**Cover Note for the Public Consultation on ECC/DEC/(06)13**

The existing ECC Decision (06)13 designates the bands 880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz for terrestrial UMTS, LTE and WiMAX systems.

The proposed amended draft ECC Decision aims to support in a timely manner the introduction of IoT cellular technologies in the 900/1800 MHz bands. A New Annex 2 defines for this purpose technical parameters for cellular IoT technologies.

When developing this proposal, the continued inclusion of WiMAX was raised as an issue, in the absence of significant deployment of this technology. Comments would be welcome during the public consultation on the relevance of maintaining WiMAX in this Decision.

ECC Decision (06)13

Designation of the bands 880-915 MHz,  
925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz  
for terrestrial UMTS, LTE, WiMAX and IoT cellular systems[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Approved 01 December 2006**

A**mended DD Month 2018**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Since 1997 CEPT has adopted a series of Decisions and Reports regarding the implementation of UMTS. These CEPT deliverables concern:

* ERC Report 060 on global circulation of IMT-2000 terminals;
* ERC Report 065 on adjacent band compatibility between UMTS and other services in the 2 GHz band;
* ECC/DEC/(05)05 on the harmonised utilisation of spectrum for Mobile/Fixed Communications Networks (MFCN) operating within the band 2500-2690 MHz;
* ECC Report 45 on sharing and adjacent band compatibility between UMTS/IMT-2000 in the band 2500-2690 MHz and other services;
* ECC/DEC/(06)01 on the harmonised utilisation of the bands 1920-1980 MHz and 2110-2170 MHz for mobile/fixed communications networks (MFCN) including terrestrial IMT;
* ECC Report 82 on the compatibility study for UMTS operating within the GSM 900 and GSM 1800 frequency bands;
* ECC Report 96 on the compatibility between UMTS900/1800 and systems operating in adjacent bands;
* CEPT Report 42 on compatibility between UMTS and existing and planned aeronautical systems above 960 MHz.

The GSM bands (880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz) have been subject to several harmonisation measures taken at EU level or by the ECC:

* Council Directive 87/372/EEC and the related Council Recommendation 87/371/EEC, which came into force in 1987;
* ERC/DEC/(94)01 on the frequency bands to be designated for the coordinated introduction of the GSM digital pan-European communications system;
* ERC/DEC/(95)03 on the frequency bands to be designated for the introduction of DCS 1800;
* ERC/DEC/(97)02 on the extended frequency bands to be used for the GSM Digital Pan-European Communication System

In 2009, Directive 2009/114/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 87/372/EEC was approved opening the 880-915 MHz and 925-960 MHz frequency bands (the 900 MHz band) to the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) and to other terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services that can co-exist with the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM).

During 2009, the European Commission issued a mandate to CEPT on the technical conditions for allowing LTE and possibly other technologies within the bands 880-915 MHz / 925-960 MHz and 1710-1785 MHz / 1805-1880 MHz (900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands). It was verified that WiMAX is another technology besides LTE showing interest for the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands. Compatibility studies were done and the technical conditions under which LTE and WiMAX technologies can be deployed in the 900/1800 MHz bands are identified in the following CEPT Reports approved by the ECC in 2010:

* CEPT Report 040 on compatibility study for LTE and WiMAX operating within the bands 880-915 MHz / 925-960 MHz and 1710-1785 MHz / 1805-1880 MHz (900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands); and
* CEPT Report 041 on compatibility between LTE and WiMAX operating within the bands 880-915 MHz / 925-960 MHz and 1710-1785 MHz / 1805-1880 MHz (900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands) and systems operating in adjacent bands.

Based on the above CEPT reports, the European Commission updated the EU regulatory framework accordingly to address also LTE and WiMAX with Decision 2011/251/EU.

In 2017, ECC assessed the suitability of the current ECC regulatory framework for the usage of Wideband and Narrowband M2M in the frequency bands 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2.1 GHz and 2.6 GHz and published the ECC Report 266 accordingly.

## 2 BACKGROUND

In line with CEPT proposals, WRC-2000 identified for IMT the spectrum that was already used on a large scale for GSM systems having in mind that IMT would be implemented in the longer term in these frequency bands as part of the migration from 2G to 3G and 4G networks.

In the meantime, the licensing process for IMT has taken place in the “core” (2 GHz) band. IMT networks have been deployed over Europe in this frequency band and are rapidly growing.

