

Rapid Access to Spectrum for Electronic Communication Services Through more Flexibility

F. Greco, European Commission*

* *Disclaimer: the views expressed are those of the author and cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission*



Towards an EU Radio Spectrum Policy

➤ Coordinated answers to common challenges

- Spectrum is “owned” by EU Member States, **but...**
- **Common European policies** and projects
- **Market size matters** ! EU Single Market requires common spectrum policy and regulatory approaches
- Spectrum reform: reaping benefits of **EU synergy**, fragmented national approaches are inefficient



Policy Goals

➤ Objectives of EU Spectrum Policy:

- **Support EU Policies** by a coordinated approach to spectrum access in the EU
- **Remove spectrum 'bottleneck'** to innovation

➔ **Spectrum Reform: Work In Progress**



The EU Approach to Flexibility

- Promote greater **spectrum flexibility**: allow users and market to decide on the best use of spectrum;
- Establish a **common EU approach** on:
 - a. Relaxed authorisation requirements
 - b. Technology neutrality
 - c. Service neutrality
 - d. Secondary trading
 - e. ["Commons" spectrum use]
- Goal of **industry-led** European or global equipment and service **harmonisation** remains;



Wireless Access Policy for Electronic Communications

- Technology and service convergence requires spectrum regulation which is **coherent** across frequency bands;
- Policy-based process to pave the way for the new EU e-comms regulatory framework in 2010;
- Focus on **technology/service neutrality**, and on **legacy** issues;
- Detailed work on **common and minimum technical usage parameters and authorisation conditions** in the EU;
- Dedicated **EC regulatory/advisory measures** over the next two years, according to existing powers;
- **Further actions** when **review changes** to ECS legislation come into force.



Initial set of ECS frequency bands for implementation of more flexibility

- 470-862 MHz (**UHF Broadcasting band**)
- 880-915 MHz/925-960 MHz (**GSM**)
- 1710-1785 MHz/1805-1880 MHz (**GSM**)
- 1900-1980 MHz / 2010-2025 MHz /
2110-2170 MHz (**UMTS core**)
- 2500-2690 MHz (**UMTS extension**)
- 3.4-3.8 GHz (**FWA**)



Actions to Date

- **Nov. 05:** RSPG Opinion on WAPECS;
- **From May 06:** EC-MS discussion group on definition of common spectrum usage rights;
- **June 06:** EC Mandate to CEPT to harmonise technical usage conditions of first set of bands;
- **From June 06:** COCOM AUTH sub-group working on common & minima authorisation conditions;
- **Nov. 06:** EC Mandate to ETSI to develop harmonised standards for flexible bands.



Tentative Timetable

- **Q1 07:** EC COM to EP/C on spectrum flexibility
- **Q1 07:** RSC agreement on EC DEC for 900/1800 MHz bands
- **June-July 07:** EC proposals on ECS regulatory review
- **Q4 07:** EC REC on authorisation conditions
- **Q4 07:** EC REC on spectrum usage rights
- **Q4 07:** GSM Directive abrogation, adoption of 900/1800 MHz DEC
- **2007-8:** EC DEC(s) on other bands
- **2008:** first ETSI ENs for equipment in flexible bands



Conclusions

- **Flexibility** in the use of spectrum can boost Europe's economic growth and competitiveness by fostering **innovation**
- **Gradual introduction** of flexibility on the basis of existing EC regulatory framework
- **Future framework** to build on current concrete steps
- Strengthening of a competitive Europe-wide **single market** still paramount



References

- **web site: Radio Spectrum Policy**
(*reference docs, ongoing work etc.*)
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/radio_spectrum/index_en.htm
- **web site: Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG)**
(*specific reference RSPG docs, ongoing RSPG work etc.;*)
<http://rspg.groups.eu.int>
- **web site: Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC)**
(*RSC reference docs*)
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/infso/radiospectrum/home>
- **contact: INFSO-B4-EXT@ec.europa.eu**

