



Report from the event supported by RadioNet

TITLE *52ND ECC PLENARY MEETING IN TALLINN, ESTONIA,*

DATE: *3 – 6 MARCH 2020*

LOCATION: *Tallinn, Estonia*

MEETING WEBPAGE: <https://www.cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/news/52nd-ecc-plenary-meeting-in-tallinn-estonia-3-6-march-2020/>

HOST INSTITUTE:
*CEPT/ECC (ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE OF
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS)*

**RADIONET
BENEFICIARY / NO:** *VENTA / 20*



Report:

1. SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY

This was not a scientific meeting. The meeting organizing body, the Electronic Communications Committee of European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT/ECC) is responsible for radio communication regulation in European countries. At this meeting, me, Vladislavs Bezrukovs represented CRAF, the Expert Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (CRAF) of the European Science Foundation, which represents the European radio astronomical community in matters of radio frequency protection. Among the topics, which were discussed, three are of utmost importance to European radio astronomy. Conclusions from meeting minutes:

Iridium NEXT satellites, measurements in Leeheim (Update)

Additional measurements

The WG FM chairman reported that WG FM, at its meeting in February 2020, had been informed by WG SE about on-going activities and measurements of the Iridium NEXT out-of-band emissions. WG FM had agreed to the FM44 proposal to update the 2015 questionnaire on Iridium's licences in CEPT to provide a better view of the situation. A draft questionnaire will be considered at the next WG FM meeting in June 2020.

It was also recalled during the latest WG FM meeting that out-of-band measurements were initially requested by WG FM in order to check compliance with RAS protection levels and to consider the enforcement actions described in ECC Decision (09)02 before CEPT countries renew the Iridium's licences.

This was noted by the ECC.

In ECC(20)007, WG SE informed ECC that after initial measurements in May 2019, additional measurements were conducted in November 2019 unilaterally by BNetzA and a significant increase of the level of emission in the RAS band was recorded. This point was discussed by SE40 that drafted a factual description of the situation. WG SE agreed to raise this question to ECC level based on SE40 elements.

CRAF in ECC(20)032 proposed in particular that ECC would set a deadline not exceeding 6 months and would review the licensing of Iridium in Europe. Iridium confirmed in ECC(20)INFO04 that the compliance to RAS protection is expected in June 2020 and will keep ECC updated on progress through its report to SE40.

The Netherlands noted the statement from Iridium in ECC(20)INFO04 that the level of OoB emissions to protect RAS is planned to be fulfilled in June 2020 and expected updated information on this topic during July 2020 ECC meeting.

Switzerland noticed the band agreed by FCC for GMDSS deviates from the frequency band agreed during WRC-19.

In accordance with the WGSE progress report, the WG SE Chairman pointed out the question of funding the additional measurement to check this conformity after June 2020. Funding issues are not under the scope of WG SE. ECC noted that funding issues are also outside of its scope.

ECC will include in the agenda of its July 2020 53rd ECC meeting this topic to take into account the progress on measures to prevent the Iridium NEXT constellation from causing interference to RAS and ensure protection.

Sat MoU

The ECO introduced document ECC(20)018, a compendium of the responses from WG FM, WG SE and the Sat MoU Management Committee regarding three questions asked by the ECC #51 to facilitate the ongoing discussion on the future of Satellite Monitoring within CEPT.

Mr. Tschannen (SUI) introduced ECC(20)INFO 01 explaining that Switzerland considered there were benefits of CEPT measurement campaigns through Sat MoU but that the burden/cost should have a reasonable degree of distribution within CEPT so that individual contributions are not too high. If at the end of 2020 reasonable financing of Sat MoU is not agreed Switzerland will unfortunately have to withdraw from the Sat MoU.

Mr. Deedman (ESOA) introduced document ECC(20)029, summarising that the satellite industry sees a continuing need for satellite monitoring pointing on the situations in Q- and V-band, mega-constellations in Ka- and Ku- band, on the C-band where FSS shares with MS, and on the WRC-23 agenda items touching topics of relevance for the operation of satellites.

Document ECC(20)032 was introduced by Mr. Bezrukovs (ESF-CRAF), as well as document ECC(20)025 by Mr. Tristant (EUMETSAT/ESA) highlighting the relevance of satellite monitoring for these publicly financed activities of these LoUs partners.