UMTS coverage in the 2 GHz band is challenging and there is a strong demand for ubiquitous access to 3G services including in rural areas. The possibility to deploy UMTS networks in 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands, and particularly in the 900 MHz band, provides an opportunity for operators to increase significantly the cell size and therefore extending the UMTS network coverage in rural areas at a reasonable cost and facilitating indoor coverage in urban and suburban areas. These bands could also be used for LTE and WiMAX technologies.

CEPT Reports 40 and 41 concluded that LTE and WiMAX systems can be introduced in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands using appropriate values for the separation between the channel edges of the respective carriers. It is also recognised that there is a wide range of licensing situations for both GSM and UMTS networks which have to be addressed on a national level to enable the progressive transition from GSM networks to UMTS, LTE and WiMAX networks.

In the foreseen usage of these bands for M2M systems standardised by 3GPP and ETSI, ECC Report 266 provides and analyses the suitability of the current ECC framework for the usage of machine-to-machine applications according to the following technologies: Extended Coverage GSM IoT (EC-GSM-IoT), LTE Machine Type Communication (LTE-MTC), evolved MTC (LTE-eMTC)[[2]](#footnote-2) and Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT). It describes the various deployment models: “in band”, “guard band”, “standalone” for the technologies. Deployment models refer to how a Mobile Network Operator’s (MNO) decision to deploy IoT technologies, taking into account that these are narrowband technologies, while MNOs' networks are typically mostly wideband technologies. These technologies can be deployed in three ways, namely:

* as a fully independent deployment (standalone (SA) deployment);
* by pre-empting some of the resources of an existing carrier (in-band deployment);
* by being deployed on the side of an existing carrier (guard-band (GB) deployment).

An EC-GSM-IoT system is deployed in a standalone mode and/or in-band mode in the 900 and 1800 MHz bands.

LTE-eMTC allows to use 6 contiguous resource blocks anywhere in a LTE channel for M2M applications, each resource block is 180 kHz, 6x180 =1080 kHz. The deployment model is en consequence ‘in-band’.

Finally there are 3 deployment modes for NB-IoT : in band, in guard bands and standalone.

## 3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The ECC recognises that a harmonised implementation of UMTS, LTE and WiMAX will be of greatest benefit to operators, manufacturers as well as users and will facilitate the successful deployment of UMTS, LTE and WiMAX. Furthermore, the ECC recognises the demand for the introduction of M2M cellular IoT technologies, i.e. LTE-MTC/eMTC (LTE evolved Machine Type Communication), EC-GSM-IoT (Extended Coverage GSM IoT) and NB-IoT (Narrowband IoT).

UMTS networks have already been successfully introduced in CEPT countries in the 2 GHz frequency band and ECC has already decided about the designation and harmonised conditions of use of the band 2500-2690 MHz in line with ECC Decision (05)05 in order to accommodate the rapid increase of users and bit rate in mobile communications networks.

The ECC recognises that the introduction of UMTS, LTE and WiMAX systems in the bands 880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz will provide opportunity for better coverage for UMTS, LTE and WiMAX networks and, ultimately, more capacity. These frequency bands are already widely harmonised in Europe for GSM networks. The introduction of UMTS and LTE networks is expected to take place progressively.

The 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands are already used today intensively. This ECC Decision will enable more flexibility and increased spectrum efficiency in these bands.

This ECC Decision provides the necessary provisions for the designation of the bands 880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz for terrestrial UMTS, LTE and WiMAX systems. The Decision also contains provisions for M2M cellular IoT systems in their various operating modes: “in band”, “guard band”, “standalone”.

Decisions that "designate" a frequency band for a harmonised application are intended to foster the deployment of an application to meet a market demand in a harmonised manner throughout CEPT. Members implementing the Decision commit themselves to make spectrum available for this harmonised application which includes assessing when and where there is a demand for the harmonized service/application and deciding whether that demand is great enough to exclude other services and applications from the harmonised band. Such Decisions shall not inhibit radiocommunication equipment meeting different standards from operating in an identified frequency band provided it offers the same spectrum use and application as specified in a Decision for the band and is placed on the market in conformity with the essential requirements i.e. it makes effective use of the spectrum allocated to terrestrial/space radiocommunications so as to avoid harmful interference[[3]](#footnote-3).

