

Strategic Plan of the Electronic Communication Committee

Montpellier, 5th March 2010

1 Initial strategic plan

1.1 Preamble

The ECC, with nearly 50 member Administrations, is in a unique position to develop and propose common policies for Europe in the field of electronic communications. Thanks to the commitment of its members, the ECC:

- considers and develops policies, including a strategic approach and a forward looking work programme, on spectrum matters in a European context, taking account of European and international legislation and regulations;
- brings together a huge expertise in managing scarce resources;
- offers a wide forum for the preparation of the work in ITU;
- acts as recognised spectrum expert for the CEPT Administrations and for the European Commission;
- is a focal point in Europe for providing, maintaining and exchanging information on electronic communication; and,
- looks for a large cooperation with all stakeholders.

1.2 Policy and actions

To be an essential partner in the field of electronic communication in the mid- and long-term, the ECC should develop and emphasise the following skills and actions

1.2.1 *Expertise in managing scarce resources*

The dominant strength of the ECC relates to the planning and harmonisation of intrinsically scarce resources in telecommunications, notably the radio spectrum, satellite orbit positions and numbering/addressing resources.

1.2.1.1 Spectrum management

To develop this strength further ECC should:

- develop its own multiannual strategic plan;
- enhance its role in spectrum management and in fulfilling spectrum demands management. In order to do so the ECC should, apart from its ongoing activities, concentrate on long term studies in spectrum use, investigate the spectrum requirements in certain spectrum bands or for certain services/applications and maintain an appropriately updated ECA (European Common Allocation) Table;
- conduct studies in relation to cross-border coordination in an environment of flexible harmonisation of spectrum;
- monitor new technological developments closely, and study how to regulate the spectrum requirements of such technologies;

- monitor the evolution of radio systems' characteristics with the support of various spectrum users to improve the visibility of spectrum use;
- explore new frequency management approaches;
- maintain a core expertise in spectrum regulation, management, sharing, coordination, and compatibility studies;
- explore new and innovative sharing solutions to increase sharing and reduce spectrum scarcity;
- continue to develop spectrum harmonisation measures while avoiding duplication of work and develop technical and regulatory parameters in close cooperation with ETSI;
- ensure regular update and maintenance of spectrum utilisation information in EFIS;
- maintain and develop its expertise in enforcement issues;
- expand its expertise in non-technical tools of spectrum management, e. g. economics, impact assessment, assessment of spectrum value, market research.

1.2.1.2 Numbering and addressing

New service and user requirements will drive the strategy for numbering, naming and addressing but must also take into account the developments in technology. Consumers have access to a large variety of telecommunication services using numbering, naming and addressing resources via various networks based on different technologies and protocols to support these services. Operators use these resources for billing and routing and the emergency services for tracing back citizens seeking help. Therefore the ECC shall

- study and promote the harmonisation of these numbering resources where this results in a benefit for the end-user whose need for cross-border mobility is increasing in an increasingly integrated Europe;
- also advocate a common approach in the development of numbering policies, especially for new services and applications (e.g. NGN, M2M, ...);
- focus on the development of common measures against fraudulent use of numbering resources.

1.2.2 *Europe wide forum for the work in ITU*

Worldwide the ITU is of great importance. The Radiocommunications Sector of the ITU (ITU-R) consolidates all the ITU work in the field of radiocommunications. In this global environment good results are only achievable if the particular interests of the CEPT countries can be focused on a common European goal. The ECC shall:

- develop European Common Proposals (ECP's) for ITU World and Regional Radio Conferences and Radiocommunication Assemblies; The ECC will strive for more support for its ECP's and should continue to evaluate its procedures for developing ECP's and for coordination with other regional organisations, recognising the requirement for administrations of EU Member States to take into account EU policy objectives;
- co-ordinate positions in order to assist CEPT Administrations that are Members of the ITU Council in presenting a European position in respect of conference agendas and timing;
- develop, as required, co-ordinated positions for other ITU meetings;
- consult with various bodies and organisations inside and outside CEPT to broaden support for CEPT positions;

- promote and participate in actions that contribute towards narrowing down the digital divide.

1.2.3 Cooperation with the European Commission

A MoU between European Commission and CEPT defines the basis of their cooperation. A policy and legal framework has been established in the European Union to ensure coordination of policy approaches and, where appropriate, harmonised conditions with regard to the availability and efficient use of radio spectrum necessary for the establishment of the internal market in community policy areas, such as electronic communications, transport and R&D. Where Commission Decisions have been developed, these are binding for the Member States. The Radio Spectrum Policy Group is intended to contribute to the development of a radio spectrum policy in the Community, while the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC) will assist the Commission in developing specific regulatory implementation measures (under EU Comitology procedures) and mandates to CEPT.

The European Commission is also making decisions on EU-wide numbers for certain services. The ECC shall be active in contributing to this work and prepare common implementation measures.

