

NOTES ON TASKS IARU REGION 1 AND ITS VHF/UHF/MICROWAVES COMMITTEE

The IARU and their regional organisations are the officially accredited representative of the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and all their organisations and Conferences, like, for instance, the WARC's.

Apart from the contributions IARU Region 1 and its officers make to the above work, IARU Region 1 specifically represents the amateur interests at, amongst others, the Conference of European Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) and their European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) in Copenhagen, as well as at the European Union (EU) in Brussels.

The coordination of the representative work done by the IARU Region 1 is in the hands of the member of the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee, Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM.

The most important tasks of the IARU and their regional organisations are:

- 1) to defend, extend and upgrade the status of the frequency segments allocated by the ITU to the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service;
- 2) to coordinate the orderly use of the frequency bands allocated to the Amateur service and the Amateur Satellite Service by the ITU and the national Administrations by careful bandplanning.

The supporting role of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee with respect to the above tasks is clearly set out in the Terms of Reference of this Committee, given in section Ia.

The defence, extension and management of the allocations above 30 MHz has been the subject of the following recommendations adopted by the IARU Region 1 on the basis of proposals brought forward by the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee.

At the IARU Region 1 Conference in Scheveningen (1972) the following recommendation was adopted :

Member societies are strongly recommended to establish and maintain contact with their national Administrations at a policy level to ensure that the case for amateur radio in the VHF/UHF/Microwaves bands is properly known and can effectively be presented by each Administration at future frequency allocation Conferences. VHF Managers are to see that the Councils of their societies pursue this policy and will ensure that the Secretary of IARU Region 1 is kept informed of developments with national Administrations.

In view of the fact that the 435 MHz band is shared with the Radiolocation Service, and that difficulties have arisen regarding the frequencies allocated to the Syledis radiolocation system by some licensing authorities, the following recommendation was adopted at the IARU Region I Conference in Cefalu (1984):

On short notice societies in countries bordering the North Sea will again approach their P & T authorities with an urgent request to reconsider, both nationally and in the appropriate international co-operative bodies, the frequency allocation for the Syledis system in view of its incompatibility with the long- established Amateur Service in the 435 MHz band.

Regarding the allocation of bands to the Amateur Services the following recommendation was adopted at the IARU Region I Conference in Cefalu (1984) :

As a few authorities in the European part of Region I have allowed some amateur activity in the 50 MHz part of the spectrum, societies are urged to again approach their P & T authorities with the aim of obtaining an allocation or assignment preferably between 50 and 55 MHz. In view of the TV activity still present in this part of the spectrum, in the first instance permission may be sought for operation outside TV broadcast hours, e.g. for experimental purposes for a selected number of stations.

A further recommendation regarding the 50 MHz band was adopted at the meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee in Vienna, March 1992, and accepted as interim IARU Region 1 policy by the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee at their meeting in Budapest, April 1992. This recommendation was ratified at the IARU Region 1 Conference in De Haan (1993) and reads:

All IARU Region 1 member societies in countries where the Amateur Service is currently not permitted to use the 50 MHz band shall endeavour to obtain such a permission in the 50 - 54 MHz band. This permission should preferably be permanent and under the same conditions as valid for the normal licences. In order to obtain a common IARU Region 1 band, the allocation band obtained should at least contain the frequency segment 50 - 50.5 MHz.

At the meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee in Düsseldorf (1989) the following recommendation regarding the shared microwave bands was adopted and a few weeks later approved as interim IARU Region 1 policy by the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee at their meeting in Torremolinos, April 1989. The IARU Region 1 Conference at Torremolinos, April 1990, ratified this recommendation:

IARU and IARU Region 1 should maintain their basic policy of trying to retain all wideband secondary allocations in the Microwave bands.

Note. This IARU policy is clearly set out in paper C3.35, submitted to the IARU Region 1 Conference at De Haan (1993) by the International Secretariat of IARU. At this Conference the paper¹ was adopted by IARU Region 1.

However, IARU and IARU Region 1 should also endeavour to convince Administrations that in all countries the same small region-wide common segments - in the order of 2 MHz wide - should be allocated to the Amateur Service, as commonality is a practical necessity for international amateur activities.

N.B. Already at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Noordwijkerhout (April 1987) IARU Region 1 nominated a VHF/UHF/Microwave Frequency Allocation Coordinator (see section Id). His terms of reference include carrying out the work mentioned above in behalf of IARU Region 1.

At the WARC in Torremolinos (1990) the status of the Mobile Service in the frequency segment 2300 - 2450 MHz was upgraded to Primary (see Frequency Allocation Tables). The Mobile Service and the Amateur Services must be considered to be practically incompatible, as far as the use of frequencies is concerned. Hence IARU Region 1 is making vigorous efforts - via approaches by member societies to Administrations, as well as indirect approaches to, for instance, the CEPT - to get a reasonable and common part of this frequency segment de facto or de jure exclusively allocated to the Amateur Service.

Within CEPT an large programme has been initiated from 1993 onwards to create a harmonised European frequency table. Detailed Spectrum Investigations (DSI) have been arranged and IARU Region 1 and its member societies have actively contributed to those studies. In the microwave bands this has led to retention of the existing allocations in the ITU table and in addition to a recommendation that administrations should allocate spectrum in the 3400-3500 MHz band to their amateurs. Moreover the concept of virtually exclusive narrow segments in the microwave bands has been recognised by the CEPT.

Currently amateurs in LA, PA and OZ have got access to 3400-3410 MHz in addition to the (ITU footnote) allocations in Germany and Great Britain.

The CEPT discussions about the spectrum 29.7 - 960 MHz have not yet finished in 1996 and in particular the 430-440 MHz amateur allocation, which in several Region 1 countries already is smaller or of a lower status, is under attack. At the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves committee meeting in Vienna 1995 the threat to the 435 MHz band was taken seriously and all member societies in the CEPT countries were urged to lobby for retention of the "full allocation".

At the IARU Administrative Council (AC) meeting in Bandung, October 1991, the misuse of amateur bands was discussed, i.e. the use of these bands for purposes which have nothing to do with the Amateur Services by, for instance, research institutes, groups of people interested in forwarding technical information in aid of developing countries etc. - sometimes with the permission of the pertaining Administration!

Resolution 91-1 was drafted, which set out procedures aimed at giving the regional IARU organisations more possibilities for taking action in defence of the interests of the Amateur Services.

¹ For reference purposes this paper is attached to this section as appendix 2

At the meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwaves Committee in Vienna (March 1992) the following recommendation was adopted, which in April 1992 was approved by the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee at their meeting in Budapest, and later ratified by the IARU Region 1 Conference in De Haan (1993):

Resolution 91-1 of the IARU Administrative Council is recommended for immediate adoption as interim IARU Region 1 policy until ratification by the next Region 1 Conference.

The text of the IARU AC Resolution 91-1 can be found in Appendix 1 to this section.

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