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| Date issued: 13 August 2019 | | | | | |
| Source: ECC Chairman | | | |  | |
| Subject: Seeking input on the development of the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 | | | | |  |

N

Group membership required to read? (Y/N)

# ECC Strategic plan

The current ECC Strategic Plan covers the period 2015-2020. The ECC therefore initiated discussions regarding the development of a new Strategic Plan at the 50th ECC Steering Group Meeting (17 to 18 June 2019) and at its 51st Plenary Meeting in Sofia (2 to 5 July 2019). While several ideas on the development of a new plan were discussed, the ECC felt that the new plan should follow a similar format to the current plan, albeit while also considering opportunities to enhance the plan where appropriate.

# Process for agreeing the plan

The 51st ECC meeting formally opened work on the development of a new ECC Strategic Plan covering the period 2020-2025 and agreed to set up a correspondence group for inputs and discussion over the summer. This would be followed by a physical meeting in the Autumn which would consider any inputs received and provide opportunity for further input and discussion.

The process of developing the ECC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 should be open to all ECC members (including observers). It was however noted that the intention is that the plan should be a suitably strategic and high-level document and, as such, should not be a vehicle for individuals to look to promote particular company or sector interests in relation to spectrum.

It is expected that a draft of the new plan will be discussed at the 52nd ECC Plenary (3 to 6 March 2020) and it is expected that a final version will be published in July 2020 following the 53rd ECC Plenary (30 June to 3 July 2020).

# Development and format of the plan

Based on discussion between ECC members, the initial feeling was that the current structure of the ECC Strategic Plan ([ECC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan](https://cept.org/ecc/ecc-strategic-plan)) works well and does not need substantial change. The current strategic plan 2015-2020 essentially tackles three topics:

* a substantive statement of policies and actions in a variety of areas, in particular how ECC cooperates with other bodies;
* specific priority areas to focus on in the following five years as well as the horizontal key principles to address these challenges; and
* short-term goals as represented by the Work Programme which are subject to regular review.

The ECC was of the view that that the ECC Strategic Plan should continue to be a short and focused document. It was suggested that the high-level principles and the major topics for the next 5 years are the core of the document and as such should be placed near the start. The information on relationships which currently appears before the principles and topics could be placed towards the back of the document (or even in an annex).

The ECC is considering the option of an intermediate stocktake of the plan in less than 5 years (e.g. a mid-term review). It was also noted that the ECC is not alone in developing a strategic plan or strategy document and that ECC should keep abreast of work in other relevant groups (such as the Radio Spectrum Policy Group) in taking this work forward

Do you agree that the current structure (e.g. ordering and formatting) of the ECC Strategic Plan works well and should form the basis for the next iteration? Do you agree that the ECC strategic plan should continue to be a short and focused document? If you disagree, please elaborate on your answer.

Do you support the idea of a mid-term review of the 2020-2025 ECC Strategic Plan in order to provide an intermediate stocktake of progress against the plan?

# Possible “principles” for the new plan

It was felt that the currently identified “principles” – spectrum sharing, receiver parameters and using higher frequencies – remain relevant but could be updated. These are guiding principles which should help inform the ECC’s ongoing work. It was questioned whether the usefulness of these principles in terms of their relevance to ECC could be enhanced by being slightly more specific (where possible) about what ECC intended to do under each principle and how they relate to the work programme.

It was also suggested to consider the way in which we undertake co-existence studies in the context of spectrum sharing and approaches to harmonisation and flexibility, particularly in the context of higher frequency bands. In relation to harmonisation, it was noted that harmonisation of technical parameters would likely remain important for industry, but there was now broader interest from a wider range of sectors (e.g. industry verticals).

In addition to the above, the ECC proposed that a new high-level principle on numbering should be included in the ECC Strategic Plan.

Do you agree that the current “principles” – spectrum sharing, receiver parameters and using higher frequencies – remain relevant and should be retained (albeit updated)?

Do you have suggestions for other “principles” that you think should be included in the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025?

# The new plan

In terms of topics for the 2020-2025 iteration of the ECC plan, initial suggestions include:

* Removing the section on the 700 MHz digital dividend from the current ECC Strategic Plan as the ECC work on this is complete.
* Including a general review of UHF spectrum in 470 – 960 MHz, noting this is likely to be an Agenda Item for WRC-23.
* Updating spectrum for wireless broadband (5G). This will need to be redrafted and it will need to be clear in terms of scope (e.g. would RLANs be considered under this topic?). Other issues likely to be covered under this topic include information on verticals and on small cells – in relation to verticals this could also include follow up to the CEPT Workshop on the topic held in May 2019.
* Updating the SRD topic to be clear on the challenges and what the spectrum needs are – this includes IoT and potentially other uses seeking general authorisation (licence exemption).
* Considering whether a separate topic on PMSE should be included or whether this is best picked up elsewhere (e.g. under the general review of UHF but noting PMSE also make use of other spectrum bands).
* Removing PPDR from the current ECC Strategic Plan as ECC work on this is complete.
* Including a topic on new satellite systems (e.g. large NGSO constellations).
* Possibly including a topic on UAS / drones.

Do you have any comments on the list of topics that are suggested above for inclusion in, or removal from, the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025? Please provide the rationale for your suggestions.

Do you have any proposals for other topics that should be included in the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 or views on the presentation of the topics? Please provide explanation for your answers.