The CEPT has a clearly defined role within the EU's Radio Spectrum Decision, and many of its members are EU member states which are bound by Community law. In order to fulfil these requirements, and to serve the interests of its membership, the ECC shall:

- provide information to the RSPG on the long term strategic plan of the ECC (see under 1.2.1) in particular in the context of the RSPG Opinion on the multi annual radio spectrum policy programme;
- work closely with the European Commission in order to give timely advice on bands that have been harmonised in the EU;
- improve and strengthen the cooperation with the European Union, in particular the Radio Spectrum Policy Group, the Radio Spectrum Committee, the Communications Committee and the European Commission to achieve greater economy, efficiency and quality of the work;
- provide in a timely manner CEPT reports and proposals in response to mandates of the European Commission;
- enhance the relationship with the European Commission by giving input to the discussions in CoCom on numbering issues.

The consistency and coordination of the work programmes for EU bodies and the ECC is ensured through participation of EC Counsellors at ECC meetings including the ECC Steering Group and of the ECC Chairman at the RSC and RSPG. For RSC the consistency is additionally safeguarded through the mandates from the European Commission to ECC, which are agreed by the RSC. The EC and the ECC conduct twice a year coordination meetings in which all aspects of common interest and mutual cooperation are considered. Moreover the participation of administrations in various groups (RSPG, RSCom, ECC) ensures coherence between EC and ECC work and spectrum policies.

The ERO Frequency Information System (EFIS) constitutes an important element bridging the EC and the ECC regulatory frameworks. The European Commission has decided that EFIS is "The European Common Spectrum Information Portal" referenced in the EC Decision on spectrum information, and EU Member States are obliged to publish their frequency information in EFIS. The ECC should maintain the integrity of EFIS.

1.2.4 Focal point in Europe for providing, maintaining and exchanging information on electronic communication

Access to relevant information is a key element for all stakeholders in electronic communication for the development of their respective business models and for the development of new regulatory mechanisms, e.g. spectrum trading. A permanent flow and exchange of information enables a level-playing field for all interested parties, and is a key component for the efficient operation of any market. EFIS is also an instrument showing the level of spectrum harmonisation achieved in Europe as well as one promoting its further harmonisation. To achieve these points ECC should:

- encourage the participation in the working parties by, e.g. small administrations, SME (small and medium enterprises), scientific and academic organisations, through the development and the use of e.g. new communication tools;
- encourage CEPT administrations to update regularly their spectrum related information in EFIS;
- develop – with support of the ECO - close relations with industry and other external organisations (such as ETNO, EICTA, EBU and ESF) and hold regular exchanges of views (where feasible, using electronic means) with these organisations in order that the ECC develops into an organisation where industry puts its trust and to which it turns in the first instance with their requirements;
- develop communication on ongoing activities and results reached by promoting ECC achievements towards all stakeholders (e.g. ECO website, EFIS, newsletter);
- should strengthen its relation with other regional organisations not only in relation to the WRC preparations but also with regard to other spectrum management and regulatory issues in order to promote global harmonisation where necessary;
- organise workshops with the support of ECO or organise on a regular basis workshops on thematic issues in order to involve industry and others in the work;
- encourage the implementation of ECC deliverables by a large number of CEPT administrations and encourage that the state of implementation shall be regularly updated. Industry should embed them in their respective R&D programs;
- conduct public consultation of all deliverables: all deliverables are the result of a transparent process involving all concerned parties leading to a high level of acceptance.

In this context ECO should under the guidance of the ECC SG:

- develop relations with universities and relevant scientific institutes that would be willing to do research in spectrum management and give advice to research institutes on issues to investigate or on specific research;
- ensure proper maintenance and development of EFIS, including upgrading the software when necessary, in order to respond to the needs of various stakeholders, and also provide the necessary support to administrations in uploading their national data into the system;
- develop relations with those CEPT members currently not active in the work and on a case by basis investigate whether it is necessary and possible to support and involve these members in the work. Possibilities could be visits or offering short-term apprenticeships at the ECO;
- make proposals for studies which may be supportive of the development of ECC work.

- develop a communication programme to support the promotion of ECC deliverables (including the most downloaded reports) towards administrations and, where applicable, cooperation organisations (MoU, LoU);
- develop electronic newsletters under the guidance and with the support of the ECC SG, to promote ECC achievements towards R&D, potential newcomers and the general public;
- intensify contacts to known press representatives to increase the visibility of CEPT deliverables and achievements;
- explore relationships with European research programmes;
- develop training sessions and materials, for newcomers (administrations, representatives of LoUs) focusing on various aspects of the ECC machinery: RoP, WM, deliverables, internal expertises: SEAMCAT[®], compatibility studies.

