



Brussels, 26 September 2011  
DG INFSO/B4

**RSCOM11-47Rev1**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**SECOND MANDATE TO CEPT  
TO UNDERTAKE TECHNICAL STUDIES ON MOBILE COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON  
BOARD AIRCRAFT (MCA)**

"This mandate is issued to the CEPT without prejudice to the right of scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council, pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 February 2011 (OJ L 55, 28.02.2011, p. 13) laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers."

**1. PURPOSE**

Pursuant to Art. 4 of the Radio Spectrum Decision 676/2002/EC<sup>1</sup>, CEPT is mandated to undertake the work required to identify the most appropriate technical criteria for the inclusion of new technologies and frequencies in the EC Decision on Mobile Communication Services on Board Aircraft (MCA) (2008/294/EC) to facilitate further deployment of MCA applications in the European Union.

The objective of this Mandate is to study the technical compatibility of airborne UMTS systems, as well as other feasible technologies like LTE or WiMax, with potentially

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 676/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on a regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy in the European Community, OJ L 108 of 24.4.2002, p.1.

affected radio services. This Mandate is a follow-up to the first EC Mandate on MCA of 12 October 2006, and its purpose is to extend the scope of compatible MCA systems and services currently available.

In the European Union, the airworthiness of airborne mobile communication systems in terms of avoiding the creation of harmful interference to aviation systems is the competence of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and therefore does not fall into the scope of this Mandate. The avoidance of harmful interference which would endanger the functioning of aviation-related safety services takes priority over any other issue.

## **2. JUSTIFICATION**

The first Mandate given by the Commission to CEPT on 12 October 2006 on this issue led to a final CEPT Report being delivered to the Commission on 30 March 2007 (doc. RSCOM07-08) and to a subsequent Commission Decision 2008/294/EC on harmonised conditions of spectrum use for the operation of mobile communication services on aircraft (MCA services) in the European Union, which was adopted by the Commission on 7 April 2008.

Allowing people to be connected everywhere at all time is a recurring theme of the policy on the Information Society and of the i2010 initiative. The development of increased means of communicating is likely to be beneficial for work productivity and for growth in the mobile telephony market, for the fulfilment of the Digital Agenda for Europe, and must be in line with the principles of service and technology neutrality as defined in the regulatory framework for electronic communications. Airborne connectivity applications are being used mostly for cross-border flights within the European Union, as well as for flights departing from and arriving in the European Union, and are pan-European in nature. The inclusion of new appropriate technologies and frequencies for the use of MCA services would therefore further support the objectives of the EU Single Market.

## **3. ORDER AND SCHEDULE**

CEPT is hereby mandated to undertake all required activities to

- (1) assess specific technical compatibility issues between the operation of airborne UMTS systems and other feasible airborne technologies, such as LTE or WiMax, in relevant frequency bands, including the terrestrial 2 GHz band (1920-1980 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz), and potentially affected radio services, taking into account the technical conditions developed in CEPT Report 39 for the assessment relating to the terrestrial 2 GHz band;
- (2) assess the technical compatibility issues between the operation of airborne UMTS systems and other feasible airborne technologies such as LTE or WiMax in other frequency bands (e.g. the 2.6 GHz band) and identify potentially affected radio services.

CEPT shall undertake this work in full awareness of and close collaboration with developments regarding the airworthiness certification of these systems by aviation safety authorities.

CEPT should provide deliverables according to the following schedule:

<b>Delivery date</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Subject</b>
20 June 2012	Interim Report from CEPT to the Commission	Description of work undertaken and interim results under this Mandate.
21 November 2012*	Final Report from CEPT to the Commission	Description of work undertaken and final results under this Mandate
6 March 2013	Final Report from CEPT to the Commission, taking into account the outcome of the public consultation	

\* subject to subsequent public consultation

In addition, CEPT is requested to report on the progress of its work pursuant to this Mandate to all the meetings of the Radio Spectrum Committee taking place during the course of the Mandate.

The result of this Mandate can be made applicable in the European Union pursuant to Article 4 of the Radio Spectrum Decision.

In implementing this Mandate, the CEPT shall take the utmost account of EU law applicable.

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