

DSA calls on the EU to harness the Upper 6 GHz band as soon as possible

Brussels, 18th November 2025 – The Dynamic Spectrum Alliance (DSA) is concerned that the EU's Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) recommendation on the Upper 6 GHz did not propose prioritising at least 320 MHz of contiguous spectrum for immediate access in the upper 6 GHz band for WAS/RLAN (Wi-Fi). This recommendation runs counter to the original draft opinion and most of the responses to the RSPG's own consultation, reflecting the views of thousands of European stakeholders, including industry, communities, and public service providers. European consumers will be disadvantaged without immediate access to the upper 6 GHz spectrum.

“This approach could defer vital spectrum access for WAS/RLAN (Wi-Fi) based on a highly speculative, future international outcome at WRC-27 that is far from guaranteed,” said Martha Suárez, President of the DSA. “If the upper 6 GHz spectrum is locked away in anticipation of an uncertain IMT allocation in a different band it would delay Europe's ability to expand next-generation Wi-Fi, it also would contradict the principles of evidence-based spectrum policy. Bottom line: Europe's digital competitiveness must not hinge on international negotiations two years away; instead, it should prioritise immediate, efficient, and shared use that delivers real connectivity benefits now.”

A serious digital disadvantage for Europe

The RSPG opinion disregards the critical role of Wi-Fi and other licence-exempt technologies in Europe's digital future, undermines the region's competitiveness in the global connectivity market, and puts European consumers and businesses at a disadvantage relative to their counterparts in other countries. It also ignores the reality that consumers are already investing in the technology by buying Wi-Fi-enabled devices that could access the whole 6 GHz band if authorised.

Therefore, the DSA strongly urges European policymakers to adopt a progressive, inclusive framework that:

- Enables prioritised and immediate access to a sufficient amount of spectrum (as previously advocated by DSA in its [response to the public consultation](#)) and at least 160 MHz of contiguous spectrum in the upper 6 GHz band for licence-exempt use under the same rules as the lower 6 GHz band, ensuring support for wide channels critical to Wi-Fi 7 performance.
- Allows non-prioritised access to the remaining portion of upper 6 GHz so that enterprises and consumers can enjoy the benefits of advanced wireless broadband if/until the IMT market materialises.
- Fully protects any WAS/RLANs operations in the part of the 6 GHz band prioritised for WAS/RLAN use as detailed in article 3 of EC Implementation Decision (EU) 2021/1067.
- Preserves Europe's leadership in affordable, high-performance wireless broadband and supports innovation across all sectors, and particularly education, healthcare, manufacturing, and public services.

To realise this flexible framework in practice, member states should be able to draw on the inherent strengths of licence-exempt technologies and the proven tools available to enable early access to provide the services they need as soon as possible.

Indeed, technologies operating in licence-exempt spectrum, such as Wi-Fi, are built to share spectrum intelligently and deliver flexible and affordable connectivity. The RSPG's recommendation not to reserve any part of the upper 6 GHz band exclusively for IMT means the upper 540 MHz of the remains accessible to Wi-Fi under a non-prioritised framework for WAS/RLAN.

There is no reason for delay: with proven tools, such as automated frequency coordination (AFC), already in use elsewhere, Europe can open the band safely and efficiently while protecting incumbents, while also enabling future mobile use. Should prioritised access later be granted to the first 160 MHz for Wi-Fi, AFC will adapt seamlessly, preserving flexibility and maximising efficiency. The DSA urges the EU to act now to implement AFC and non-prioritised access so that citizens and businesses can benefit from the upper 6 GHz band without further delay.

The DSA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to developing a long-term vision for the upper 6 GHz band (6425–7125 MHz) in Europe and remains committed to maintaining a constructive relationship with the RSPG.

Further background

The upper 6 GHz band represents a unique opportunity to deliver multi-gigabit connectivity for homes, enterprises, and public spaces through next-generation Wi-Fi (Wi-Fi 7 and Wi-Fi 8). Today, over 90% of broadband traffic in Europe is accessed over Wi-Fi. As fibre penetration accelerates, Wi-Fi's importance to Europe's digital economy will only increase. Denying Wi-Fi access to a portion of the upper 6 GHz band will create a bottleneck for innovation, limit capacity for advanced consumer and enterprise applications, such as AR/VR, AI-driven robotics, and smart city services, and jeopardise Europe's ability to meet its Digital Decade 2030 targets, including Europe's Green Deal agenda.

Numerous countries worldwide have already opened the entire 6 GHz band for licence-exempt use, fostering a globally harmonised ecosystem that drives down device costs, increases productivity and accelerates deployment. DSA's members are already seeing a disparity in the capability and performance of European enterprise networks vs those located in countries that have opened the entire 6 GHz band. Europe risks falling further behind if it fragments this spectrum or reserves it only for IMT. A balanced approach, one that meets the clear demand for Wi-Fi in the upper 6 GHz band, is essential to maximize spectrum efficiency and societal benefits.

The DSA urges European policymakers to adopt a forward-looking approach that embraces coexistence and innovation rather than division. By also ensuring meaningful access for licence-exempt technologies in the upper 6 GHz band and supporting dynamic spectrum sharing, Europe can unlock faster, more affordable connectivity for everyone. A balanced framework will empower all consumers and businesses, fuel next-generation applications, and keep Europe competitive in

the global digital economy. The DSA stands ready to work with governments, industry, and stakeholders to help deliver on Europe's vision for universal gigabit connectivity by 2030.

About the Dynamic Spectrum Alliance

The DSA is a global, cross-industry, not-for-profit organization advocating for laws, regulations, and best practices that enable more efficient spectrum use, fostering innovation and affordable connectivity for all. Learn more at <https://www.dynamicspectrumalliance.org>.