Dynamic spectrum & Mobile Multimedia Services

EU policy dimension

Philippe J. Lefebvre
European Commission, Radio Spectrum Policy Unit
Overview

◆ EU spectrum policy dimension
◆ Towards “Dynamic spectrum access”
◆ Specific activities related to MMS
◆ Conclusion
Overview

- EU spectrum policy dimension
- Towards “Dynamic spectrum access”
- Specific activities related to MMS
- Conclusion
EU Spectrum policy
Current priority objectives

- To strengthen the **single market** for wireless products and services through **co-ordination** of spectrum policies (not a technically driven process)

- To support **innovation** in the context of the Lisbon agenda (services as well as technology) by the **modernization of spectrum management**

- To establish Europe-wide **legal certainty** in cases where **spectrum harmonization is required** (e.g. for the achievement of specific EU policy goals)
EU Spectrum policy
Main legal bases

◆ Radio Spectrum Decision (676/2002/EC)
  ≫ ensuring the coordination of policy approaches
  ≫ harmonised conditions with regard to the availability and efficient use of the radio spectrum necessary for the establishment and functioning of the internal market

◆ Technical Harmonisation Measures adopted through the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC)
  ≫ Mandates to CEPT
  ≫ Adoption of Regulatory Opinions at the RSC
  ≫ Commission Decisions based on the RSC outcome

◆ Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) formulates policy recommendations (Opinions) from the Member States to the Commission
Overview

◆ EU spectrum policy dimension

◆ Towards “Dynamic spectrum access”

◆ Specific activities related to MMS

◆ Conclusion
Dynamic spectrum access
Two main directions

1. Optimising spectrum distribution → increasing use of “spectrum trading” (COM(2005)400)
   Note: without undermining the “commons” model or CC model whenever appropriate)

2. Empowering users to make critical choices on best use of spectrum → “flexibility of use”
   (Follow up of RSPG WAPECS Opinion → upcoming COM, planned Sept.06)
1. Spectrum trading

- Advocating spectrum trading across Europe in combination with flexibility of use by 2010
- Identification of frequency bands with substantial economic relevance (i.e. mobile, broadcasting and fixed wireless access)
- Common European approach to spectrum rights
- Reveal the true “cost” of spectrum → reduce “non transparent” subsidies
2. Flexible spectrum use: today
2. Flexible spectrum use: today

classical approach
2. Flexible spectrum use: step 1

- Service
- Frequency
- Technology
- Technology neutrality

“family of options” for a specific service
2. Flexible spectrum use: step 2

- Technology + service neutrality
- "Family of options", "convergent services"
- Service
- Frequency
2. Flexible spectrum use: WAPECS long term goal

- Electronic Communications Service
- Space for rapid access, innovation and competition
- Coherent approach to authorisation
- Technical constraints (e.g. spectrum mask or plan)
- Full liberalisation
- Service
- Frequency
- Technology
2. Flexible spectrum use: Practical steps

- By end 2006, identifying particular spectrum bands in which regulatory restrictions can be lifted before 2010 (potential 1350 MHz under review by RSC/CEPT)
  - 470-862 MHz (digital dividend)
  - 880-915 MHz (GSM)
  - 1900-1980 MHz / 2010-2025 MHz / 2110-2170 MHz
  - 2500-2690 MHz (the 2.6 GHz band)
  - 3.4-3.8 GHz

- Agree on common and least restrictive conditions attached to the rights of use within the above package of bands (ideally retain only minimum segmentation required by technical compatibility/optimisation)

- High level forum (cross-sector) to be set up by the Commission to foster collaboration on implementation (interference, interoperability, fair contribution to the process)
Overview

◆ EU spectrum policy dimension
◆ Towards “Dynamic spectrum access”
◆ Specific activities related to MMS
◆ Conclusion
RSPG Opinion on MMS

Issued in February 2006

Objective

- Recommendation for action on spectrum aspects to remove obstacles for the roll-out of MMS

Task

- Investigate current market demand, identify technical requirements + initial frequency bands available, propose a work plan

Schedule

- 14 July 2006: end of public consultation
- 25 October 2006: planned adoption
Open to all. Based on “voluntary consensus”

Steering Group/founders: BMCO Forum, DIF, EBU, GSM Europe (GSME)

Mission statement: “to develop a roadmap for the introduction of mobile broadcasting in Europe, focusing on standards and interoperability issues, which are also connected to spectrum and coverage. The underlying objective will be to minimise in advance barriers to interoperability between technologies and consumer devices, to the largest possible extent”
In Conclusion

The EU works towards a pro-innovation spectrum policy across Europe characterized by:

- Low access barriers to spectrum for industry
- Policy convergence for broadcasting, mobile communications and broadband wireless access
- A fully functioning internal market

and this should facilitate the take-up of MMS