



**BEREC**

External Workshop about the usage of satellite  
technologies in mobile communications

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# Policy & regulatory status: towards new frameworks

## European Commission perspective

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*\*The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Commission*

# Scene setter

- Importance and potential of satellite connectivity
  - [European Commission's White Paper](#) (21 February 2024): *How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?* – [feedback](#) until 30 June 2024
- Review of the EU regulatory framework for Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) in 2 GHz band beyond 2027:
  - [Opinion](#) of the high-level advisory Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) opinion
  - ongoing MSS study commissioned by the European Commission
- D2D connectivity: challenges and opportunities

# White Paper

## Connectivity to all

- “[...] *satellite broadband can bring broadband services with up to 100 Mbps download speeds to very **rural and remote areas**, where no very high-capacity networks are available, even if affordability remains crucial to facilitate take-up in these areas. They can also provide resilient emergency services in **disaster or crisis situations**. However, while satellite services can bridge the digital divide, they cannot currently replace the performance of ground-based networks.*”
- “Beyond terrestrial connectivity, further investments are required for the integration of advanced satellite services providing **complementary solutions** for backhaul, device connectivity in **remote areas** not covered by terrestrial technologies or to ensure **service continuity in case of crisis or disaster relief**.”

## D2D connectivity

- “*rapidly developing satellite communications, ensuring secure government and commercial applications, including **direct-to-device satellite connectivity**, using spectrum allocated for mobile satellite and, if appropriate, terrestrial services.*”



## Global leadership

- “The objective is not only to ensure that the EU remains among the global leaders in communications systems, but also to achieve **leadership** in the development of new capabilities in related areas such as [...] **non-terrestrial connectivity**, [...]”

## Authorisation framework

- “[...] *it is imperative that **spectrum is managed in a more coordinated way** among all Member States to **maximise its social and economic value** and enhance terrestrial and satellite connectivity across the entire EU.*”
- “Furthermore, coverage of wireless networks, such as satellite networks, can extend beyond national – and even EU – borders. While there are still clear benefits in keeping the implementation of authorisation regimes at national level, in particular for local access and retail services, **assigning radio spectrum under conditions which differ between Member States may not always be the most efficient approach, in particular for satellite communications**. There could therefore be an **economic and technical justification for a more European approach**.”
- “[...] *in particular the fast development of the satellite sector and its cross-border nature invite new reflections regarding **enhanced or common licensing regimes** (even EU-level selection and authorisation, if appropriate).*”

# Review of the MSS regulatory framework in 2 GHz band beyond 2027 (1/2)

## MSS framework

- The 2 GHz MSS Band (1980-2010 MHz and 2170-2200 MHz) was EU harmonised in 2007 (MSS Harmonisation Decision 2007/98/EC)
- A **common EU selection procedure** was established in 2008 (MSS Decision No 626/2008/EC)
- European Commission selected two 2 GHz MSS operators in **2009 for 18 years** (MSS Selection Decision 2009/449/EC)
- Member States either issued general authorisations or granted individual rights
- The MSS national authorisations **expire in May 2027**

# Review of the MSS regulatory framework in 2 GHz band beyond 2027 (2/2)

## Review: RSPG opinion and ongoing MSS study

### RSPG opinion (7 February 2024)

- to **avoid fragmentation in the internal market**, the Commission and Member States should reach, **by the end of Q2/2025**, a sufficient understanding on a future band usage and segmentation scenario, as well as next procedural steps
- a balance between **business continuity and innovation** has to be taken into consideration
- a **continuity scenario** (same band segmentation between two operators) may **limit competition and innovation**
- **technology neutrality** should be maintained

### Four potential use cases

- EAN/CGC
- generic MSS individual voice/data
- M2M / IoT
- D2C/D2D

### Four segmentation scenarios

- 2 operators  
2x15 MHz and 2x15 MHz
- More than 3 operators  
2x10 MHz, 2x10 MHz, 2x5 MHz, (shared) 2x5 MHz
- 3 operators  
2x10 MHz, 2x10 MHz, 2x10 MHz
- 3 or more operators  
2x15 MHz, 2x10 MHz, 2x5 MHz  
or  
2x15 MHz, 2x10 MHz, (shared) 2x5 MHz

### Ongoing MSS study (results expected in Q4/2024)

- **assess** the implementing of the current 2 GHz MSS authorisations
- provide an **overview of the developments and trends** on the satellite connectivity market, and
- **develop possible usage scenarios** for the period after May 2027

External workshop on the interim study report – (tbc) June 2024

# D2D connectivity: coordinated EU policy approach

- Opportunities:
  - Supporting innovation, creating commercial opportunities, enabling new applications/services, stimulating competition
  - EU policy priorities: safeguarding EU sovereignty, promoting EU interests, achieving 2030 Digital Decade targets, fostering the development of the internal market
- Challenges:
  - Creating technology inclusive regulatory frameworks
  - EU roaming
  - Technical viewpoint: integration of SatCom into radio access Electronic Communication Services, handover between NTN and MFCN
  - Spectrum:
    - Sufficient spectrum
    - Regulatory uncertainty: current ITU and EU framework, national authorisations, need for coordination and technical harmonisation across EU
    - Potential interference, including cross-border, issues and possible mitigation measures

# Thank you



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