

European process of standardisation and regulation for radiocommunications devices and systems – cooperation between CEPT¹/ECC² and ETSI³

(updated in June 2018)

This paper on the European process of standardisation and regulation for radiocommunications devices and systems has the objective to describe the current processes. It has been developed jointly by the CEPT Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) and European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

In case of discrepancy at some point in time between the procedures described here and those in the internal ECC or ETSI working procedures (e.g. the ECC Rules of Procedure⁴, the ETSI Directives⁵), the internal working procedures shall prevail.

A [MoU](#), revised in 2016, has been agreed between ETSI and the ECC for co-operation in the development of their interrelated respective deliverables.

- One purpose of the MoU is to make sure that ECC and ETSI deliverables do not contradict each other: ETSI produces System Reference documents (SRdoc)
- ECC carries out sharing studies
- The results of these sharing studies should be mutually acceptable
- The results should be implemented consistently by both parties in ECC deliverables and ETSI Harmonised Standards

The details of these processes are described in steps (1 to 18), as illustrated in the attached Annex (typical flow diagram). The boxes above and below the dotted line across the page in the annex show ETSI and CEPT activities respectively:

1. The process is normally started in ETSI TC ERM in response to an industry proposal for a new system, service or application. A work item is created and considered for adoption in accordance with clause 1.6 of the ETSI Technical Working Procedures which are part of the ETSI Directives. The ETSI work programme is updated accordingly

(<https://portal.etsi.org/webapp/workprogram/SimpleSearch/QueryForm.asp>);

1'. Sometimes, it could also happen that a proposal for new or revised radiocommunications system, service or application is first presented within the ECC family, typically within the ECC Working Group Frequency Management (WG FM). In such cases, the relevant ECC group informs ETSI TC ERM about the proposed new work item and, when relevant, advises the promoter of the new system to initiate development of a SRdoc and/or European standard through the ETSI mechanisms;

¹ CEPT (from French acronym) – European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications administrations, where members are administrations from 48 countries of the European continent

² ECC – CEPT's Electronic Communications Committee. The ECC is further divided between several Working Groups and Project Teams

³ ETSI – European Telecommunications Standards Institute, with broad membership from industry and administrations.

⁴ [Link](#) to the ECC Rules of Procedure:

⁵ Link to the ETSI Directive: <https://portal.etsi.org/Resources/ETSIDirectives.aspx>

2. If the new proposal originating from ETSI does not involve a demand for a new spectrum allocation and when no sharing⁶ or compatibility⁷ issues exist, e.g. if there is already a frequency allocation for the service/application in question or the revision of the European Standard does not lead to changes in the sharing parameters, then steps 3 & 4 are not relevant, and the process continues at step 5;
3. If there is a sharing or compatibility problem or when a new spectrum allocation is required by the proposal, then ETSI TC ERM generates a SRdoc⁸ in accordance with the guidance in [ETSI EG 201 788](#);
4. The information for CEPT (i.e. Liaison Statement on the status of a SRdoc) is coordinated within ETSI by TC ERM, which is responsible for interfacing with CEPT. ETSI TC ERM sends the resulting SRdoc to CEPT for consideration. Occasionally, ETSI TC ERM may delegate responsibility to other groups to send documentation to CEPT.
5. The relevant ETSI technical group develops the European Standard and handles the deliverable in accordance with the ETSI Technical Working Procedures (clause 2.2.1 is applicable for an EN and for an EN qualified as a Harmonised Standard). Inputs from results of related compatibility studies and ECC regulations in CEPT are duly taken into account in this drafting process in order to avoid contradictions. These inputs may come from Working Group Spectrum Engineering (WG SE) (step 16), from draft regulation (usually WG FM step 10) or from the ECC in case of final regulation (step 12).
6. In case of Harmonised Standards, ETSI sends the EN to the European Commission (EC) for its reference to be published in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU);
7. When the ECC involvement is requested, see step 4, WG FM analyses the SRdoc and decides if the ETSI SRdoc should lead to a new work item. The ECC Work Programme is modified accordingly (<http://eccwp.cept.org/>);
8. If sharing or compatibility issues are identified, WG FM sends a request to WG SE to perform the necessary sharing/compatibility studies.
9. Within WG FM, the new ETSI request is usually given to a particular Project Team (PT) for detailed consideration of frequency management issues and, eventually, for development of a proposal on the necessary spectrum designation for the proposed application Note: In special cases, when several involved issues (frequency management, spectrum engineering, regulatory) are closely interlinked, or when the considered new system is of very wide (global) importance, then a Joint PT between several WGs or even an ECC PT or a Task Group (TG) may be established to consider those wide inter-disciplinary issues and develop draft ECC regulation;