# Concluding remarks

The above sets out some initial thoughts that have been developed by the ECC Chairman following discussion in the ECC Steering Group and at the ECC Plenary. We would welcome your views on these thoughts and on the questions raised. In addition, if you have any other comments on the ECC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 please do feed them in as part of this process.

Do you have any other comments on the ECC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025?

# List of questions

We would welcome inputs from interested parties on the questions raised in this call for input, ideally by 25 September 2019. These will then be considered, along with any other inputs, at the meeting that has been arranged for 3 October.

1. Do you agree that the current structure (e.g. ordering and formatting) of the ECC Strategic Plan works well and should form the basis for the next iteration? Do you agree that the ECC strategic plan should continue to be a short and focused document? If you disagree, please elaborate on your answer.

Yes, the current structure works well and can be used as a basis for the new plan and we agree that the ECC strategic plan from 2020-2025 should be short and focused. This will increase the possibility of the document being read. We also think that the part on information on relationships with other bodies etc. should be placed in an annex.

1. Do you support the idea of a mid-term review of the 2020-2025 ECC Strategic Plan in order to provide an intermediate stocktake of progress against the plan?

Yes, given the pace of innovation in technology it is wise to have an intermediate stocktake of progress against the plan. However, this must be a relatively simple process and must be connected with the normal workflow of the ECC and subordinate bodies.

1. Do you agree that the current “principles” – spectrum sharing, receiver parameters and using higher frequencies – remain relevant and should be retained (albeit updated)?

Spectrum sharing, receiver parameters and use of higher frequencies are all important topics for spectrum management in the coming years. However, we would like to prioritize spectrum sharing and receiver parameters above using higher frequencies, as there is still a lot of unutilized spectrum in lower/mid bands which should be prioritized compared to using higher frequencies. In addition, emphasizing how new technologies can facilitate sharing should be included in the strategic plan. This could for instance be the use of AI for sharing of spectrum or use of block chain for allocation.

1. Do you have suggestions for other “principles” that you think should be included in the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025?

We support involving WG NaN to introduce numbering and network relevant principles. An example of overall principles in the field of numbering could be to encourage sustainable managing of numbering resources, increase trust in identifiers and to accommodate connectivity-need for new technologies and M2M/IoT.

1. Do you have any comments on the list of topics that are suggested above for inclusion in, or removal from, the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025? Please provide the rationale for your suggestions.

Inclusion:

* Use of new technology to better facilitate sharing - see remarks under Q3.
* Facilitating spectrum refarming in MFCN bands in order to increase spectrum efficiency. Today MNOs typically have spectrum resources in all sub 1 GHz bands, i.e. the 700 MHz, 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands, and in capacity bands, i.e.1800 MHz, 2.1 GHz and 2.6 GHz bands. It could be more spectrum efficient if operators instead refarmed their spectrum in order to have contiguous spectrum in one or two bands sub 1 GHz and equally for the mid-bands.
* Spectrum trading in Europe in general and in Norway especially is almost none excising. What can be done at CEPT/ECC level in order to facilitate more trading, which could lead to better spectrum efficiency?
* Synchronization of networks will be very important for the introduction of 5G and other TDD based systems and has also been on the agenda for ECC on national terms for some time. However, in conjunction with cross border operations, this will not only be a national or bilateral issue but a European challenge. Is there something to be done at ECC level in order to ease the pan-European introduction of TDD-systems.
* Study spectrum access for drones. The number of drones is increasing year by year and as drones evolve, they will be used for more and more important tasks. FM59 is studying spectrum for drones (exluding MFCN UAS), but if the usage will continue to increase there may be a lack of designated spectrum for drones that are not severely restricted on power, DFS, APC etc.
* Facilitating increased international cooperation to combat fraud and misuse of numbering resources

Removal:

* Implementation of a new digital dividend in the 700 MHz band – The 700 MHz band is more or less assigned across the whole of Europe to MFCN, so if this principle shall be kept it needs to focus on the full UHF band, i.e. the second paragraph in the current plan.
* Programme Making and Special Event (PMSE) – At least in Norway more and more of the PMSE traffic will be handled by other systems (i.e. MFCN).
* PPDR – spectrum for PPDR has been harmonized within the 700 MHz-band and should hence be removed. Alternatively, if it is to be kept the topic should focus on using commercial networks to facilitate the needs for PPDR and other public services.

1. Do you have any proposals for other topics that should be included in the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 or views on the presentation of the topics? Please provide explanation for your answers.

The plan could perhaps say something about specific goals for the ECC and its working methods. In particular, we think that ECC should focus on what we, as ECC, can do to reduce the climate changes. One small step could for instance be more efficient procedures and meetings, which would reduce the cost for administrations and industry while at the same time reducing the carbon footprint.

In addition, we support, which was also discussed in the Steering Group, the notion of introducing a stronger element of numbering and network relevant topics in the strategic plan. This should be under guidance and input from WG NaN.

1. Do you have any other comments on the ECC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025?

Not at the moment.

# Responses

Responses to the above questions or any other comments in relation to the development of a new ECC Strategic Plan should be provided to the [correspondence group](https://cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/client/forum/topic/554). These will be further considered at [2020-2025 ECC Strategic Plan meeting](https://cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/client/meeting-calendar/event-details/?meetingid=2711) on 3 October 2019 (See below).

# Meeting

A meeting to discuss the development of the ECC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 will be held at the ECO on 3 October 2019 – see <https://cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/client/meeting-calendar/event-participants-admin/?meetingid=nJmfnw%3d%3d>. Inputs should be submitted by close of business on 25 September 2019.