

UMTS Forum response to ECC on draft new ECC Decision (06)EE

UMTS Forum welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to ECC on ECC/DEC/(06)EE.

The Forum represents a significant group of spectrum users, which are directly interested in the development of public mobile networks, including UMTS/IMT-2000 and, especially, the related spectrum topics. The UMTS Forum gathers many different players involved in third generation mobile systems, including equipment manufacturers, operators, administrations, service providers and software developers.

UMTS Forum fully supports the ECC Decision ECC/DEC/(06)04 and believes that it facilitates a feasible deployment of UWB in a due time in Europe. The Forum welcomes the ECC approach to take into account the need to minimize interference from UWB to the existing and likely future services that are planned to operate in the same indoor environment. The Forum also believes that the ECC decision gives a sufficient framework for the UWB operation.

Regarding the phased approach and ECC/DEC/06)EE, the Forum believes that a new decision does not improve the availability of real UWB applications significantly: The status of UWB technology is still in its early phase. A real market is not expected in so short a time that the phased approach would benefit the users. Today there is still development work required in the baseband MAC layers e.g. in the areas of interoperability, reliability, power consumption etc., i.e. in areas that are not related to the used frequency band. At the time when the technology is more developed, it is expected that the chipsets for 6 – 8.5. GHz are available as well.

As the assumed benefits of phased approach for the users, such as earlier availability of UWB equipment, are questionable, UMTS Forum does not see justification for a new decision on it. Also, the phased approach would bring other drawbacks such as:

- It will take the focus away from the coherent European long-term solution and possibly delay the availability of equipment for the band 6 - 8.5 GHz frequency range.
- There may be challenges to ensure that the European equipment operate only in the allowed 4.2 – 4.8 GHz band, as the allowed band in the US is 3.1 – 5 GHz.

As a conclusion, the Forum fully supports the ECC/DEC/(06)04 and does not see much benefit of phased approach and having a new ECC/DEC/06)EE on UWB.
