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Radio Spectrum Policy Group Releases a Public Consultation on WAPECS.

The Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG), a committee of senior level European regulators which advises the European Commission and of which ComReg is a member, has announced a public consultation on Wireless Access Platforms for Electronic Communications Services (WAPECS).

The term “WAPECS” (Wireless Access Platforms for Electronic Communications Services) is used to signal a move away from narrowly defined applications for which specific spectrum is reserved. Under WAPECS, digital technologies are stimulated to deliver all applications/services within their capabilities, making use of any frequency band, but subject to technical coexistence rules which are tailored to each specific band.

In January 2004, the European Commission requested the RSPG to develop and adopt an Opinion on a coordinated EU spectrum policy approach for a broad range of applications using wireless access platforms. The objective is to ensure that spectrum is available across a wide variety of services and applications to meet the requirements of the Lisbon agenda, and to comply with the overall policy goal of developing the EU internal market and European competitiveness

“I would like to encourage all interested parties in Ireland to consider responding to this consultation. This is an ideal opportunity to get your views and opinions on this initiative into the highest European decision making body,” said Isolde Goggin, Chairperson of ComReg.

The consultation document and details on submitting comments are available on the RSPG website at http://rspg.groups.eu.int/consultations/index_en.htm. Responses must be received by 15 September 2005.

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Note to Editors:

The Lisbon Agenda and i2010: The European Commission (EC) recently published a new strategic framework, “i2010 – European Information Society 2010”, which lays out broad policy objectives to achieve an open and competitive digital economy, and emphasises ICT as a driver of inclusion and quality of life. The EC sees i2010 as a key element of the renewed Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs, which will build towards an integrated approach to the information society and audiovisual media policies in the EU. Objectives include the creation of an open and competitive single market for the information society and media services within the EU and support for technological convergence.