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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?

* In general, yes. Although we would be in favour of a much shorter document (see answer 2).

A clear distinction between strategic plan and work programme should be incorporated.

1. Do you agree that the ECC strategic plan should continue to be a short and focused document?

* We agree, and support to develop an even shorter and more focused document. We would welcome a Strategic Plan with a clear self-sufficient content.
* We envisage a 1-2 pages only document, limited to the type of content as in sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the current strategic plan, and to delete all other sections, which do contain information not directly related to strategic planning or already covered elsewhere in the ECC documentation. We are not in favour of annexing sections, which are not seen directly needed within the strategic plan itself, because this might decrease the value of that document.
* If seen necessary, these other ECC documents could be updated.
* We wonder, whether a list of individual major topics in its current form is needed (current section 3.2). It could be misunderstood as an extract from the work programme. In principle, regular work items cover all topics of relevance. Some of the proposed topics could be immediately transferred into regular work items - triggered by the ECC with an appropriate description of their scope and a fitting timeline. It is hard to see a difference between these proposed topics and regular work items.

If seen necessary, drafts of such future work items could be developed alongside the strategic plan to be adopted at ECC plenary meetings.

We would be in favour of updating the list by not only repeating elements of the Work Programme, but laying down topics in a more abstract way.

If you disagree, please elaborate on your answer.

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, as well as a final stocktake, in particular when a list of major topics would remain in the future plan.
* We propose to develop a separate (permanent) ECC work item for the Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the topic could be a permanent ECC plenary agenda item. This would be supportive to keep in mind the strategic aims.

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

* Yes.
* The update should be performed under a “backward” perspective. This means that it should be considered where in 2025 the development in spectrum technologies will have been headed to: e.g. WRC23 agenda will take into effect 2024 onwards, development of Beyond-5G-technologies will have been started, etc. Looking from that perspective, the “principles” should be defined.
* Proposal for updating the principles “sharing” and “receiver parameters”:   
  improve the cooperation with ETSI aiming to increase sharing by defining the appropriate sensitivity and selectivity of receivers on the one hand and the allowed unwanted emissions on the other hand.
* Proposal for updating the principle ”using higher frequencies”:   
  We know that higher frequency bands (up to THz) are being investigated. There is a need to work on a principle called “methods on spectrum sharing in THz-bands”.

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

* Address the increasing complexity of issues and consider how to deal better with it (e.g. several options for the same frequency range under consideration at the same time; development of the harmonisation measure in CEPT and the related standard in 3GPP in parallel, not successively)
* Consider, where possible, the relevance of ECC outputs to combat climate change (<https://news.itu.int/how-we-can-turn-digital-technology-innovation-into-climate-action/>)

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.

* See answer 2.
* Noting the overarching nature of WRCs for the ECC work, it should be considered to add a topic “Review of ECC deliverables after WRCs” (instead of only highlighting specific issues, like the review of the UHF band)
* Regarding the proposed topic on 5G: ECC should initiate a discussion, how to organise the spectrum related work on a specific technology that might be incorporated into almost any radio application (including demand for verticals).

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.

* See answers above.

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

* It could be discussed, whether the ECC Strategic Plan could become a plan based on “scenarios”. The ECC could define a “digital world” in 2025 which is based on the introduction of certain radio applications, standards etc. and then start defining the strategic goals that need to be achieved.
* Address the question of how to finance CEPT entities / activities (e.g. ECO, Satellite monitoring…)

# 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.