EaPeReg Spectrum Experts Working Group (SEWG)
19th Meeting Minutes

May 6-7, 2025

Prague, Czech Republic

The 19th meeting of the EaPeReg Spectrum Experts Working Group (SEWG) thus was held in Prague, on May 12-13, 2025. Representatives from 10 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine, Czechia, Slovenia, Romania, Croatia and United Kingdom) attended the meeting. Virtually participated representatives from Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Georgia. Representatives of European Commission Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), European Commission Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), CEPT ECC, BEREC, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), EU4DIGITAL Telecom Rules project participated in this meeting.

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1. Background and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened with welcome speech by Mrs. Zuzana Sifaldova - Head of International Cooperation, Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU) and Mr. Roman Kurdadze.
The importance of the work of the group towards harmonization of frequency bands were highlighted.

The agenda of the meeting was approved. No proposals for the minutes of the last meeting were received, so it was accepted by the group.

It was noted that 60 representatives of administrations or organizations were registered for the meeting.

The group was introduced with ongoing discussions regarding the meeting with CEPT ECC. Communication with the chairwoman of ECC, Chris, letter of ECC, would provide opportunity to hold bilateral meeting between SEWG and ECC in November.
Participants were invited to think of the topics for further cooperation.

2. Status of the Regional Spectrum Agreement on harmonisation in 700 MHz and 3.4 – 3.8 GHz bands, extension with additional frequency bands, status of 5G

Azerbaijan informed that no permanent license has been issued for 5G. One operator has assigned 10 MHz for 5G.
This year, the 3.5 GHz frequency band will be auctioned.

State of play in **Armenia**: One mobile network operator has licence in 700 MHz band.
The tender of 3.6 – 3.8 GHz did not take any interest by MNO's.
5G is provided by two operators in the country.
Coverage obligations were included in the licences with a requirement to cover the main airports, border custom points, industrial zones with 5G, 60 % settlements in urban areas in 3-7 years.

Georgia informed on the last auction for remaining blocks of 700 MHz, 3.6 GHz frequency bands. The first 5G implementations were in 2023. Another auction was organized in October, 2024. Two MNOs provide 5G services. Mobile services are quite good in Georgia, ookla index proves it.

Moldova representatives gave a presentation on the current status of the 5G implementation in the country.
Multiband (700 MHz, 900 MHz, 1500 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2600 MHz, 3600 MHz, 26 GHz) auction was held in the beginning of the year. Licenses issued in March.

Ukraine representative mentioned that auctions for spectrum in the 2100, 2300, and 2600-MHz bands was held last year. In 700 MHz TV broadcasting is still in operation.

Round Table Discussion on Regional Spectrum Agreement was moderated by Andrejs Dombrovskis (EU4Digital Facility, Telecom Rules Team Lead):

Discussion began on recall of the origin of the main idea and objective to sign the agreement. Andrejs highlighted the principle that even after the signing the RSA, it would still be considered that 700 MHz for IMT to be used where it is technically possible.

Three dimensions have to be tackled:

- Geographical (two clusters of countries)
- The form (legal part, binding or nonbinding) like protocol or MoM
- Content: specific frequency bands.

The questionnaire was shared before the meeting. Two choices were given: RSA version for 700 MHz and 3.6 GHz and another version covering 2300, 2600, 800 MHz and 26 GHz bands. According to the answers, there are two ways to proceed with RSA.

MLD comment explains that No is not so strict. However, consultations are needed with the ministry regarding the UKR. However, Moldova supports proposal. MLD have allocated the bands for IMT. MLD favors v2.

AZE would prefer wider range of frequency bands.

ARM: will have to consult with two ministries for v2 or modified v1 version.

UKR: only reservation is for 800 MHz, but during the war the administration is not able sign the agreement.

It was agreed to have separate online meetings with countries and discuss all uncertainties in detail in May.

3. Presentations and expertise of guest speakers

3.1 Spectrum management and experiences of EU countries

EC presentation on sub-700 MHz. Nineta Vretou (DG CNECT, Radio Spectrum Policy Unit) shared updates regarding EU Regulatory Framework for the sub-700 MHz band.

Mr. Karlis Bogens (Head of the Fixed and Mobile Services Division, ITU) presented the ITU's role in standardizing of Terrestrial Broadband technologies:

- ITU-R Role in Spectrum Management;
- World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC-23 / WRC-27);
- Regulatory aspects of IMT coordination and notification to the ITU;
- IMT (IMT-Family / IMT-2020, IMT-Process / IMT-2030 and IMT-Satellite / NTN);
- HAPS/HIBS Standardization;
- RLANs.

BEREC Wireless group activities were overview by Joe Lynch (BEREC Wireless Network Evolution working group and Manager international unit, ComReg, Ireland) and Sietse van der Gaast (BEREC Co-chair Wireless Network Evolution Working Group, Senior enforcement officer ACM, the Netherlands):

- WRC 2027 preparation and topics
- Upper 6GHz – challenges and perspectives
- BEREC working streams overview (private networks)

Regarding 5G private networks three observations were made after the questionnaire of EU countries:
Not all private networks and their users are visible to NRAs;
There are some challenges when private networks become popular.

