



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Electronic Communications Networks and Services

Spectrum

Brussels, 16 July 2019

DG CNECT/B4/SRD8

Mr Chris Woolford
Chairman CEPT ECC
Ofcom
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
United Kingdom

**Subject: Guidance to CEPT on the eight update of Decision 2006/771/EC
(SRD Decision)**

Dear Mr Woolford,

The Radio Spectrum Committee, in its meeting on 10 July 2019 in Brussels has discussed and endorsed the Commission services' guidance to CEPT for the eighth update of the technical annex to the SRD Decision 2006/771/EC as well as – where relevant – for the update of the technical annex of the new SRD Decision 2018/1538/EU. Such guidance is foreseen in the permanent Mandate to CEPT regarding the regular update of the technical annex of the Commission Decision on harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short range devices.

In the attached document you find input and orientation to CEPT reflecting EU policy priorities requiring special attention in the context of spectrum usage by SRDs. This input and orientation aims at supporting the completion of the CEPT deliverable(s) for the forthcoming eighth update of the Decision 2006/771/EC and – where relevant – for the update of Decision 2018/1538/EU (the SRD Decisions).

Upon completion of this new update cycle, I would appreciate receiving from CEPT the deliverable(s) along with an explanatory note on how the tasks have been accomplished.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Andreas Geiss

Chairman, Radio Spectrum Committee

GUIDANCE TO CEPT

ON THE EIGHTH UPDATE OF THE SRD DECISION

1. PERMANENT MANDATE ON UPDATING THE TECHNICAL ANNEX TO THE SRD DECISION

This document provides the Commission services' guidance to CEPT for the eighth update of the technical annex to the Short Range Devices (SRD) Decision 2006/771/EC as well as – where relevant – for the update of the technical annex of Decision 2018/1538/EU. Both Decisions are jointly referred to as the SRD Decisions. Such guidance is foreseen in the permanent Mandate to CEPT regarding the annual update of the technical annex of the Commission Decision 2006/771/EC on harmonisation of radio spectrum for use by short range devices¹ and Decision 2018/1538/EU is the result of such an update. As guiding principles, the proposed evolution of the European regulatory framework for short-range devices should take into due consideration backward compatibility with current SRD systems in harmonised bands and relevant incumbent non-SRD usages, as well as efficient use of spectrum and spectrum sharing.

2. RECOMMENDED FOCUS FOR THE NEXT UPDATE

New entries are regularly added to ERC Recommendation 70-03 based on spectrum demand expressed in ETSI SRDocs and assessed in compatibility studies. The non-mandatory, flexible harmonisation on the CEPT level within ERC Recommendation 70-03 is a beneficial source for potential future EU harmonisation. Adding its entries, where possible and useful, to the SRD Decisions, leads to legally binding implementation across the EU and allows producers and users of SRDs to profit from the benefits of the Digital Single Market.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- a. *consider the bands recently added or currently under discussion for addition to ERC Recommendation 70-03 for potential inclusion in the next update of the SRD decision 2006/771/EC;*

Some technical parameters, e.g., 'usage restrictions', currently in the annex of the SRD Decisions 2006/771/EC and – where relevant - 2018/1538/EU, may require re-assessment on a case by case basis. Enhancing technical parameters, for instance removing or relaxing 'usage restrictions', where compatibility with radio services allows, may create new opportunities for the quick deployment of SRD solutions in certain categories and hence increase market penetration and socio-economic benefits of SRDs.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- b. *re-assess the technical parameters, in particular the relevance and appropriateness of 'other usage restrictions', for the relevant SRD categories;*

¹ RSCOM06-27 Rev (5 July 2006)

During the sixth update, the duty cycle definitions in ERC/REC 70-03 - Appendix 5 and the Annex to Decision 2006/771/EC have been aligned. The new definition allows for observation times different from the current standard of one hour for a given SRD entry and hence opens the possibility to improve spectrum sharing. The development of additional parameters (such as channelling and/or channel access and occupation rules) could enable a future withdrawal of some existing 'other usage restrictions' (see also point b).

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- c. *investigate, where useful, more enhanced aspects of duty cycle mechanisms in cooperation with ETSI, as well as other enablers for further spectrum sharing (e.g., channelling and/or channel access and occupation rules).*

Radio resources can be shared in frequency, time and space. Cognitive techniques² allow for an increased level of efficient use of spectrum by sharing along all of these three dimensions and hence cognitive-radio enabled SRDs could open new frequency bands for SRDs in the future. CEPT Report 59 contains an initial analysis of cognitive techniques for SRDs and comes to the conclusion that such an approach to spectrum usage could be further encouraged by rewarding principles (e.g., increased duty cycle allowances when certain cognitive techniques are applied).

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- d. *undertake a more detailed review to identify opportunities for cognitive-radio enabled SRDs where rewarding principles could be introduced, having regard in particular to requests from stakeholders.*

Given spectrum resources are scarce, they need to be used as efficiently as possible and spectrum sharing is important in securing this goal. Spectrum usage rules – i.e. radio interface specifications including spectrum sharing (medium access) rules – fall under the competence of the spectrum managers. In the interest of promoting regulatory certainty, the technical conditions for spectrum sharing, resulting from CEPT studies, should provide a clear framework for the development of harmonized standards in order to implement the essential requirements of the equipment regulation, notably Article 3.2 of the Radio Equipment Directive.

The Commission invites CEPT to:

- e. *investigate the possibility and benefits and/or drawbacks of defining additional spectrum sharing rules explicitly within the SRD Decisions in a clear and technology neutral way;*

3. ROADMAP FOR THE EIGHTH UPDATE CYCLE

1. ECC (September 2019): launch of the eighth update cycle. CEPT starts work on the update proposal pursuant to the permanent Mandate and this guidance document.

² The terms "cognitive techniques" and "cognitive radio" are often understood as limited to sensing of other use only. In this context they are used with a broad meaning and also include other approaches such as geo-location databases, without prejudgment of any specific solution.

2. ECC (November 2020): Approval for public consultation of the draft CEPT Report.
3. RSC (December 2020): CEPT to submit its draft report (subject to public consultation) pursuant to the permanent Mandate. Commission services examine the CEPT proposal for amendment of the technical annex to the SRD Decision 2006/771/EC and – if relevant – a draft Commission Decision updating the technical annex to Decision 2018/1538/EU.
4. RSC (July 2021): CEPT submits final CEPT report and the Commission services present a draft Commission Decision updating the technical annex to the SRD Decision 2006/771/EC and – if relevant – a draft Commission Decision updating the technical annex to Decision 2018/1538/EU.
