

Wireless Access Policy for Electronic Communications Services (WAPECS): Collision between Theory and Practice

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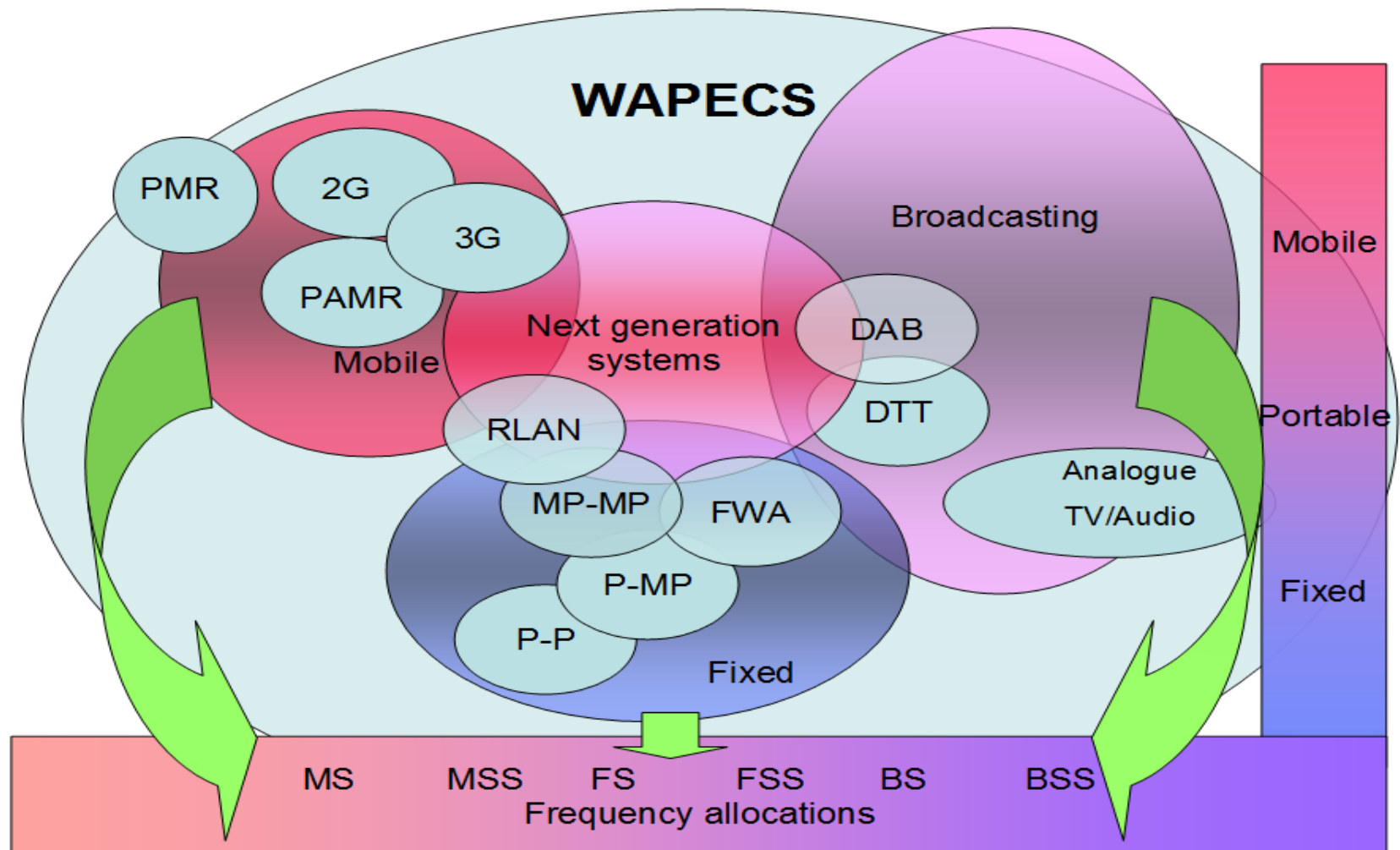
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The authors are solely responsible for the opinions expressed in this presentation.

Outlines

- Understanding WAPECS.
- Methodology
- Perceptions of WAPECS.
- Influence of WAPECS on the market.
- Influence of the international spectrum regulations on WAPECS
- European attempts to introduce flexibility to the international service allocation framework
- Discussion
- Conclusions

Understanding WAPECS



Methodology

- Qualitative method – case study (WAPECS).
- Primary data: 20 semi-structured interviews.

