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How do you count something you can't see? European Commission outlines how to carry out EU-wide inventory of radio spectrum.

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The European Commission outlined how Member States will help identify the real use of radio spectrum. The aim of the spectrum inventory is to identify frequency bands in which efficiency could be improved to cater for spectrum demands. For example, the inventory will help to identify at least 1200 MHz of suitable spectrum for wireless broadband networks by 2015.The inventory is an important part of the EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP) presented by the Commission in September 2010.

In practical terms, Member States will have to provide any information they have related to the use of the frequency range 400 MHz to 6 GHz to the Commission's database and analysis tool. Data will also be collected from the EFIS [1], the European Communication Office's Frequency Information System. The Commission has also put measures in place to ensure the protection of sensitive data, e.g. on governmental use of spectrum.

In order to minimise the administrative burden on Member States, data collection will gradually build up over time, until the end of 2015.

Background

The RSPP requires the Commission to adopt an implementing act on practical arrangements and methodology by 1 July 2013. With the adoption ahead of schedule, Member States and the Commission can make progress in identifying spectrum for priority issues, such as wireless broadband.

The Commission plans a first report to the European Parliament and the Council based on the mechanisms established by today's decision in early 2014. This report will take into account the opinion of the Member States expressed through the Radio Spectrum Policy Group as well as the views of stakeholders expressed in various workshops being held by the Commission throughout 2013.

Useful links

Link to implementing decision [2]
Radio Spectrum Policy Programme on the [3]Digital Agenda website [3]
Neelie Kroes' website [4]
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Links
[1] http://www.efis.dk/
[2] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32013D0195:EN:NOT
[3] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/rspp-roadmap-wireless-europe
[4] http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/kroes/
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