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| Working Group FM | ECC PT1(17)188  Doc. FM(17)177 - Annex 13 |

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| To |  | |
| Mr Steve Green  ECC PT1 Chairman  Mail: [steve.green@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:steve.green@ofcom.org.uk) | | |
| Date | Enclosures | |
| 13 October 2017 | --- | |
| Our reference | Your reference | |
| WGFM#89 |  | |
| Subject : Use of MFCN for UAS operations |  | |
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Dear Steve

WG FM discussed during its 89th meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, the outcomes of the draft ECC Report 268 “Technical and Regulatory Aspects and the Needs for Spectrum Regulation for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)” (Annex 1 to doc. [FM(17)168](https://cept.org/Documents/wg-fm/38799/fm-17-168_progress-report-cg-drones-with-draft-ecc-report-268-after-pc)) and agreed to postpone the final approval of this Report, which was in public consultation, in order to take into account RE Directive related issues and the upcoming regulatory framework for the operation of drones of the European aeronautical safety agency (EASA) that was in public consultation (NPA 2017-05 (A) and (B)[[1]](#footnote-2)).

Nevertheless, one outcome of this draft ECC Report 268 (see chapter 6.1) considers the possibility to use MFCN for command and control of professional drones for Beyond LoS operations. WG FM is aware of several trials and projects of drones manufacturers in Europe and in the USA with the cooperation of mobile operators. WG FM concludes that operation of those UAS, for which no communication with the air traffic management is required, is not limited to aeronautical service bands and could represent benefits to the UAS ecosystem (UAS of categories “Open” and “Specific” as per EASA’s regulation, flying below the local minimum height for controlled airspace, or outside of radio mandatory zones[[2]](#footnote-3)).

Therefore, WG FM would like to have the view of ECC PT1 on the use of MFCN for the command and control link of UAS within the current regulatory framework for MFCN, including technical conditions and potential impact of a UAS on a neighbouring network.

Best regards

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WG FM Chairman

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1. NPA 2017-05 Introduction of a regulatory framework for the operation of drones — Unmanned aircraft system operations in the open and specific category (<https://www.easa.europa.eu/document-library/notices-of-proposed-amendment/npa-2017-05>) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Airspace of defined dimensions wherein the carriage and operation of radio equipment is mandatory [↑](#footnote-ref-3)