



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



General Conference, Davos, 11 to 16 September 2005

SUBJECT		Voting rights of Member Societies	
Society	Executive Committee	Country:	Region 1
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	21
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Introduction

This paper proposes amendments to the IARU Region 1 Constitution and Bylaws, to redefine those Member Societies eligible to vote in any ballot within the Region. The proposal seeks to rectify procedural problems caused by the number of societies which are no longer active.

Background

The Region 1 Constitution and Bylaws define the process by which matters are decided by Member Societies. In most cases decisions needing a vote of Member Societies require a simple majority of those voting.

However, in the case of changes to the Constitution of the Region, a vote in favour by two-thirds of ALL Member Societies is necessary, and in the case of changes to the Bylaws, a vote in favour by a majority (50% +1) of ALL Member Societies is required.

Whilst this may seem reasonable, the requirement for the vote to be of ALL Member Societies has caused some significant difficulties. There are a number of Member Societies which, whilst technically still in membership of IARU, do not currently have any members, and do not reply to any correspondence (and in some cases have no confirmed address for correspondence). Equally, there are other societies who fail to pay their membership dues to IARU and in some cases are several years "out of date".

It seems unreasonable that these societies should be included when determining the total number of Member Societies to be counted in the case of a ballot on Constitutional matters. It is therefore proposed to introduce the concept of "eligible to vote" into the Constitution and Bylaws, to make clear that for the purposes of voting, only those Member Societies which have paid their dues to IARU are eligible to vote.

Recommendation

a) That Article A7 of the IARU Region 1 Constitution be amended to read

A.7.1 This Constitution shall only be amended by a decision of a least a two-thirds majority of the total number of the IARU Region 1 Member Societies which are eligible to vote, by voting procedures as stated in the Bye-Laws

A.7.2. The Bye-Laws shall only be amended by a decision of a simple majority of the total number of the IARU Region 1 Member Societies which are eligible to vote, by voting procedures as stated in the Bye-Laws

b) That an addition be made to Article 7:

A.7.3. Eligibility to vote is defined in the Bylaws (Section 6.7)

c) That a new Bylaw (6.7.2) be introduced as follows:

B.6.7.2 At other times when a ballot is being conducted, a Member Society that has not fulfilled all its financial obligations by the end of the month prior to the month in which a vote is initiated, shall not be granted the right to vote in the ballot

d) Should there be insufficient number of member Societies present at the 2005 General Conference to approve this change, then the Secretary be authorised to conduct a postal ballot on the matter.

Region 1 Executive Committee
April 2005