⁶ “Sharing” is a term usually used to describe co-existence with an incumbent radiocommunications application(-s) within the same frequency band as proposed for new application(s)

⁷ “Compatibility” is a term used to describe co-existence with an incumbent radiocommunications applications(-s) in adjacent band(-s) to those proposed for new application(s)

⁸ According to the Working Procedures for coordination on ETSI radio spectrum issues, a 'System Reference Document' (SRdoc) usually produced for a new system, service or application requiring a change of the present frequency designation / utilisation within CEPT/ECC or a change in the present regulatory framework for the proposed band(s) regarding either intended or unwanted emissions

10. The responsible PT develops the draft ECC deliverables establishing a regulatory framework including spectrum designation, which takes form of either an ECC Decision⁹ or an ECC Recommendation. Liaison statements are expected to be sent to TC ERM to inform them of the draft regulation asking comments and feedback;
11. WG FM (or several groups in case of Joint PT) approves the draft ECC regulation or amends an existing ECC regulation and sends it to public consultation (PC). In cases where an ECC Decision was developed, the ECC is responsible for its final approval. Comments by ETSI TC ERM are duly taken into account in this process;
12. The PC of draft ECC deliverables is carried out by the European Communications Office (ECO). The results of the PC are summarised by ECO and considered by WG FM or the ECC for an ECC Decision¹⁰. If many detailed comments are received, then the responsible PT will be asked to review the comments and propose a revision of the draft regulation. WG FM may itself decide on final adoption of draft ECC Recommendations. For an ECC Decision, the ECC decides on the final adoption of the ECC Decision. The final regulatory deliverable may be sent to ETSI TC ERM;
13. After final approval by WG FM or ECC, as appropriate, the final ECC Recommendation or ECC Decision is published on the ECO Document Database (<https://www.ecodocdb.dk/>);
14. If a sharing/compatibility study was requested from WG SE (see step 8), then WG SE considers such a request and normally assigns it to one of its PTs to carry out the necessary studies;
15. The responsible WG SE PT carries out the necessary sharing and compatibility studies. At the end of studies, the WG SE PT formalises their results in the form of draft ECC Report on sharing/compatibility of considered applications;
16. WG SE reviews the developed draft ECC Report and decides on sending it to PC. At the same time liaison statements are expected to be sent to ETSI TC ERM to advise them on the tentative results of the studies and asking comments and feedback;
17. The PC of draft ECC Reports is carried out by the ECO. The results of the PC are summarised by the ECO and considered by WG SE. If many detailed comments are received, then the responsible PT will be asked to review the comments and propose a revision of the draft Report. WG SE finally adopts the ECC Report. WGSE informs ETSI TC ERM of the published deliverables.
18. The approved ECC Report is published on the ECO Documentation Database (<https://www.ecodocdb.dk/>).

⁹ ECC Decisions are measures on significant harmonisation matters.

¹⁰ For an ECC Decision, if the schedule of meetings allows, the responsible ECC PT which has developed the draft ECC Decision shall consider the results of the PC and shall present proposals to the ECC Plenary on how to incorporate any adopted new element resulting from it into the draft ECC Decision. If the schedule of meetings does not allow this procedure the Chairman of the responsible PT shall present the results of the PC directly to the ECC Plenary

Annex: Typical Flow Diagram

