



The RSPG Working Group on Public Use of Spectrum (PUS)

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Public Workshop:

Optimising the Use of the Radio Spectrum by the
Public Sector in the European Union
Brussels, Belgium, 1 April 2008



Overview

- Introduction
- Timetable
- Methodology
- Information to be collected
- Preliminary Views
- Next Steps



INTRODUCTION (1)

RSPG: Radio Spectrum Policy Group of EU

Members: Top level spectrum managers from the Member States

- Advisory body to the European Commission on policy issues related to the management and use of the radio frequency spectrum

- Mainly produces Opinions



INTRODUCTION (2)

- Request for Opinion (RfO)
 - “on best practices regarding the use of spectrum by some public sectors” (doc RSPG07-188)
 - RSPG#14 (Nov 2007)
- Main Objective
 - identify means to encourage a more efficient use of spectrum by public sector bodies
 - best practices – not mandatory guidelines / recs
 - defence
 - emergency and public safety
 - public transport



INTRODUCTION ⁽³⁾ - Tasks

- Identify ways to determine objectively the need for radio resources for public use
 - ex-ante justification and
 - ex-post review mechanisms
- Propose practical approaches and possible regulatory measures to balance public service and commercial spectrum usage interests
- Propose practical approaches to deal with competing public service usage interests
- Make proposals for EU activities on research and development



INTRODUCTION (4) - Tasks

- Identify best practices to be considered by national entities having responsibility for the public use of spectrum:
 - availability of information about the use of spectrum by public sectors bodies
 - introduction of market-based management tools
 - active sharing of spectrum between different public, commercial and private sectors
 - national re-farming mechanisms



INTRODUCTION ⁽⁵⁾ – Issues

RSPG is expected to consider:

- The current approaches and practices in managing spectrum for public uses
- The institutional set-up and legal competences covering the use of radio spectrum by the public sector at EU level
- The international context of the use of spectrum by public sector bodies, where
 - public sector uses are often closely linked to international agreements
- Whether spectrum requirements are taken into account in the procurement of radio equipment/services for public services



Timetable

- **November 2007:** acceptance of RfO by RSPG#14
- **January 2008:** launch of the Commission Study on “Optimising the use of radio spectrum by the public sector in the EU”
- **February 2008:** first report to RSPG#15
- **April 2008:** workshop organised by Commission Study consultant presenting intermediate results of the Study
- **June 2008:** discussion on progress of the work and possibly on a preliminary draft Opinion at RSPG#16
- **August 2008:** final Commission Study report
- **October 2008:** public presentation of the Commission Study results
- **November 2008:** discussion of preliminary draft Opinion at RSPG#17
- **February 2009:** adoption of the RSPG Opinion by RSPG#18



METHODOLOGY

- RSPG Working Group - Rapporteur
- Develop appropriate contacts with relevant bodies:
 - EASA, EDA, EMSA, ERA, EUROCONTROL, EUROPOL, ESA, GSA, ITU and NATO
- Exploit synergies with the Commission Study
- 1st Meeting of WG PUS
 - Nicosia, 15 January 2008
 - Wide participation - Member States, invited organizations, European Commission, Consultants
- 2nd meeting of WG PUS
 - Brussels, 31 March 2008



COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Information to be collected from **all MS**:

- spectrum management bodies - how they cooperate
- public sector bodies that use spectrum
 - areas of Defence, Emergency and Public Safety and Transport
- methods of assigning spectrum to public bodies
- spectrum needs of public bodies defined? methods?
- market mechanisms
- public procurements of radio equipment/services
- EU sectoral policies - institutions - competences
- international bodies – relevant agreements



PRELIMINARY VIEWS⁽¹⁾

- Scope of the Opinion
 - Concentrate on practices that improve efficiency of spectrum use
 - No detailed band by band analysis - examples to highlight policy recommendations
- Spectrum management structure in MS
 - Needs of PS bodies should be satisfied
 - Spectrum should not be regarded as a “free good” and should be managed as efficiently as possible
 - Improved cooperation between all entities involved
 - Increased spectrum efficiency
 - Competing interests between PS bodies
 - if no designated authority with decision making powers
 - decisions may be taken at political level
 - need to explore further



PRELIMINARY VIEWS⁽²⁾

- Assessing and satisfying spectrum needs of PS bodies
 - Ex-ante determination of the needs
 - Review of needs regularly (ex-post review)
 - Determining the “right amount of spectrum”
 - define quality of service parameters - which must be met by the responsible public bodies
 - apply the “justification procedure”
 - When European harmonization measures are adopted
 - if sharing is not possible
 - public sector users should be accommodated in other frequency bands
 - use efficient mechanisms - refarming, financial compensation



PRELIMINARY VIEWS⁽³⁾

- Increasing Spectrum Efficiency by Sharing
 - Frequency Band Sharing – Opinion on CUS
 - Time Sharing
 - Geographical Sharing
 - Sharing could be facilitated by a number of factors:
 - Precise definition of the parameters of use (technical, time, geographical)
 - Public sector body using a frequency band should be actively involved in defining the sharing conditions of the band
 - The establishment of speedy mechanisms for resolving sharing problems (e.g. interferences) and in general disputes between the sharing parties



PRELIMINARY VIEWS⁽⁴⁾

- Fees and Market Mechanisms
 - Two regimes:
 - PS bodies pay the same spectrum fees as other users
 - PS bodies do not to pay any spectrum fees
 - The introduction of market mechanisms could also result in improved spectrum efficiency
 - For PS to apply market mechanisms
 - may be a need for legislative changes



PRELIMINARY VIEWS⁽⁵⁾

- International Context
 - Many public services are linked to international agreements
 - Measures to improve spectrum efficiency
 - to be pursued in the relevant international bodies
 - not by individual administrations
 - MS collective action more effective



NEXT STEPS

- Report to RSPG on 2nd meeting of WG PUS
- 3rd meeting of WG PUS
- Collect Information
 - Consider the report of Consultants
 - Summarised results of conducted interviews
- Prepare draft Opinion



Thank You