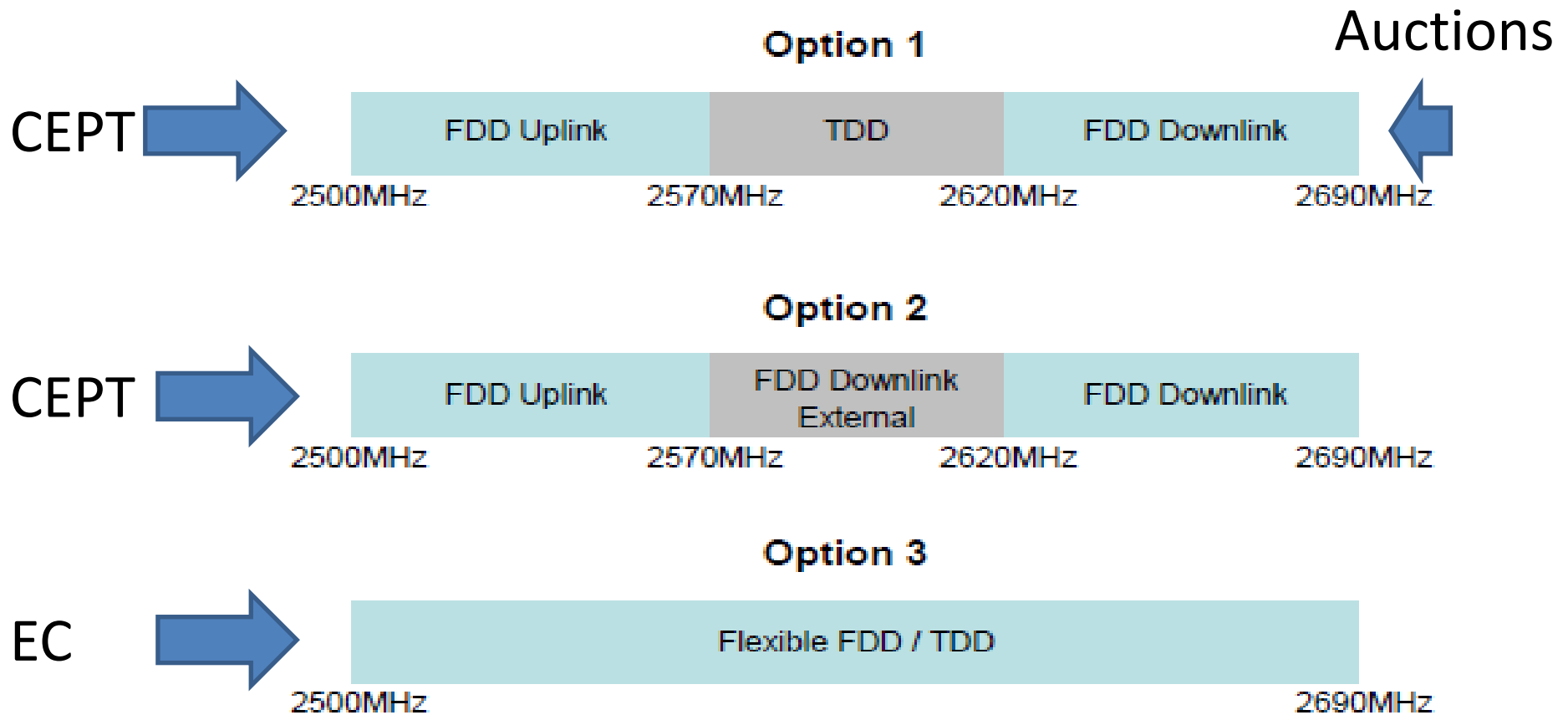
Perceptions of WAPECS

- Mostly negative

*“We played for a couple of years on WAPECS,
we ended up with this”.*

- Disagreement over WAPECS.
- Contradiction with spectrum use efficiency.
- Potential interference.
- Contradiction with technology neutrality.
- Role of the European Commission.

Influence of WAPECS on the Market



Influence of WAPECS on the Market

- More demand for FDD.
- WiMAX (TDD, FDD).
- Interference management.
- Dominance of few technologies (e.g. LTE).
- 3.5 GHz: “*too* much flexibility kills the flexibility issue”.
- Positive impacts: (e.g. technology neutrality, BEM).

Influence of International Spectrum Regulations on WAPECS

- Confusion between ITU-R radiocommunication services vs. electronic communications services (ECS).
- Contradiction between WAPECS and the international spectrum regulations.
- Role of the ITU-R:

“ITU-R is targeting harmonisation but is not constraining administrations’ flexibility”

European Attempts to Introduce Flexibility to the International Service Allocation Framework

“the idea was to carry over the same spirit into the ITU”

- WRC-03: Terrestrial wireless interactive multimedia applications.
- WRC-07: Options for improvements in radio regulations.
- WRC-12: Fixed & mobile service convergence.
- WRC-15: No change.

“The radio regulation is flexible enough and it took some times for people to realize that”

“we do not want this miserable debate again”

Discussion

The market has the say.

The international spectrum regulations
accommodate WAPECS.

Europe should have engaged the rest of the world
in the WAPECS concept.

The rest of the world is also pro-flexibility.

Conclusions

Regulators can resist ideas but they cannot resist technologies.

“As I see it, progress in understanding the working of the economic system will come from an interplay between theory and empirical work”
Roland Coase, 2006.



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