



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



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SUBJECT		Member Society subscription levels	
Society	Executive Committee	Country:	Region 1
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	22
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Introduction

This paper reviews the option of restructuring the fee level for Member Societies, in the light of the improved financial position of the Region.

Background

At the Lillehammer Conference in 1999, proposals were made by the then EC to raise membership fees by 50%. Following concerns expressed by a number of member societies, work was done in Committee C2 to review the Finances of the Region and a number of proposals made to reduce the operating cost of the Region. These proposals were accepted by the Conference.

At the 2002 San Marino Conference, the financial position of the Region was improved, although running at near break-even.

Since 2002, as a result of revised office arrangements and other cost savings, the Region has operated at a surplus of some CHF 110k.

This position seems likely to continue, and so the Executive Committee feels that it is now right to review the basis on which subscription levels are calculated.

At present the subscription level for each member society is CHF 1.80 per society member, plus a "voluntary" subscription of CHF 0.10 per member to Fund 4 for STARS and similar work. The "voluntary" nature of the CHF 0.10 relates to a tax issue, which no longer seems to exist.

In reality most societies have, fortunately elected to pay this "voluntary" fee.

Very small societies (particularly in countries where the GDP per capita is very low) find the CHF 1.8 difficult to pay, and thus we each year have a number of smaller societies who do not pay their fees to Region 1.

Proposal

Taking the above factors into account, the EC believe that an alternative structure for member society fees could be:

Society membership 50 or less: Flat rate of CHF 10. Where bank transfer fees make this sum uneconomical to transfer, the payment may be made in IRCs. The Treasurer can advise of the number of IRCs necessary

Society membership over 50: CHF 10 plus CHF 1.80 per member over 50
(i.e. a society with membership of 100 pays CHF 100 instead of the current CHF 190)

The above figures **include** the contribution to Fund 4.

This means that all societies will pay a lower level of fees, although those not currently contributing to Fund 4 will see a smaller reduction. The attached table shows the changes for each society.

The EC believes that this change has significant advantages for both member societies and the Region. It reduces the level of member society contribution, helps the smaller societies significantly, and secures a guaranteed level of funding for Fund 4.

Whether this subscription basis can be sustained beyond the next General Conference in 2008 is not yet known, but the Executive Committee is committed to continuing to find ways of reducing the operating cost of the Region, in the hope that fees can be kept as low as possible.

Recommendation

That for the three years 2006-7-8 the member society fees to Region 1 (**including** the contribution to Fund 4, now renamed the Development Fund) be set at:

Society membership 50 or less: Flat rate of CHF 10

Society membership over 50: CHF 10 plus CHF 1.80 per member over 50

That the Secretary be instructed to conduct a postal ballot to amend the relevant sections of the Region 1 Constitution and Bye-Laws to put this change into effect.