Some administrations that see the need for satellite monitoring at a CEPT level expressed their support for the continuation of satellite monitoring as is undertaken today and invited other administrations to contribute to this CEPT activity. Others indicated that they did not see a need for satellite monitoring at a CEPT level. Elements around the financing of satellite monitoring were discussed, including the possibility by industry and/or other organisations as suggested by the UK. Germany and France felt that the neutrality of measurements would need to be maintained if CEPT observers (e.g. private companies / stakeholders) were to contribute to the financing.

Germany underlined that the SatMoU will expire by the end of 2021 and that the main question is, whether or not CEPT wishes to have the possibility to monitor satellites in future. The second step, if the answer would be yes, would be to respond to the question, how to finance that. It is unlikely that Germany as the operator of the satellite monitoring station in Leeheim will provide measurements for CEPT free of charge after 2021.

It was clarified, that there may not be the possibility for CEPT, in particular WG FM 44 or SE 40, to task Leeheim with measurements after 2021.

The United Kingdom considered that the issue of CEPT needs for satellite monitoring is not wholly separate from the funding of Sat MoU, particularly as this whole discussion was initially prompted by the Sat MoU Management Committee themselves. Spain noted that they had withdrawn from Sat MoU and did not think that it should be generally funded by CEPT. Russia noted that it has its own satellite monitoring facilities and this is only funded by the Russian administration. It was highlighted that further information would be helpful concerning the explicit needs for satellite monitoring for the foreseen activities and tasks of the ECC and its subordinate groups. It was also suggested that further information could be sought from the Sat MoU regarding funding options, for example from external parties. It should be noted that there is already some information provided in document ECC(20)018.

ECC invited administrations to further consider whether or not they consider CEPT should do satellite monitoring in future, based on their expectations of the future activities and tasks of ECC and its subordinate groups. Contributions are invited on the explicit needs for satellite monitoring for the existing and foreseen activities and tasks of the ECC and its subordinate groups.

Interference to C-Band meteorological radars

ECC(20)INFO 05 was presented by EUMETNET concerning the interference from 5 GHz RLAN to Meteorological radars issue, stressing the continuation and increase of interference cases in Europe, despite the ECC action plan initiated at the Dublin ECC Meeting (March 2017). EUMETNET stated that, in their view and at current stage, they considered there was a lack of on-going activities within EC and ECC. It was noted that activities are ongoing in ADCO, EG RED, TCAM, as well as in FM 22 and WG FM. Administrations were asked to consider the interference issues and to contribute to the next meeting where this item will be included on the agenda.

The Counsellor from the European Commission, Mr Andreas Geiss, informed the meeting that he will further discuss the issue within EC.

2. AGENDA OF THE EVENT

The ECC has agreed on a number of deliverables on spectrum use and responses to Mandates from the European Commission dealing with sectors such as 5G and wireless broadband communications, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), Railway Mobile Radio (RMR) and Radio Local Area Networks (RLAN).

Here is a summary of the outcome from the meeting.

General matters

The ECC has appointed four new members to its management team:

- Henk Verkerk (Netherlands) as ECC Vice Chairman
- Vincent Durepaire (France) as WG FM Chairman
- Elizabeth Greenberg (United Kingdom) as WG NaN Chair
- Alexandre Kholod (Switzerland) as CPG Chairman

Final approval of deliverables for publication:

ECC approved the following deliverables for publication:

- CEPT Report 73 in response to the Mandate to study feasibility and identify harmonised technical conditions for Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks in the 5925-6425 MHz band for the provision of wireless broadband services (Report A: Assessment and study of compatibility and coexistence scenarios in the band 5925-6425 MHz).
- ECC Decision (19)04 – “The harmonised use of spectrum and free circulation and use of earth stations on-board aircraft operating with GSO FSS networks and NGSO FSS systems in the frequency bands 12.75-13.25 GHz (Earth-to-space) and 10.7-12.75 GHz (space-to-Earth)”.
- Amended ECC Decision (08)01 – “The harmonised use of the 5875 - 5935 MHz frequency band for Safety Related Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)”.
- Corrected ECC Decision (12)03 – “The harmonised conditions for UWB applications onboard aircraft”.
- ECC Report 306 on “CEPT investigations on possible usage of low power audio PMSE in the band 960-1164 MHz”.
- ECC Report 307 - “Toolbox for the most appropriate synchronisation regulatory framework including coexistence of MFCN in 24.25-27.5 GHz in unsynchronised and semi-synchronised mode”.
- ECC Report 308 - “Analysis of the suitability and update of the regulatory technical conditions for 5G MFCN and AAS operation in the 2500 – 2690 MHz band”.
- ECC Recommendation (20)01 - “Guidelines to support the introduction of 5G while ensuring, in a proportionate way, the use of existing and planned FSS transmitting earth stations in the frequency band 24.65-25.25 GHz and the possibility for future deployment of these earth stations”.
- Amended ECC Recommendation (08)01 - “Use of the band 5855 - 5875 MHz for Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)”.

