



Brussels, 17 July 2023
(OR. en)

11868/23

LIMITE

PE-QE 85

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject: PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER
E-001811/2023 - Carlos Zorrinho (S&D)
'World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 – EU position'

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above question for written answer;
 - a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.

2. If no comments have been received from delegations by 6 September 2023 (17:00), this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.

**Question for written answer E-001811/2023
to the Council**

Rule 138

Carlos Zorrinho (S&D)

Subject: World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 – EU position

The Council has been preparing its position ahead of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), which will take place in Dubai from 20 November to 15 December 2023.

Wide-ranging decisions on the future of radio spectrum will be taken at the conference, including on the 6 425–7 125 MHz band ('upper 6 GHz band') and its potential designation as an International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) bandwidth.

These decisions will have a significant impact on people and businesses in Europe and will directly affect the ability to meet the gigabit connectivity targets set out in the digital decade policy programme.

- 1) Does the Council intend to ensure that incumbents' services and applications in the upper 6 GHz band are protected, without additional constraints being placed on them?
- 2) Against the backdrop of the possible IMT designation, does it intend to promote a technology-neutral approach, together with its geopolitical allies, and ensure that the EU does not lose the flexibility to decide on the best use of the band after WRC-23?

Submitted: 6.6.2023

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E-001811/2023
Reply

The Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conference 2023¹ (WRC-23) was submitted by the European Commission to the Council on 4 May 2023.

At present, the examination of the proposal is taking place in the Council with the intention to adopt the Decision before the WRC-23 starting on 20 November 2023. The Council is not in a position to foresee at this stage the outcome of the discussions on the proposal.

¹ doc. 9064/23