



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



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Contact:	D F Beattie, G3BJ	e-mail:	g3ozf@btinternet.com

Introduction

This paper is a report from the Executive Committee to the 2005 Davos General Conference. It replaces the previous practice of simply having a report from the Secretary, and aims to provide a broader overview of what has happened in the Region over the last three years since the San Marino Conference in November 2002.

Meetings of the EC

The EC has met formally once each year (with an additional short meeting planned immediately before the 2005 Davos Conference). Minutes of the meetings have been circulated to Member Societies, and published on the Region 1 website.

All EC members have played an active part in the meetings, although towards the end of the period covered by this report, Abdi Razak A.Al-Shahwarzi, A41JT, withdrew from active involvement because of pressure of work.

EC meetings have also been attended by representatives of Regions 2 and 3, and the International Secretariat. We have welcomed the involvement of our colleagues from outside Region1, which has brought additional richness to our discussions.

Region 1 Office

The Region 1 Secretary elected at the San Marino Conference decided, with the agreement of the EC, not to continue the practice of employing a paid office manager. All office administration has been done by the Secretary personally. This has saved some CHF 120,000 over the three years of this report, and has contributed significantly to the much improved financial position of the region. It is planned to continue operating the Region 1 office in this way.

Contact with Member Societies has been helped enormously by the almost universal access available to MS on e-mail. Difficulties have arisen when MS have forgotten to update the secretary of changes to e-mail addresses, and the EC asks for MS help in providing updated information promptly.

Region 1 News has been replaced by more extensive use of the Region 1 website. The EC acknowledges that there is still more work to be done to make the website fully relevant and up-to-date, and is planning further developments to ensure that it becomes the preferred source of information on what is happening in Region 1

Administrative Council and other Regional meetings

Representatives of the EC have attended the annual Administrative Council (AC) meetings. These have given the Region the opportunity to make input into the broader work of IARU. We welcome in particular the decision at the last AC meeting to fundamentally review the role and direction of IARU. We believe that the world is changing, and that organisations like IARU have to re-invent themselves in order to remain relevant. We anticipate that once this work is complete (with the opportunity to make input from Regions and MS), proposals will be made to reshape the Constitutions of IARU and its constituent Regions to give effect to any changes agreed.

EC representatives have also attended some of the Executive Committee meetings and General Conferences of other Regions (the General Conferences generally being held alongside meeting of the AC).

Applications for membership

Region 1 has received a number of enquiries and requests for membership of IARU. Of these, two have been accepted into membership (Georgia, NARG, and Armenia, FRRA) and one (Guinea – ARGUI) has progressed to the final stage of being publicised in the IARU Calendar.

Some expressions of interest have come from countries where there is already a recognised IARU member society, and in these cases discussions have been referred back to the existing MS.

There have also been challenges to the legitimacy of existing Member Societies to represent amateurs in some countries. The EC has here tried to investigate the position with tact, and reach a sensible conclusion. Some of these issues are ongoing.

Financial issues

The region's finances are generally healthy, and full details are included in the Treasurer's report.

However, it is worth mentioning that the financial reporting framework has been simplified and streamlined to aid reporting and cost control. Details are in the Treasurer's report.

Other items to note under finance are:

- IARU Region 1 is now a full member of ETSI, and able to influence discussion in that forum on such issues as PLC standards.
- Sponsorship of 4U1ITU has recommenced

Operating Activities

Significant work was undertaken to prepare for, and attend, WRC03. The generally positive outcome from that Conference is due in part to extensive effort from some of the previous and current EC members. Preparations are now underway for WRC07.

Based to a large extent on the lack of understanding of amateur radio shown by some administrations at WRC03, IARU Region 1 has developed with the IS a programme "*Action Plan for the Development of Support for Amateur Radio Frequency Allocations 2004-2005*" This program focuses on the improving the knowledge of amateur radio among administrations and in preparing member societies for closer cooperation with their regulatory administration on amateur radio regulatory and frequency management issues. As part of this programme, an Amateur Radio Leadership Course was held in the form of a workshop in Cairo in February 2005, to provide support to a number of Arab Member Societies in their work with their Administrations. The programme was regarded as successful.

The various Region 1 Committees and Working groups continue their work in their specialist fields. Separate reports are submitted to Conference from each of these. However, picking a few highlights, work has included:

- Developing the concept of an entry level licence within CEPT (RRWG)
- Mounting an extensive defence of amateur frequencies against the threat from PLT (EMCWG)
- Established as a permanent yearly event the Youth Region 1 ARDF Championships
- Helping shape the new EMC Directive to protect amateur radio (Eurocom)
- Developing new HST Championship and rules (HST)
- Work on a new HF bandplan (HF)
- A number of initiatives in the VHF/UHF area
- A support initiative to small societies in North Africa (STARS)

A Letter of Understanding was signed in late 2003 between IARU Region1 and the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) of the Conférence Européenne des Administrations des Postes et des Télécommunications (CEPT), covering mutual cooperation and exchange of information and establishing a firm base for all Region 1 participation in CEPT meetings on various levels.

Region 1 has been present at HamRadio Friedrichshafen each year, and has taken part in the international meeting held at that event. Work is being done to improve the publicity material available to the Region for such events.

Actions agreed at the 2002 San Marino Region 1 Conference have been carried through. Outstanding is further work to try to identify sources of sponsorship for Regional activities. In other areas the actions are complete, or proposals are being brought to the 2005 General Conference for approval.

Region 1 mounted a stand at Africa Telecom in 2004 in Cairo and manned it with good local assistance from EARA. Useful contacts were established with Administrations.

IARU Region 1 will be actively participating in the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC) in Tampere, Finland in Summer 2005. The EC also welcomes the appointment of Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS as IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications. We look forward to him working closely with our own Coordinator, Gordon Adams, G3LEQ.

Region 1, together with RSGB as well as German and Finnish radio amateurs played an active part in Project Albania 2004, which resulted in around 30 new amateur licences being issued in Albania.

A number of papers are being submitted to the Davos Conference on behalf of the EC. These are:

- a) A paper clarifying the status of the External Relations Committee Chairman
- b) A paper proposing changes to the voting rights of member societies who do not pay their dues to Region 1
- c) Modifications to the Terms of Reference for Committee Chairmen and WG Coordinators
- d) A paper proposing a limit on the number of years an individual EC member can remain in post
- e) The Executive Committee acknowledges the difficulties being experienced by some of our smaller Member Societies in funding the annual fee to Region 1. A paper is therefore being presented to Conference proposing a new basis for calculating fees, which particularly benefits the smaller society, although results in a reduced subscription level for all.

Summary

The Executive Committee thanks member Societies for their support of the work of the Region, and hopes that this report gives a sense of some of the activities undertaken over the last three years.