

Regional Spectrum Agreement (RSA)
on harmonized technical conditions between the Eastern
Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the
Republic of Moldova and Ukraine)
for
Land Mobile Radio-Communication Networks
in the 694-790 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz¹ frequency bands

¹ Part of Agreement on 3.4-3.8GHz frequency range is applicable for Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Republic of Armenia has been excluded from terms of agreement about 3.4-3.8GHz frequency range due to internal decision.

1. Introduction

The aim of the Regional Spectrum Agreement on harmonized technical conditions between the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) for Land Mobile Radio-communications Networks in the 694-790 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency bands (hereinafter – “the Agreement”) is to stipulate the willingness and readiness of the Eastern Partnership (hereinafter “EaP”) countries to align the current and future implementation of the innovative technologies with the standards and decisions set by corresponding European organizations and bodies and ensure the harmonized usage of spectrum resources along with technical parameters across Europe.

This document aims to assist the coordination between the parties involved without interfering with any bilateral or multilateral agreements, which exist or could be signed in the future.

2. Common aspects

The Agreement covers frequency arrangements for Land Mobile Radio-Communication Networks following the spectrum arrangements below:

Frequency band²	Base receive	Base transmit
FDD 700 MHz	703-733 MHz	758-788 MHz
TDD 3500 MHz	3400-3600 MHz	
TDD 3800 MHz	3600-3800 MHz	

The provisions of the Agreement add to the mandatory requirements of the ITU Constitution and the ITU Radio Regulations, both of which have the status of an International Treaty, in particular:

- Article 15.2 of the ITU Radio Regulations: “Transmitting stations shall radiate only as much power as is necessary to ensure a satisfactory service”;
- Articles 15.4 and 15.5 of the ITU Radio Regulations:
 - Locations of transmitting stations and, where the nature of the service permits, locations of receiving stations shall be selected with particular care;
 - Radiation in and reception from unnecessary directions shall be minimized by taking the maximum practical advantage of the properties of directional antennae whenever the nature of the service permits.

The Agreement has been concluded with a view to:

- Reduce problems of harmful interference between land mobile radio communication systems operating in neighbouring countries;
- Optimize the use of spectrum resources in the border areas.

In particular, the Agreement has been concluded aiming to reach a balanced solution between:

- a) Minimization of harmful emissions coming from the neighbouring territories. These harmful emissions may cause harmful interference, or excessive coverage, which cause undesirable roaming and may prevent an Administration from utilizing / allocating portions of its national spectrum; and

² In case of other than stated Division Duplex scheme, the relevant recommendations should be taken into account.

- b) Specification of satisfactory frequency-usage conditions for land mobile operators to operate their networks, while maintaining a good quality of service and good coverage upon the national territory.

The Agreement applies to base stations and fixed terminal stations in border areas of all 6 EaP countries and is based on the principle of equitable access to spectrum resources.

When implementing of the 700 MHz frequency band arrangement, national administrations should take into consideration the existing agreements of administrations, the broadcasting service and / or other primary terrestrial service, which is considered to be affected.

Given the common borders between a number of EaP countries that are parties to this Agreement and members of the European Union, the Agreement should also give due consideration to the progress mutually achieved by the countries of the European Union and CEPT in terms of the harmonised use of the bands covered by this Agreement, in particular:

- Decision (EU) 2017/899 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band in the Union;
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/235 of 24 January 2019 on amending Decision 2008/411/EC as regards an update of relevant technical conditions applicable to the 3400-3800 MHz frequency band; and
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/687 of 28 April 2016 on the harmonisation of the 694-790 MHz frequency band for terrestrial systems capable of providing wireless broadband electronic communications services and for flexible national use in the Union.

3. Individual starting points

The EaP countries recognise that the usage of 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency bands in the region should respect the different stages of preparatory work already into place and the sovereign rights and interests of each EaP country. At the same time, having recognized that the 700 MHz and 3.4-3.8 GHz frequency bands are the best candidates for initial 5G implementation, the EaP countries hereby jointly agree to use these frequency bands for mobile/fixed communications networks (MFCN), including International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) technologies. This way, the EaP countries will focus their efforts on enabling growth while implementing advanced technologies.

The EaP countries hereby agree to follow *individual national implementation plans, while considering common deadlines set in the EU decisions referenced in section 2*. The national implementation plans will take into account the preparatory work already into place in each EaP country, relevant technical recommendations and decisions with respect to countries' geopolitical borders, sovereign interests and rights.

4. Commitment of Parties

The EaP countries should notify each other of changes regarding the use of the existing services in the considered frequency bands, in order to facilitate the implementation of IMT systems.

5. Spectrum arrangements for IMT systems in the corresponding frequency bands

Administrations wishing to introduce MFCN in the corresponding frequency bands are recommended to apply the frequency arrangements and technical conditions according to the latest edition of ECC Recommendation (15)01 and the Commission Implementing Decisions which were based on the CEPT ECC decisions ECC DEC (15)01 and ECC DEC (11)06.

Frequency band	Corresponding regulation
FDD 700 MHz	Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/687 ECC Recommendation (15)01
TDD 3400-3600 MHz	Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/235 ECC Recommendation (15)01
TDD 3600-3800 MHz	

In order to ensure the optimum network performance for IMT systems deployed in the border areas, Administrations shall encourage operators to coordinate the use of physical-layer, cell-identity groups and other parameters.

6. Harmful Interferences

In addition to this Agreement, the EaP countries may conclude bilateral coordination agreements for land mobile radio networks in accordance with Article 6 of the ITU Radio Regulations. Such bilateral agreements will aim to minimize harmful interference and/or degradation of the quality of service, due to the rise of the field strength coming from a neighbouring territory.

In order to ensure the optimum network performance for IMT systems deployed in the border areas, the EaP countries shall coordinate the use of physical-layer, cell-identity groups and other technical parameters, in accordance with the latest international recommendations and best practices for signals using the same frequency.

7. Review and follow up of the Agreement

The EaP countries may request a review of the Agreement. The Agreement may be revised in the light of future developments, including the introduction of new technologies and experiences acquired in the operation of the networks covered by the Agreement, if appointed by other countries. Any EaPs country may withdraw from the Agreement by notifying the EaP countries in written form at least three months in advance.

8. Date of entry into force

The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature by the representatives of all participating countries.

9. Signatories

In witness whereof, the representatives of EaP countries signed one copy of the Agreement in the English language. This copy shall remain deposited with the Managing EaP country. The Managing EaP country shall forward one certified true copy to each contracting country.

Date of sign: __/__/2020

<p>Armenia Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>	<p>Azerbaijan Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>
<p>Belarus Ministry of Communication and Informatization</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>	<p>Georgia Ministry of Economics and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>
<p>Republic of Moldova Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure (MEI)</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>	<p>Ukraine Ministry of Digital Transformation</p> <p>Represented by</p> <hr/>