



Information Society

Spectrum Policy in the EU

Ruprecht Niepold

Directorate General Information Society: “Radio Spectrum Policy”

ITU Workshop on Spectrum Management (INFSO B4)

***Geneva 16-18 February 2004
Information Society 1***

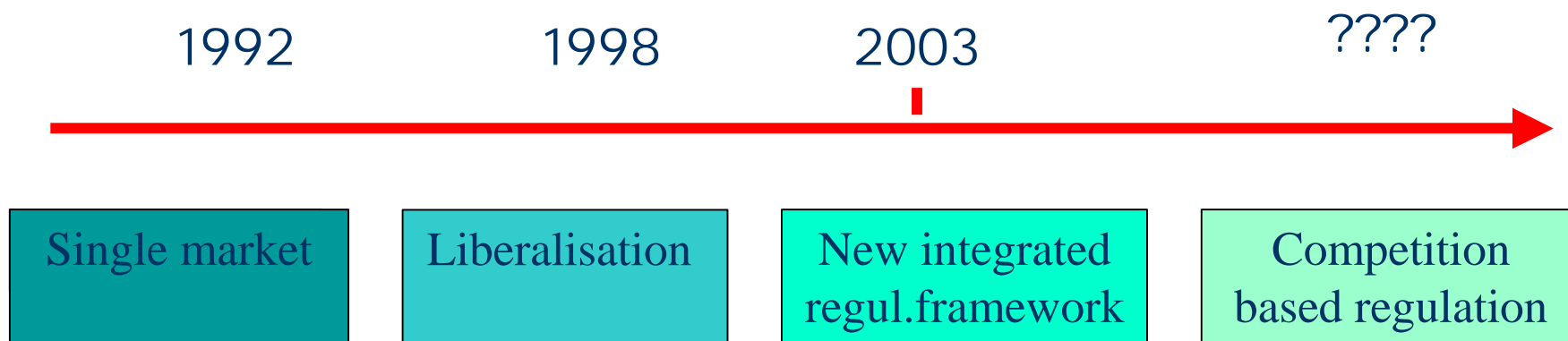
Ruprecht Niepold, European Commission, DG



The European Community

- 15 Member States - as of 1 May 2004: 25
- National spectrum administrations (members of ITU)
- Voluntary co-ordination of spectrum management through CEPT (regional organisation, 46 European countries): decision making not legally binding
- Community legal framework: legally binding regulatory measures, including on spectrum
- Growing reality of market integration in the EU
(incl. new Member States)

Regulation of communications



- Liberalisation largely achieved
- First **"integrated" regulatory framework for communications** adopted and implemented *(but untested)*
- Transition started towards sector being regulated by competition rules
- Accelerated market integration and convergence in the EU

Radio Spectrum Policy

radio spectrum: an **essential ingredient to Information Society**

radio spectrum policy for **other sectoral policies**: transport, R&D, broadcasting, civil protection, security etc.

radio spectrum policy to be compliant with **horizontal policies**: internal market, competition, innovation

harmonisation of spectrum: market synergies in the EU

spectrum access should primarily be driven by **policy objectives**, while it is conditioned by technical considerations

Radio Spectrum Policy

- New regulatory package includes "**Radio Spectrum Decision**":
 - * a platform for realising a **coherent approach at EU level**
 - * mechanism to ensure **legal certainty** on harmonised allocation and usage conditions
 - * contributing to enhancing **transparency of decision process** related to radio spectrum

- Radio spectrum policy at EU level gradually operational:
 - * **Radio Spectrum Committee RSC: implementing measures** in close cooperation with CEPT
 - * **Radio Spectrum Policy Group RSPG: political advice** to the Commission on strategic spectrum policy questions
 - * **International negotiations (WRC)** in close cooperation with CEPT

Spectrum Policy v. Communications Regulation

Spectrum Decision

Covers:

- **radio spectrum policy aspects for all sectors**
- **radio spectrum access and usage conditions and their harmonization (allocation)**

Deals inter alia with:

- **communications sector – spectrum is pre-requisite**

Regulation for communication sector

Covers:

- **all communications networks and communications services**
- **not content services**

Deals inter alia with:

