CEPT ECC
Electronic Communications Committee

UHF BAND REVIEW – WRC-23 AGENDA ITEM 1.5 CPG STATUS

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WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5: UHF Band Review

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- Agenda Item 1.5: “to review the spectrum use and spectrum needs of existing services in the frequency band 470-960 MHz in Region 1 and consider possible regulatory actions in the frequency band 470-694 MHz in Region 1 on the basis of the review in accordance with Resolution 235 (WRC-15)”.
- Agenda Item 1.5 is being considered under CPG Project Team D (PTD) at CEPT level, and Task Group 6/1 (TG 6/1) at ITU-R level.
- Key goals of CPG PTD:
  - Develop CEPT Brief on WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5 – consisting of the preliminary CEPT Position and background information/rationale for CEPT position.
  - Develop a European Common Proposal on WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.5 – agreed CEPT proposal to the WRC with the aim of gaining WRC approval.
  - Active representation and coordination of CEPT views/positions at TG 6/1 and other relevant ITU-R Meetings.

Allocations as per ITU-R Radio Regulations

Applications as per European Common Allocation Table

Frequency Band (MHz)	European Common Allocation (of major use or interest , and made available in at least 15 CEPT Administrations)	Applications
470 – 694	BROADCASTING	Broadcasting (terrestrial), WPR, RAS (Continuum Obs., VLBI), Radio Microphones & ALD, PMSE (Audio links).
694 - 790	BROADCASTING MOBILE EXCEPT AERONAUTICAL MOBILE	Broadcasting (terrestrial), MFCN, PMSE, PPDR, Radio microphones & ALD.
790 - 862	MOBILE EXCEPT AERONAUTICAL MOBILE	MFCN, PPDR, Radio microphones & ALD.
862 - 870	MOBILE	Alarms, Land military systems, Maritime military systems, Non-specific SRDs, RFID, Radio Microphones and ALD, Tracking, tracing and data acquisition, Wideband data transmission systems.
870 – 876	MOBILE	FRMCS, Land military systems, Maritime military systems, Non-specific SRDs, Tracking, tracing and data acquisition.
876 – 880	MOBILE	FRMCS, GSM-R, Land military systems, Maritime military systems.
880 - 890	MOBILE	GSM, IMT, MCV.
890 - 915	MOBILE/Radiolocation	GSM, IMT, Land military systems, MCV, Maritime military systems.
915 - 921	MOBILE/Radiolocation	FRMCS, Land military systems, Maritime military systems, non-specific SRDs, RFID
921 - 925	MOBILE/Radiolocation	FRMCS, GSM-R, Land military systems, Maritime military systems,
925 - 942	MOBILE/Radiolocation	GSM, IMT, Land Military systems, MCV, Maritime military systems
942 - 960	MOBILE	GSM, IMT, MCV

Discussions at PTD

- 4 Meetings of PTD have so far taken place. Preliminary CEPT Position thus far developed:

General Views (470 – 960 MHz)

- Existing Usage: Rigorous overview required.
- Existing Services: Rigorous evaluation of Spectrum needs required.
- Possible regulatory actions? Results & Impact of Sharing Studies – full account & analysis required.
- No regulatory action required in the band 694 – 960 MHz.
- Seek long-term balance between meeting various national requirements and effective cross-border coordination between the existing services and various services/applications wishing to access spectrum, including applications of the mobile service.

Broadcasting

- CEPT View: Primary allocation shall remain.
- CEPT View: Any potential regulatory action must align with provisions of GE06 Agreement.

PMSE (SAP/SAB)

- CEPT support the continuation and development of incumbent usage by PMSE (in accordance with RR No. 5.296).

Radioastronomy

- CEPT support the protection of the RAS in the range 606 – 614 MHz to ensure its continued operation.
- CEPT View: Any decision on regulatory action(s) at WRC-23 shall also, if required, consider regulatory action to protect RAS (taking RR 5.149 into account).

Radiolocation (WPR)

- CEPT View: No changes are necessary regarding the operation of Wind Profiler Radars (see RR No 5.291A)

470 – 694 MHz

Future-focused considerations specific to Broadcasting and PMSE

- Decision (EU) 2017/899 states that “Member States shall ensure availability at least until 2030 of the 470-694 MHz (‘sub-700 MHz’) frequency band for the terrestrial provision of broadcasting services, including free television, and for use by wireless audio PMSE on the basis of national needs, while taking into account the principle of technological neutrality”.
- The ECC Strategic plan for the period 2020 – 2025, explicitly states that any review of the UHF band should take into account the current use by PMSE in the band, and consider future spectrum needs to support audio-visual media distribution over the longer term, taking into account anticipated developments in broadcast distribution technologies.
- The 470-694 MHz band is now the only remaining spectrum available in many CEPT countries for DTT and PMSE uses in the UHF band.

Where we are on the path to a possible European Common Proposal?

- Although some clear boundaries have been set via the preliminary CEPT position, a European Common Proposal (ECP) as to whether there is a need for possible further regulatory action in the 470 – 694 MHz band is not yet on the horizon.
- Any ECP should take into full account the existing spectrum environment and the potential impact of new services to that environment.
- Further studies/refinement of studies still required before any possible regulatory action can be considered.
- Regulatory measures and guidance already in place to protect existing services should be respected.
- The issue of finding balance between meeting national requirements and the challenges of effective cross-border coordination between existing services and services/applications wishing to access the 470 – 694 MHz band (such as mobile), needs to be further considered.

Thank You.

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