# ECC Decision of 1 december 2006 on the designation of the bands 880-915 mhz, 925-960 mhz, 1710-1785 mhz and 1805-1880 mhz for terrestrial umts, LTE, WIMAX AND IoT Cellular systems (ECC/DEC/(06)13) amended DD Month 2018

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

*considering*

1. that there is a growing demand for interoperable mobile voice services and interoperable mobile data services;
2. that UMTS, LTE and WiMAX have been developed to meet this demand;
3. that UMTS, LTE and WiMAX are mobile broadband systems included in the IMT family;
4. that there is a growing demand for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) type and Internet of things (IoT) communications;
5. ECC/DEC/(06)01 on the harmonised utilisation of the bands 1920-1980 MHz, and 2110-2170 MHz for mobile/fixed communications networks (MFCN) including terrestrial IMT;
6. ECC/DEC/(05)05 on harmonised utilisation of spectrum for Mobile/Fixed Communications Networks (MFCN) operating within the band 2500-2690 MHz;
7. ERC/DEC/(94)01 on the frequency bands to be designated for the coordinated introduction of the GSM digital pan-European communications system;
8. ERC/DEC/(95)03 on the frequency bands to be designated for the introduction of DCS 1800;
9. ERC/DEC/(97)02 on the extended frequency bands to be used for the GSM Digital Pan-European Communications System;
10. ERC/DEC/(94)03 on the frequency band to be designated for the coordinated introduction of the Digital European Cordless Telecommunication system (DECT);
11. Council Directive 87/372/EEC amended by Council Directive 2009/114/EC and the related Council Recommendation 87/371/EEC which came into force in 1987;
12. the importance of facilitating the deployment of UMTS networks in rural areas and improving indoor coverage;
13. that LTE and WiMAX technologies provide a substantial level of improvement in performance and capabilities with respect to the IMT systems initially deployed;
14. that the introduction of UMTS, LTE and WiMAX networks would increase the spectrum efficiency in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands;
15. that GSM networks will progressively migrate to UMTS, LTE and WiMAX networks. The migration schedule and process will depend on market demand and conditions, national regulatory conditions and licensing schemes;
16. that ECC Report 082 provides conclusions on the compatibility study for UMTS operating within the GSM 900 and GSM 1800 frequency bands and relevant measures to be applied by administrations and/or operators;
17. that ECC Report 096 provides conclusions on the compatibility study between UMTS 900/1800 and systems operating in adjacent bands and relevant measures to be applied by administrations;
18. that ECC Report 266 describes the various wideband and narrow band M2M systems (EC-GSM-IoT, LTE-eMTC and NB IoT) and their operational modes (in band, standalone, guard band, where appropriate) and provides an analysis on the compatibility between EC-GSM-IoT, LTE-eMTC and NB IoT systems in the bands 880-915 MHz,925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz and other in-band usages as well as systems operating in adjacent bands and relevant measures to be applied by administrations;
19. that there are 3 possible deployment modes where the standalone (SA) operational mode is a fully independent deployment mode (standalone (SA) deployment), the ‘in band’ operational mode pre-empts some of the resources of an existing carrier (in-band deployment), and the ‘guard band’ operational mode refers to a deployment of the NB IoT system on the side of an existing carrier (guard-band (GB) deployment);
20. that EC-GSM-IoT systems operate in ‘standalone’ and ‘in band’ modes only following the technical conditions applicable to GSM;
21. that LTE-eMTC systems operate in “in band mode” only following the technical conditions applicable to LTE;
22. that there are 3 possible modes for NB-IoT: in band, in guard bands and standalone deployment and that NB-IoT is included in the ETSI harmonized standard EN301 908;
23. that the results of the compatibility studies to accommodate technologies other than GSM and UMTS in the frequency bands 880-915/925-960 MHz and 1710-1785/1805-1880 MHz can be found in CEPT Reports 040 and 041;
24. that CEPT Report 041 and 042 provide information and recommendations on how to mitigate interference between UMTS, LTE and WiMAX and aeronautical systems above 960 MHz;
25. that in EU/EFTA countries the radio equipment that is under the scope of this Decision shall comply with the Radio Equipment Directive (2014/53/UE). Conformity with the essential requirements of the Radio Equipment Directive may be demonstrated by compliance with the applicable harmonised European standard(s) or by using the other conformity assessment procedures set out in the Radio Equipment Directive.

