

News

The results of the EU consultation “Use of spectrum for more efficient energy production and distribution” has been published

On 20 January the Commission launched a public consultation on spectrum for more efficient energy production and distribution. The consultation period ended on the 18th of April. Several FINSENY partners contributed to the consultation that has been published recently. The consultation contained 21 questions that were divided into four main areas:

- smart grid systems and services related questions
- communications / data transfer related questions
- spectrum and interoperability related questions
- wireless technologies related questions

The summary of the consultation results are:

- Distribution automation, management and control of the Smart Grid Network, are the most mission-critical area.
- Wired communication solutions are preferred in this area. Wireless solutions will also play a role especially in lower voltage areas. ICT infrastructure used for such purposes will be composed of a mix of different wired and wireless communications, including powerline communication. However some argued strongly against powerline for any mission critical application.
- Utilities argued that dedicated or exclusive spectrum for a specific utility application would be the necessity, especially as certain non-exclusive spectrum bands may not be appropriate for mission-critical applications (unfavorable license conditions, inadequate nature or unpredictability of the applicable sharing conditions of available spectrum bands and unsatisfactory protection against (harmful) interference). However most of the other respondents, including national administrations, don't see a justification for dedicated or exclusive spectrum for smart grid services.

The complete report on the results of the consultation can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/radio_spectrum/document_storage/consultations/2012_energy_efficiency/energy_efficiency_pc_summary.pdf