Approval of draft deliverables for Public consultation:

The ECC adopted for public consultation the following ECC deliverables:

- Draft CEPT Report 74 in response to the Mandate on spectrum for the future railway mobile communications system (FRMCS) (Report A: Spectrum needs and feasibility (tasks 1 to 4)). This draft Report is dependent on the outcome of the public consultations of draft ECC Reports 313 and 314 from WG SE as well as draft ECC Report 318 from PT1.
- Draft ECC Report 309 - “Use of MFCN for the command & control and payload links of UAS within the current MFCN harmonised regulatory framework”. This draft Report is accompanied by a cover letter which highlights some elements for which some broader assessment within the public consultation would be very helpful.
- Draft ECC Report 317 - “Toolkit to assist administrations who are considering authorisation regimes for 26 GHz other than individual rights of use”. This draft ECC Report follows the letter from the European Commission concerning “authorisation regimes other than individual rights of use” in the 26 GHz band.
- Draft ECC Report 318 - “Compatibility between RMR and MFCN in the 900 MHz range, the 1900-1920 MHz band and the 2290-2300 MHz band”. The open issues dealing with some assumptions and the specific methodologies are intended to be resolved as a result of the public consultation.

Other issues

Letter from European Commission on the impact of the WRC-19 outcome (26 GHz)

The ECC considered and thoroughly discussed the questions raised in the letter from the EC on the outcome of WRC-19 for the 24-25-27.5 GHz band. The ECC plenary discussed the various inputs to the meeting and after intensive debates, the ECC agreed on a response to EC questions as well as to additional observations.

Draft CEPT in response to the Mandate to study feasibility and identify harmonised technical conditions for Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks in the 5925-6425 MHz band for the provision of wireless broadband services (Report B: harmonised technical parameters for WAS/RLANs)

The ECC, having considered all the outstanding issues required to finalize the draft CEPT Report, agreed to ask the Radio Spectrum Committee to postpone the delivery of this draft CEPT Report until the next ECC plenary meeting in July.

ECC work programme

Several new work items were agreed by the ECC plenary, e.g. on feasibility of having optional requirement for an NCU in Mobile Communications on Aircraft, MFCN TDD networks in the frequency band 3400-3800 MHz, technical and regulatory conditions for MFCN in the band 2300-2400 MHz band and a new ECC decision on 40.5-43.5 GHz comprising a band plan and technical conditions suitable for 5G.

ECC Strategic plan 2020-2025

The draft strategic plan is a short high-level document that sets out the “principles” which inform the approach to the work within the ECC and through the identification of high-level “topics” which describe the most significant themes. This document will be adopted for publication at the next ECC plenary meeting.

Next meeting

The next 53rd plenary meeting of ECC is scheduled for June 30th – July 3rd in Belgrade, Serbia.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The ECC had its 52nd plenary meeting in Tallinn (Estonia) from 3 – 6 March 2020. It gathered approximately 90 participants representing 31 CEPT administrations and observers. The participants at these meetings are all experts in spectrum management, on technical and/or regulatory aspects. Some represent the national spectrum Agencies of the CEPT member countries, others industry involved in either the proposed new mobile broadband applications, or the numerous potential victim services (broadcasting, fixed services, satellite communications, etc.), and others represent accredited scientific organizations such as CRAF (radio astronomy) or ESA (Earth Exploration Science Service).

The attendance list published for this meeting by the ECC/Chairman is available on the meeting website (Document 09/03/20 ECC(20)055 Annex 29 List of participants for 52nd ECC).

Conference picture was posted online by the ECC:



4. RADIONET FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The RadioNet support was used to pay for the attendance of the CRAF member Vladislavs Bezrukovs (nationality: Latvia).

5. PUBLICATIONS

This meeting will not result in scientific publications. CRAF's input to CEPT/ECC meetings consists of technical compatibility studies on the protection of the radio astronomy service from other services, technical advice, and contribution to CEPT or ECC texts (recommendations, reports, etc.). The input and output documents are publicly available on the ECC web site: <https://www.cept.org/ecc/groups/ecc/client/meeting-documents/>