



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Council conclusions on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

*3093rd TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS and ENERGY Council meeting
– telecommunication items only –*

Brussels, 27 May 2011

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. WELCOMES

- a) the Commission Communication of 6 April 2011 on "The European Union's policy approach to the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12)", to be held in Geneva from 23 January to 17 February 2012.¹

2. RECALLS

- a) Decision No 676/2002/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 March 2002 on a regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy in the European Community;²
- b) the provisions of the Framework Directive on electronic communications networks and services, and particularly its Article 8a(4);³
- c) the Council conclusions on the European positions for the World Radiocommunication Conferences of 1992⁴, 1997⁵, 2000⁶, 2003⁷ and 2007⁸;

¹ Doc. 8758/11.

² OJ L 108, 24.4.2002, p. 1.

³ 2002/21/EC, as amended by Directive 2009/140/EC, OJ L 337, 18.12.2009, p.37.

⁴ Doc. 4248/92.

⁵ Doc. 10441/97.

⁶ Doc. 7788/00.

⁷ Doc. 9131/03.

P R E S S

- d) the importance of wireless technologies using spectrum for achieving the EU's policy objectives under the EU2020 Strategy flagship initiative "Digital Agenda for Europe"⁹ to deliver fast broadband internet and achieving sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market;
- e) the Council conclusions of 31 May 2010 on the Digital Agenda for Europe.¹⁰

3. NOTES

- a) the November 2009 Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Opinion on "Main Themes of WRC-12 of Interest for EU-wide Support";¹¹
- b) the February 2011 Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Opinion on "Common Policy Objectives for WRC-12".¹²

4. EXPRESSES ITS BROAD SUPPORT FOR

- the following objectives to be achieved at WRC-12 in view of the successful implementation of relevant Union policies, taking into account the Commission's Communication:
 - a) to ensure the balanced coexistence between wireless broadband and the existing use of aeronautical radionavigation systems on the eastern borders of the EU in the 790-862 MHz band by encouraging bilateral or multilateral negotiations. (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.17);
 - b) to resist additional constraints being introduced in the ITU Radio Regulations for short-range devices (SRD), while encouraging similar band use outside the EU, in order to increase existing economies of scale (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.22);
 - c) to preserve the capability to develop and implement the best possible air traffic management system under the SESAR project, in an effective and transparent manner (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.4/1.7);
 - d) to avoid that the broadcast satellite band 21.4-22 GHz and associated orbital slots are divided into national ITU Member State assignments, which would limit its usability and to ensure that enough spectrum is available for mobile satellite services, including the delivery of services for air traffic management in Europe (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.7/1.13/1.25/7/1.27);
 - e) to identify spectrum for the safe operation of unmanned aerial systems in non-segregated airspace (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.3);
 - f) to encourage the ITU to maintain a flexible approach in regard of software-defined radio and cognitive radios (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.19);

⁸ Doc. 11991/07.

⁹ Doc. 9981/1/10.

¹⁰ Doc. 10130/10.

¹¹ http://rspg.ec.europa.eu/_documents/documents/opinions/rspg09_295_main_themes_wrc12.pdf

¹² http://rspg.ec.europa.eu/_documents/documents/meeting/rspg24/rspg10_350_wrc_opinion.pdf

- g) to promote new allocations and protection for scientific services, in particular services helping to combat climate change and ensuring the security of citizens; to support studies on the role of Earth Observation for monitoring and predicting climate change, for disaster prediction and for understanding all aspects of climate change (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.6/1.8/1.24/8.1.1);
 - h) to identify tuning ranges for electronic news gathering through an ITU-R Recommendation, which can be updated in a flexible way within a timely manner (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.5);
 - i) to safeguard all spectrum necessary for the operation of Galileo, without interference from other services, and to ensure spectrum availability for future enhanced services in the 2483.5-2500 MHz band (WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.3/1.4/1.18);
 - j) to seek the inclusion on the agenda for the next WRC (2015) of an item considering spectrum requirements and possible regulatory actions, to facilitate the growth of wireless broadband services in line with the aims of the Digital Agenda for Europe (WRC-12 Agenda Item 8.2).
- the development and adoption of European Common Proposals (ECPs) by the Conference Preparatory Group of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), which are relevant in the context of the Union policies mentioned above.

5. INVITES MEMBER STATES TO

- a) co-sign the ECPs in accordance with the Union objectives mentioned above;
- b) do their utmost to ensure that these objectives and the related ECPs are satisfied in the WRC-12 negotiations.

6. INVITES THE COMMISSION TO

report rapidly to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of WRC-12 and on the means to ensure that the European preparations for the next conference due in 2015 (WRC-15) are fully supportive of Union policies and principles."