1.2.5 Cooperation with other bodies

In the context of spectrum management in the European Union, which is set out in the Radio Spectrum Decision 676/2002/EC the ECC undertakes compatibility studies to establish conditions and parameters for sharing between the different users of the spectrum. ETSI respects these spectrum sharing conditions and parameters in the Harmonised Standards which it establishes. The MoU between ETSI and CEPT is a key element to ensure that sharing conditions of spectrum use are defined, agreed and can evolve in a consistent manner between the two organisations. ECC undertakes compatibility studies to establish conditions and parameters for sharing between the different users of the spectrum. ECC Decisions contain sharing conditions which are respected in ETSI Harmonised Standards. Consequently ECC should:

- continue to identify clearly the spectrum sharing conditions in appropriate ECC deliverable(s) and respected in ETSI Harmonised Standard(s);
- continue the effort to ensure the consistency of ECC and Commission Decisions, recognising that ECC decisions also contain sharing conditions which are respected in ETSI Harmonised Standards rather than specified in Commission spectrum Decisions
- establish a stronger relationship between ETSI/CEPT and notified bodies in order to ensure that notified bodies are familiar with the sharing conditions and the objectives for which they are or have been developed;
- concerning future LoUs, take into consideration that various forms of industry organisations exist covering multiple domains: technology market development, standardisation, interoperability and regulation;
- endeavour to achieve a more active approach to identifying possible LoU partners noting the mutual beneficial effects of access to meetings and documentation of the respective organisations;
- explore LoU opportunities with EU or otherwise funded research bodies to support validation of ECC assumptions on compatibility studies and with European organisations which are representing current or future spectrum users: i. e. ECTA, or relevant SME's.

1.3 Major challenges for the next five years

The ECC has identified the following topics as those which will generate its main workload over the next 5 years. Its approach to each topic is shown in bold text.

1.3.1 Digital Dividend

The switchover from analogue to digital TV broadcasting will increase technical challenges in a number of CEPT countries within the next years. Moreover, it is foreseen that an amount of spectrum in the UHF band, as covered by the second Digital Dividend mandate: 790 - 862 MHz, will provide opportunities for innovation and wider range of mobile electronic communications. A number of CEPT countries already decided, and will decide within the next few months, to make the above band available to mobile services. CEPT ECC provided by end 2009 relevant CEPT reports according to the objectives of the second digital dividend mandate.

The digital dividend could bring many advantages for the European industry and CEPT administrations and CEPT/ECC shall promote an effective implementation of the Digital Dividend, taking into account the requirements of all stakeholders.

In the course of implementing the digital dividend affected applications supporting programme making and special events (PMSE) are likely to be refarmed. Providing appropriate and sufficient resources to PMSE is crucial for that sector.

CEPT ECC shall support the implementation and development of harmonised elements relevant for the band 790 - 862 MHz and shall facilitate the introduction of mobile services in this band by administrations wishing to do so. The ECC shall maintain its efforts to quantify the needs for PMSE and to identify appropriate frequency bands.

1.3.2 Cognitive Radio

Within the next few years, innovation will continue to be introduced in spectrum usage. Cognitive Radio (CR) has been identified as one of the key technologies to support innovation. This technology directly impact spectrum management by fostering sharing and access to spectrum. Relevant actions were carried out by CEPT ECC in the past in relation to RLAN 5 GHz or UWB/DAA.

CEPT ECC shall continue in this direction by defining which issues should be studied by the ECC and initiate the work. ECC should define conditions for the introduction of devices implementing cognitive technologies and facilitate their operation. ECC should collect together various stakeholders in Europe and provide a forum for exchange of views and put forward European interests in international fora.

1.3.3 Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR, also known as Public Safety and Security (PSS) wireless communication systems

ECC has received several request for addressing requirement for Public Safety and Security (PSS) wireless communication systems (e.g. from ETSI and from PSCE Forum). The safety and security community needs access to wideband and broadband services such as video and has specific requirements in terms of priority, availability or security. Spectrum harmonisation of PSS wireless communication systems will require a long term effort from ECC and relevant CEPT Administrations at national level, but ECC has to face this challenge of facilitating public safety and security operations in Europe.

CEPT ECC shall consider future requirements for access to spectrum for PPDR, the need for harmonisation of use and shall identify resources accordingly.

1.3.4 Spectrum opportunities above 40 GHz to support European innovation

ECC shall take with strategic consideration the increasingly globalisation of the radio communication markets. European industry could benefit from a strategic initiative from ECC in higher frequency (above 40 GHz) where the spectrum is largely not presently used.

CEPT ECC shall investigate relevant strategic initiatives to support the development of innovation in frequency bands above 40 GHz including cooperation with European research programmes to foster innovation.

1.3.5 Numbering and naming issues

ECC shall be active in preparing guidelines for future numbering issues so that numbering will be user friendly and allow for competition between operators and services. In the near future guidelines are needed especially for numbering of new generation networks (NGN), machine to machine applications (M2M) and for removing geographical significance in geographical numbers.

1.3.6 Improvement of the ECC working process

As part of its strategy,

ECC shall maintain constant effort to streamline its structure and to increase the usage of electronic means.

ECC shall also strengthen its cooperation with ETSI and consider the recommendations of the RSPG opinion on streamlining EU regulation.

1.4 Short-term goals

The short term goals are in fact the work programme which needs to be updated from meeting to meeting. The actual work program can be reached under:

http://apps.ero.dk/ECC_WorkProgram/Application/WorkProgram/WorkItemList/Default.aspx

Short term goals should be included in the work program of the ECC and its working groups.