



GSME response to ECC consultation on draft ECC/DEC/(05)AA on harmonised utilisation of spectrum for IMT2000/ UMTS systems operating within the band 2500-2690 MHz

Executive summary

GSME Europe (GSME) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the ECC consultation on draft ECC/DEC/(05)AA on harmonised channelling arrangements for IMT2000/ UMTS systems operating within the band 2500-2690 MHz.

GSME represents the interests of 143 mobile second and third generation operators providing mobile services to around 460 million consumers throughout Europe. Its [parent] organisation, the GSM Association (GSMA), representing the global interests of 660 second and third generation operators, in turn providing services to over 1.1 billion consumers, fully endorses this response. We seek to promote the adoption of 3GSM (IMT2000/ UMTS) globally, to ensure a critical mass of broad based industry commitment to the development of standards and equipment, that consumers might reap the benefits of innovation, global roaming, interoperability and economies of scale.

GSME strongly believes that the harmonised channelling arrangements for the band 2500-2690 MHz for IMT2000/ UMTS is important for the continued success of mobile broadband services in Europe and therefore in support of European actions in support of competitiveness more widely.

GSME, therefore supports the proposed ECC Decision¹. In addition, in order to ensure the continued harmonisation of spectrum, GSME believes that this Decision must be agreed and implemented across Europe, by means of a binding Decision of the European Commission.

Background

The European Commission issued Mandate 5 on IMT2000/ UMTS in August 2003. This mandate requires CEPT to develop and adopt the measures necessary to ensure a harmonised and efficient use of the frequency band 2500-2690 MHz for IMT2000/ UMTS.

The ECC Decision 'harmonised utilisation of spectrum for IMT2000/ UMTS systems operating within the band 2500-2690 MHz' drafted in response to Mandate 5 has the following main decisions:

1. that the frequency band 2500-2690 MHz is designated for terrestrial IMT2000/ UMTS systems;

¹ Vodafone supports the use of the band 2500-2690 MHz for the use of Mobile services. It believes that operators should have the flexibility to use any technology within the Mobile service category and consequently does not believe a binding EC Decision is necessary.

GSM Europe

Diamant Building, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, B- 1030 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 706 81 04 Mobile: +32 472 29 38 58 Fax: +32 2 706 81 08
Email : kwavens@gsm.org Web : www.gsmeurope.org



2. that Administrations shall make provisions to allow for the harmonised utilisation of spectrum in the frequency band 2500-2690 MHz for terrestrial IMT2000/ UMTS as identified below, and
3. that the frequency band 2500-2690 MHz is available for terrestrial IMT2000/ UMTS systems as from 1 January 2008, subject to demand and national licensing schemes.

FDD uplink	TDD/ FDD external	FDD downlink
2500MHz	2570 MHz	2620 MHz
		2690 MHz

Harmonised band plan

GSME strongly believes that the harmonised utilisation of the band 2500-2690 MHz is important for the continued success of mobile services and therefore fully supports the proposed ECC Decision.

UMTS licences have now been allocated in most European countries. After significant infrastructure investment, operators are now beginning to roll out national networks that are able to offer voice, video and data services simultaneously. As a result of European harmonisation, industry has been able to ensure that consumers can retain their handset and roam onto another UMTS network. This is a significant achievement that has happened as a result of significant investment by manufacturers, operators and Administrations and should not be underestimated.

As consumer demand for simultaneous services such as voice, video and data services increases, as predicted by the current 3GSM operators, additional spectrum will be required. In order to meet this demand and consumer expectations for a high level of interoperability, roaming, competitive prices and quality of service from operators, the band 2500-2690 MHz must be designated and harmonised to IMT2000/ UMTS.

In addition, to ensure the continued harmonisation of spectrum, GSME believes that this Decision must be agreed and implemented across Europe, by means of a binding Decision of the European Commission.

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Diamant Building, Bd A. Reyers Ln 80, B- 1030 Brussels
 Tel: +32 2 706 81 04 Mobile: +32 472 29 38 58 Fax: +32 2 706 81 08
 Email : kwilravens@gsm.org Web : www.gsmeurope.org