



International Amateur Radio Union

Region 1

Comments on

Public consultation on RSPG Work Programme for 2018 and beyond

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is a Non-Governmental Organisation representing the interests of Radio Amateurs*. IARU welcomes the fact that the Work Programme includes specific references to social considerations impacting European spectrum policy (RSPG17-040 page 9).

The amateur radio service is one of the oldest radio services recognised and regulated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and pre-dates the regulation of radio communications. Having a strong Amateur Radio service has been recognised by Governments not only for the development of technical knowledge but as providing a network of radio stations which is geographically diverse and is able to assist in times of disaster.

The economic importance of having a sufficient supply of trained engineers and scientists within the Union to meet future employment needs and technological development is critical. Amateur radio can provide an introduction to practical engineering, mathematics and physics to youth which directly contributes to a promotion in interest in careers in STEM. This is done, for example, through international youth workshops and through the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) programme. ARISS is an easy way for students and curious radio enthusiasts of all ages to learn more about life aboard the space station and is part of the ESA NASA commitment to educational outreach. Many thousands of students throughout Europe have had the opportunity, supported by their teachers and radio amateur volunteers, to participate, learning not only about life in space through talking to the on-board astronauts but by experiencing a practical demonstration of orbital mechanics and communications techniques.

Spectrum is a finite resource, a resource that is continually threatened by increases in the noise floor as new technologies such as high-power wireless power transmission develop. IARU considers it important that the use of spectrum for social interaction, for teaching and for technical experimentation be protected as a matter of policy.

Séamus McCague

Chairman

IARU Region 1 PRC

Email: seamusmcague@gmail.com

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***A Handbook of ITU regulations and recommendations for the Amateur Radio Service is available for free** download at:

<http://www.itu.int/pub/R-HDB-52-2014>