

Preparation of Point 2.12 in the WRC 07 Agenda

1. Introduction and Reminder of How the ITU Operates

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) comes under the control of the United Nations Organisation. It takes in the radiocommunication sector (ITU-R) among others. It provides a technical framework in this field enabling the different nations to contribute to the use of the radio spectrum and the improvement of user conditions.

The agreements linking State members in the context of the ITU are the basis for spectrum management on the international level. Recognising that the use of the radio spectrum originates from the sovereignty of the member States, but that its efficient use makes it necessary for this to be regulated. Therefore, with this controlled sovereignty, the ITU's international agreements are fundamental instruments on the international level by which the member States commit themselves to respecting the common rules of spectrum sharing and use are chiefly confined to the Radiocommunication Regulations (RR). Developments in frequency attributions and their user conditions are determined by the ITU-R's World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) held approximately every three to four years. As for other UN conferences, the proceedings resulting from the conferences, once ratified, have the power of an international treaty.

2. Procedure

A WRC agenda is definitively fixed by the preceding one, subject to a final approval by the ITU Council. The subjects to be inserted into the agenda are proposed by the member states to the regional and independent organisations : CEPT (European Postal and Telecommunication Conference), CITEL (Inter-American Telecommunication Commission) and APAT (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity), etc.

Each of these regional organisations has assigned the preparation of the WRCs to ad hoc structures; for example, with regard to the CEPT, its CPG (Conference Preparatory Group) has entrusted the elaboration of the list of proposed subjects to the ECP (European Common Proposal), in the same way that the CITEL has entrusted it to the IAP (Inter-American Proposal), etc.

Within this system, the only organisation that may qualify to intervene during a WRC is the official representative of the member state.

It is thought that this process will take a while, even if it offers some advantages in reaching a consensus on difficult subjects, the formulation of which should appear on the agenda. Items should therefore be presented and defended well in advance of the dates of the WRCs.

Supporting point 2.12 of the provisional WRC 07 agenda "to consider spectrum requirements for wideband aeronautical telemetry in the band between 3 GHz and 30 GHz" means that all interested user organisations supply contributions to their respective National Organisation presenting their needs, restrictions and economic requirements. These contributions are collected by each country involved and proposed to regional organisations for harmonisation. They enable the National organisations to take into account the different aspects of the subject in order to support their respective positions.

These contributions must therefore, if possible, represent the points of view of all types of applications. In addition, it is hoped that each nation will propose a reformulation of Point 2.12 in greater agreement with the various restrictions of the future.

3. Contribution

Point 2.12 on the preliminary WRC 07 agenda must be confirmed definitively during WRC'2003 (Geneva, 9 June – 4 July 2003).

The delegations that wish to intervene with regard to items on this agenda will have to do so in February and April, during the preparatory meetings (CEPT/CPG/ECP, CITELE/IAP, etc.). It is therefore essential that the contributions (arguing and reformulating the subject) be given to the National organisations prior to these meetings. These national arguments will probably present a certain diversity of opinion, representing each country's national preoccupations, and will remain particular to each delegation. Conversely, it is hoped that the reformulation proposals will be coherent taking into account anticipated needs. The ICTS' WG#1 is in a good position to help achieve this coherence.

4. WRC 07 agenda

Contributions must be submitted to the National organisations by mid-February 2003 at the latest to be taken into account during the CPG in February. This issue may also be further considered at the CPG April meeting at the very latest. NLS. #14 & 15 will keep ICTS members informed about the progress of this task.