- **rights to use scarce resources such as spectrum (assignment)**

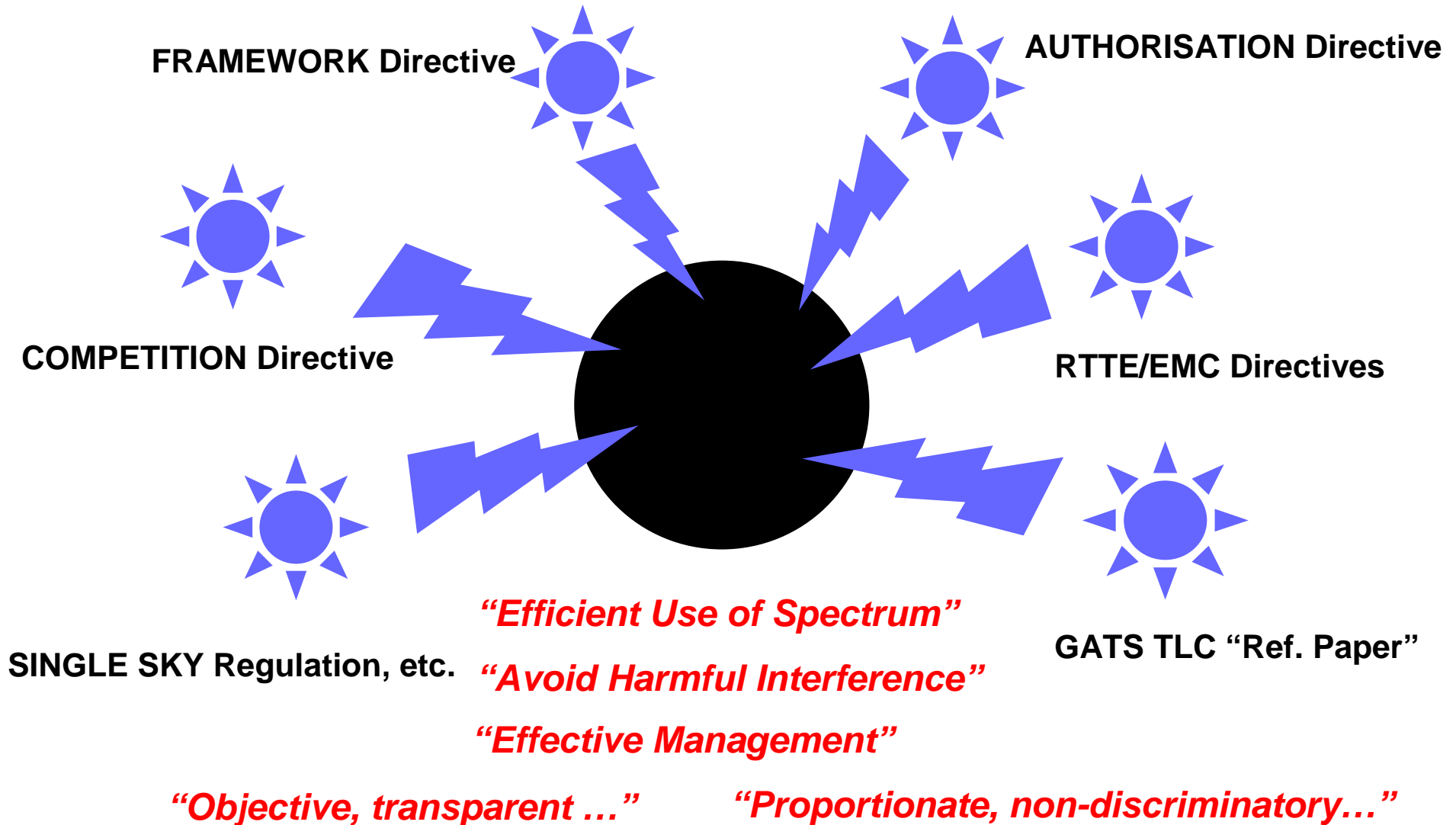


Radio Spectrum Policy

Key challenges

- Satisfying **Community policy objectives**
 - * all areas (incl. communications)
 - * horizontal policies (competition, internal market)
- Finding the **right mix of spectrum management approaches** and gaining more experience
- Filling the **regulatory "black hole"**
- Satisfying **contradictory paradigms**:
 - * harmonisation vs. flexibility
 - * national competence on spectrum vs. EU level coherence
- Clarifying relationship:
 - * **standardisation and radio spectrum management**

"Spectrum policy black hole"



EU Spectrum Allocation Harmonisation

“+”

“Single Market Effects”

- greater economies of scale
- more competition
- less cross-border interference
- more pan-European networks
- more roaming

“-”

“One Size does not fit All”

- less flexibility to fit local markets
- spectrum under- or over-utilization
- refarming costs
- unequal benefits

Current activities

Implementing measures:

Community interest in sectorial cases but with **generic background**. Examples:

- > R-LAN / 5 GHz, short range devices
→ **unlicensed spectrum**
- > SRR / 24 GHz, UWB < 10 GHz
→ **underlay spectrum usages**
- > co-ordinated approach to spectrum for wireless access platforms
→ increase **flexibility of radio spectrum usage, market based approaches**

Current activities

Generic / strategic spectrum policy aspects:

- > New regulatory framework allows for **secondary trading of radio spectrum**.
- > integration of **information on radio spectrum usage**
- > Discussion of **allocation principles**
- > **R&D programmes / spectrum policy**



Conclusions

Developing new approaches of spectrum management in the EU:

- the need to serve **EU policy objectives**
- finding the **right balance EU / Member States** responsibility
- new dimension: **coherence at regional level** on spectrum management approaches

References / contact

- General information on radio spectrum policy (Commission web page on Information Society portal), contact:
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/radio_spectrum/index_en.htm
info-B4@cec.eu.int
- Webpage / contact of Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG):
<http://rspg.groups.eu.int>
info-rspg@cec.eu.int
- Webpage of Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC):
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/info/radiospectrum/home>
- Ruprecht Niepold: Ruprecht.Niepold@cec.eu.int