*DECIDES*

1. that for the purpose of this Decision, UMTS, LTE and WiMAX are defined in Annex 1 to this Decision;
2. that for the purpose of this Decision, IoT cellular systems are defined in Annex 2 to this Decision with associated technical conditions;
3. that administrations shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the continued operation of GSM systems in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands;
4. that the frequency bands 880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz are designated[[4]](#footnote-4), for terrestrial UMTS, LTE, WiMAX and IoT cellular systems, subject to market demand and national licensing schemes;
5. that the frequency bands 880-915 MHz, 925-960 MHz, 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz may also be used by other mobile systems subject to market demand and national licensing schemes, provided that they can coexist with GSM and the systems covered by this decision as well as systems in adjacent bands;
6. that administrations shall take all necessary measures to ensure the coexistence of GSM, UMTS, LTE, WiMAX and IoT cellular systems in the 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands;
7. that this Decision shall enter into force on DD MM YYYY;
8. that the preferred date for implementation of this Decision shall be DD2 MM2 YYYY2;
9. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when the Decision is nationally implemented.”

*Note:*

*Please check the Office documentation database http://www.ecodocdb.dk for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.*

1. Technologies described in this Decision

Table 1: Technologies described in this Decision

|  | **Terminology in Recommendation ITU-R M.1457** | **Standards Development Organisations (SDO)** | **Terms used by SDO** | **Applicable  ETSI standards** | **Other terms commonly used** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GSM |  | 3GPP  ETSI | GSM  GSM/EDGE | EN 301 502  EN 301 511  EN 301 908-18 | GPRS, EDGE |
| UMTS | IMT-2000 CDMA Direct Spread | 3GPP  ETSI | UMTS  UTRA | EN 301 908-1  EN 301 908-2  EN 301 908-3  EN 301 908-11  EN 301 908-18 | IMT-2000/UMTS; W-CDMA; HSPA |
| LTE | IMT-2000 CDMA Direct Spread  (E UTRAN)(1) | 3GPP  ETSI | LTE  E-UTRA | EN 301 908-1  EN 301 908-13  EN 301 908-14  EN 301 908-15  EN 301 908-18 |  |
| WiMAX | IMT-2000 OFDMA TDD WMAN(2) | IEEE | WiMAX | EN 301 908-1  EN 301 908-21  EN 301 908-22 |  |

(1) This radio interface now includes an option using OFDM modulation.

(2) This radio interface now supports FDD.

1. Technical conditions for IoT cellular systems

The following technical conditions shall be applied as an essential component necessary to ensure coexistence between neighboring networks. Operators may agree, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, different technical parameters providing that they continue to comply with the technical conditions applicable for the protection of other services, applications or networks and with their cross-border obligations.

Table 2: Technical conditions for IoT Cellular Systems

| **Technologies** | **Applicable  ETSI standards** | **Technical conditions** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| EC-GSM-IoT | EN 301 502  EN 301 511  EN 301 908-18 | Same parameters as for GSM apply. |
| LTE MTC/eMTC | EN 301 908-1  EN 301 908-13  EN 301 908-14  EN 301 908-15  EN 301 908-18 | Same parameters as for LTE apply |
| NB-IoT | EN 301 908-1  EN 301 908-13  EN 301 908-14  EN 301 908-15  EN 3019 08-18 | Standalone mode:  A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the standalone NB-IoT channel edge of one network and the UMTS/LTE channel edge of the neighbouring network.  A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more between the standalone NB-IoT channel edge of one network and the GSM6 channel edge of the neighbouring network.  In band mode : same parameters as for LTE apply  Guard band mode: A frequency separation of 200 kHz or more, between the NB-IoT channel edge and the edge of the operator’s block, taking into account existing guard bands between operators block edges or the edge of the operating band (adjacent to other services). |

1. Comparable technical specifications to those given in this ECC Decision are given in Commission Decision 2009/766/EC amended by Commission Decision 2011/251/EU. EU Member States and, if so approved by the EEA Joint Committee, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are obliged to implement the EC Decision. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 3GPP terms, LTE-MTC corresponds to LTE Cat-1 or LTE Cat-0 and LTE-eMTC corresponds to LTE Cat-M1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This paragraph is Article 12.1.2 of the ECC Rules of Procedure, edition 13, Vilnius, 2 November 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See section 3 of the Explanatory Memorandum. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)