

33<sup>rd</sup> EPRA meeting**Working group 3: EU spectrum policy/Digital Dividend  
Update on EU policy developments & views from industry**

Ohrid, 26-27 May 2011

**Introduction & Objectives***Mónica Ariño, Ofcom, UK & EPRA Vice-Chairperson***Introduction:**

Responses to the members' consultation on the work programme did not show any clear consensus on a topic for working group 3, and a preference was expressed to leave this open to allow for ad-hoc discussion of new issues as they arise. It was also suggested that speakers from the industry should be encouraged to participate.

The EPRA Board proposed to dedicate the session to a discussion on the recent Commission proposal establishing the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP).

On 20 September 2010, the Commission adopted its proposal to the European Parliament and Council for a [first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme](#)<sup>1</sup> (RSPP). The idea of such a programme was first set out in the 2009 revised framework for electronic communications and services, and represents a significant step in setting out a European strategy for spectrum management. Once adopted the RSPP will be a legally binding initiative which, as a multi-annual programme, may be subject to further iterations in coming years.

The key elements of the RSPP are:

- Deadlines for the release of spectrum at 800 MHz (1 January 2013) and 2.6 GHz/ 3.4 GHz (1 January 2012) for mobile broadband services;
- The establishment of an inventory of spectrum to identify whether more valuable services can be moved to inefficiently used frequencies;
- Establishing a more central role for the EU in international spectrum negotiations;
- Referencing the areas (such as Galileo and transport safety) where spectrum should be made available to support key EU policy objectives ; and
- Confirming the commitment to spectrum efficiency, effective competition and service and technology neutrality.

Negotiations are currently on-going between the European Parliament and the European Council. The main aim of the RSPP is to reflect political priorities of the EU and translate them into strategic policy objectives for radio spectrum use. The RSPP is part of the Commission's Broadband Strategy and a key priority in the context of the Digital Agenda.

The timing of the working group discussion is very opportune. On the 14 May, the European Parliament adopted a first reading position on RSPP proposal. The Telecoms Council is expected to adopt a progress report setting out its response to the RSPP proposal during its meeting on May 27.

**Objective of Session:**

The aim of this session is to raise awareness and incite discussion amongst broadcast regulators about the current EU spectrum debate, and what the implications for broadcasting regulation may be.

**Structure of Session:**

**Philippe Defraigne**, Analyst at *Cullen International*, will start the group with an overview of the proposals, the state of the debate and what are the key issues. The presentation will be followed by a question and answers session.

**Andrew Hudson**, Head of Spectrum Policy at *Vodafone*, and **Peter McAvoek**, Programme Manager at *EBU (Technical)*, will provide the views of the mobile and the broadcasting industry respectively.

The two presentations will be followed by a question and answers session and by a debate with the working group participants.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52010PC0471:EN:NOT>