Mr. Pavel Sistek (Head of Policy and Strategy unit, CTU - Czech Telecommunication Office) shared the Czech Spectrum Management Strategy on:

- 6 GHz band: Should it be allocated to RLAN, IMT/6G, or allow coexistence of both?
- UHF band: Maintain exclusive use for DTT, or consider flexibility in view of long-term developments?
- 26 GHz band: Is the band mature enough for spectrum auctions, or are services and devices still lacking?

Meta Pavšek Taškov (Head of Department - Radio Frequency Spectrum Management Sector, Department of Mobile Communications, Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia) shared Slovenia experience on:

- Potential shared use of the 6425-7125 MHz frequency band between MFCN and WAS/RLAN

- RSPG –Future of 6 GHz band Slovenian vision

The future of the 470-694 MHz band within the EU

- Situation in Slovenian BS and MS Market;
- Usages in the 470-694 MHz band.

Mr. Stephen TALBOT - CPG Chair, Head of International Spectrum Policy, OFCOM presented UK Developments on national implementation:

- 6 GHz (5925 - 6425 - 7125 MHz) judging utilisation for Mobile "IMT" and Wi-Fi services in those ranges
- 28 Hz and 32 GHz – Changes in UK following end of initial licence term, post award
- Supporting Utilities sector spectrum needs
- UKs Direct to Cell/Device consultation.

Mobile broadband development plans for 2030 in Lithuania was presented by Mrs. Jorūnė Mikulėnaitė-Baušienė, The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania.

Dr. Mindaugas Žilinskas - The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania Gave presentation on technical conditions and limitations to implement 5G private networks in frequency band 3.8-4.2 GHz.

3.3 Evaluations of the connectivity: Mapping and measurements

Mr. Catalin Constantinescu (Expert, Executive Directorate Monitoring and Control, ANCOM) gave presentations regarding:

2024 ANCOM Mobile Measurement Campaign:

- Romanian Mobile Market Overview
- Campaign Scope & Equipment Setup
- Signal Strength Measurement & QoS Measurement
- Campaign Result, Aisemnal.ro

and

Correlation between QoS and Signal Strength:

- Passive/Active measurement
- collected data (22 million measurements)
- download speed estimation based on passive measurements (RSRP)

Mr. Zbyněk Kocur, Czech Technical University (ČVUT) introduced F-Tester 4drive-box - a tool for regulators:

- Key features and functionality;
- Best use cases of F-Tester in telecommunications regulation;
- Practical applications.

NetTest - Certified measuremant tool was presented by Mr. Jan Šimoník (Department for services inspection and radio spectrum monitoring, CTU- Czech Telecommunication Office). Design of the certified tool, practical experiences and challenges were shared within participants.

3.4 DVB-T, T-DAB and digital radio broadcasting

Mr. Andrea Manara (Broadcasting Services Division of the Terrestrial Services Department, BR/TSD/BCD, ITU) gave an overview on current broadcasting technologies and future needs. The main aspects were considered:

- Sound: FM, DAB and DAB+
- Future spectrum needs for FM broadcasting
- TV: DVB-T and DVB-T2
- Future spectrum needs for TV broadcasting
- Broadcasting Plans: GE84, GE06, and other Plans
- Notification to the BR: Plans and MIFR
- Cross-border monitoring

Pros and cons were given for analog and digital sound broadcasting.

Mr. Danijel Vidaković - Head of RF Spectrum Management Department, Croatian Regulatory Authority, HAKOM presented DAB+ digital radio in Croatia:

- DAB+ challenges
- Market potential
- Service integration

Participants can find the presentation with proposed topics in *"Presentations" folder of Meeting 17, in GoogleDrive.*

4. EU4Digital. Topics, challenges, and workflow.

Mr. Marcin Biec representing EU4DIGITAL project team, updated the group with the status of work with 5G security toolbox and 5G Private Networks.
This project aimed to explore the transformative potential of 5G Private Networks in several EaP Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. At the beginning, questionnaires were sent to these countries' representatives regarding the current development of 5G Private Networks in their respective countries. Moreover, workshops were held to clarify the details with these representatives.
Based on the meetings and each countries' economy analysis, innovative applications of 5G Private Networks across key industries were proposed, highlighting their potential to enhance efficiency and drive growth. Additionally, allocation schemes for Private Networks tailored to each countries' unique landscape was presented.
However, no demand for further activities in 5G private networks and security toolbox were expressed by EaP countries.

5. Future plans

The next meeting is expected to be on the next November, 2025. Invitation to hold the meeting was raised.

No demand for further activities in 5G private networks and security toolbox were expressed by EaP countries.

Further discussions regarding the topics for the next year will be carried out in correspondence. Countries are welcomed to give their feedback on their priorities, or any other relevant issues needed to discuss during the meetings in the future.

6. Closing

Mr. Roman Kurdadze extended great thanks to all participants, since their willingness to actively contribute to vivid discussions.