



ECC Decision (18)02

ECC Decision on the withdrawal of

ECC Decision (07)02 on availability of frequency bands between 3400-3800 MHz for the harmonised implementation of Broadband Wireless Access systems (BWA)

06 July 2018

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

The ECC Decision of 30 March 2007 on the availability of frequency bands between 3400–3800 MHz for the harmonised implementation of Broadband Wireless Access systems (BWA) was reviewed at the end of 2017, and it was concluded that this Decision (ECC Decision (07)02) was suitable for withdrawal and no longer needed.

2 BACKGROUND

In November 2013, ECC agreed to keep ECC Decision (07)02 and ECC Recommendation (04)05 in force for the time being, but that this should be reconsidered in a few years.

ECC has received the Commission mandate to CEPT to develop harmonised technical conditions for spectrum use in support of the introduction of next-generation (5G) terrestrial wireless systems in the Union. This includes the task to review the harmonised technical conditions applicable to the 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency band, as a 5G pioneer band, with a view to their suitability for 5G terrestrial wireless systems and to amend these, if necessary.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) considers the frequency band 3400-3800 MHz to be the primary band suitable for the introduction of 5G-based services in Europe even before 2020 given that it is already harmonised for mobile networks and offers wide channel bandwidth.

This requires guidance to administrations for defragmenting the 3400-3800 MHz band, in which there are existing licences in many CEPT countries, for developing plans and intended timescale for the future utilisation of this band, and the development of example steps how fragmented authorisations could be converted into authorisations that are based on the preferred frequency arrangement as in ECC Decision (11)06 (as currently under review to be updated in the near future to be suitable for 5G MFCN). ECC has so far considered various questions around the suitability of the band plan and technical conditions in ECC Decision (11)06 for 5G and develops a new ECC Report to capture all relevant information for further discussion and to aid the decision making process on these issues including the ongoing revision of ECC Decision (11)06. In addition, ECC is developing another new ECC Report on guidance for the defragmentation of the 3400-3800 MHz band.

In summary, subject to market demand and with due consideration of 5G services expected to be deployed in these bands, it is believed that the withdrawal of ECC Decision (07)02 does not have any negative consequences, and it may help to prepare for defragmenting the 3400-3800 MHz band and for future use as a 5G pioneer band.

There may be a need to consider a possible impact on ECC Recommendation (04)05 (on guidelines for accommodation and assignment of multipoint fixed wireless systems in frequency bands 3.4-3.6 GHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz), which is referenced in ECC Decision (07)02, once this ECC Decision (07)02 is withdrawn.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The ECC Rules of Procedure foresee that the withdrawal of a Decision is subject to the same procedure as the development and adoption of a new Decision. This Decision therefore is developed to withdraw the following ECC Decision:

- ECC Decision (07)02 (on Availability of Frequency Bands between 3400–3800 MHz for the Harmonised Implementation of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Systems).

ECC DECISION OF 06 JULY 2018 ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF ECC DECISION (07)02 ON AVAILABILITY OF FREQUENCY BANDS BETWEEN 3400-3800 MHz FOR THE HARMONISED IMPLEMENTATION OF BROADBAND WIRELESS ACCESS SYSTEMS (BWA) (ECC DECISION (18)02)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that the band 3400-3600 MHz is allocated to the Mobile, except Aeronautical Mobile, Service on a primary basis in the Radio Regulations in Region 1 subject to provisions of RR 5.430A;
- b) that RR 5.430A also identifies the 3400-3600 MHz band for IMT;
- c) that the 3600-3800 MHz band is allocated to the Mobile Service in Region 1 on a secondary basis in the Radio Regulations and not identified for IMT;
- d) that in the European Table of Frequency Allocations (ERC Report 25) the major use or major interest in CEPT member countries in the 3400-3800 MHz band is the Mobile Service on a primary basis;
- e) that ECC Decision (11)06 that will be updated in the near future to be also suitable for 5G MFCN provides harmonised frequency arrangements for mobile/fixed communications networks (MFCN) operating in the bands 3400-3600 MHz and 3600-3800 MHz;
- f) that the bands 3400-3600 MHz and 3600-3800 MHz provide a good opportunity for future globally harmonised IMT use under the assumption that defragmentation of its use is overcome.

DECIDES

1. to withdraw the ECC Decision of 30 March 2007 on availability of frequency bands between 3400-3800 MHz for the harmonised implementation of Broadband Wireless Access systems (BWA) (ECC/DEC/(07)02)
2. that this ECC Decision enters into force on 6 July 2018.”