission has recently submitted a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and Council to set up the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) for the next five years. As required in the new telecom regulatory framework, this proposal took utmost account of the related RSPG Opinion adopted by the RSPG in May 2010. The RSPG discussed the implications of such a proposal on its future activities, in particular in view of progressing with the preparation of the 2011 Work Programme, and on strategy for ensuring a timely response to external engagement from EU institutions. The main objectives and lines of activities for the work programme 2011 have then been discussed. The approved draft programme will soon be submitted to public consultation.

The RSPG approved also a number of key documents concluding its 2010 Work Programme under the Chairmanship of Mr Roberto Viola, Agcom (Italy), who will formally stay in charge until 31 December. The first document was a second Report on Digital Dividend issues in 2010, aimed at supporting the development of the EU roadmap in this area. In particular the report focussed on improving frequency coordination and international negotiations while using in particular the 800 MHz band. Two other Opinions were also approved in view of public consultation, the first on regulatory implications of the introduction of Cognitive Technologies, concluding that the framework

in place is sufficient at this stage, even if some changes may be necessary in future, and suggesting a number of actions for fostering the process, the second on ways of improving EU coordination in international negotiations and in particular on ensuring the convergence of priorities for the forthcoming ITU World Radio Conference of 2012.

In the area of the technology impact, a report on the future of Radio Broadcasting was approved. The report highlights the main issues around the development of digital radio and ways to improve the use of spectrum as well as the end user experience. Further work in this area is foreseen and will also depend on the result of a public consultation which will be launched shortly.

The RSPG also discussed two other progress reports in the context of the joint work with Berec on the competition impact in Electronic Communications Services (ECS) markets deriving from spectrum management. The reports regard respectively the transitional issues in the mobile sector, including refarming and use of digital dividend, and infrastructure and spectrum sharing in wireless networks. These reports are foreseen to be approved in the next plenary meeting of RSPG (February 2011). Issues around the implications of the future RSPG on the work programmes of RSPG and Berec will also be the subject of the joint workshop between the two organisations to be held tomorrow 18 November. The main areas for discussions in this workshop are issues related to more efficient spectrum management, market development and competition.

Roberto Viola, Chairman 2010, said: "In 2010 the RSPG undertook challenging developments, taking up a new role with increased responsibilities in the European institutional set up. The RSPG responded in a very professional way thanks to the effort of the delegates of all Member States. After approving the revised Rules of Procedure, in order to cater for the new responsibilities and make the work of the Group more efficient and more transparent, the main challenge of this year was the approval, after a huge effort needed also to cope with a strict deadline, of the Opinion to the Commission for its legislative proposal on the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme. This Programme is going to be one of the cornerstones of the new Digital Agenda for Europe and should shape the EU spectrum policy for the coming years. In drafting this proposal the Commission took utmost account of our RSPG Opinion. With the deliverables approved today I almost concluded my 2010 chairmanship, but I will continue to serve next year as vice chair to the new Chairman, Mr Mike Byrne from Comreg. Mike has a challenging task ahead with the need to continue to provide ever more detailed recommendations and advice on the implementation and the policies of the Programme while it is going through the political endorsement process. RSPG already demonstrated its capacity, and is firmly committed to support the EU spectrum development roadmap. So I have no doubt the RSPG will continue to fulfill its responsibilities and enhance its role and wish Mike a fruitful and rewarding work".

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 also publishes Report on key issues in spectrum matters. The RSPG therefore constitutes a unique platform for Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders to discuss and co-ordinate regulation of radio spectrum.