Rapid Access to Spectrum for Electronic Communication Services in the European Union

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Abstract

For technologies that use radio spectrum to deliver the new converged services to the consumer it is important that spectrum regulation also converges and is coherent across all the affected frequency bands. The European Commission is promoting specific actions which signal a move away from the narrowly-defined uses for which specific spectrum is reserved today. The policy objective is to develop the EU internal market and competitiveness, by ensuring a common innovation-friendly regulatory environment which facilitates rapid access to spectrum for new technologies and leads to the provision of a wide variety of wireless services and applications.

Under a broader definition of "electronic communication services" (ECS), digital technologies shall be stimulated to deliver all usage/services within their capabilities, making use of any frequency band generally identified for this purpose, but subject to technical coexistence rules which are tailored to each specific band. In the medium to long term, a coherent and minimum set of technical and authorisation conditions will be implemented throughout Europe for most ECS frequency bands.