



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia Founded 1950

Virtual Executive Committee Meeting April/May 2020

Paper number	EC20_00
Author	PB2T
Subject	Consolidated Minutes

1 Introduction

A series of GoToMeeting sessions replaced the in-person EC meeting that was scheduled to be held in Amsterdam 17-19 April 2020, but that could not take place because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

- Session 1 was held 16 April 18:00-20:43 UTC
- Session 2 was held 18 April 12:00-14:47 UTC
- Session 3 was held 29 April 18:00-21:09 UTC
- Session 4 was held 6 May 19:00-21:08 UTC
- Session 5 was held 13 May 18:00-20:39 UTC

2 Opening

2.1 Welcome

Don Beattie, G3BJ, opened each session of the virtual EC meetings and welcomed the participants

2.2 Present

The following persons attended the meetings:

Donald F. Beattie, G3BJ IARU Region 1 President (chairman)

Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR IARU Region 1 Vice President (could not attend 3rd session)

Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T IARU Region 1 Secretary (secretary)

Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE IARU Region 1 Treasurer

Alessandro Carletti, IV3KKW IARU Region 1 EC Member

Joerg Jaehrig, DJ3HW IARU Region 1 EC Member

Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR IARU Region 1 EC Member

Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO IARU Region 1 EC Member

Mats Espling, SM6EAN IARU Region 1 EC Member

Tom Kamp, DF5JL IARU Region 1 HF Manager

Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/MW Manager

Tore A. Worren, LA9QL IARU Region 1 EMC WG Chairman

Séamus McCague, EI8BP IARU Region 1 PRC Chairman

David Court, EI3IO IARU Region 1 SRLC Chairman

Ole Garpestad, LA2RR IARU Vice President

Chris Deacon G4IFX, facilitator (only for 2nd session)

2.3 Approval of Agenda

The draft agenda of the five separate sessions were approved

3 Budget and Finance

3.1 2019 outcome

The auditor's report Doc EC20-1_04A was noted and accepted and will be circulated to our Member Societies.

action PB2T

3.2 Budget 2021-23

An initial draft budget (Doc EC20-1_04B) was presented and discussed. The meeting concluded that a balanced budget has to be presented to the General Conference. G3BJ, HB9JOE and PB2T were tasked to develop two versions of balanced budgets requiring differing actions to be taken.

action G3BJ, HB9JOE and PB2T

A number of inputs were made on how to approach getting a balanced budget including broadening the sources of income and restructuring IARU. This latter proposal will be developed in a smaller group and presented to the rest of the EC.

action G3BJ, HB9JOE, F4GKR and PB2T

3.3 Non-paying societies.

Doc EC20-1_06 was discussed. There is a group of Member Societies that don't exist and a group that just haven't paid. Member Societies that have not paid their membership fees for more than three years will receive a warning that Region 1 will propose to the AC to put them in temporary suspension. It was noted, however that there had been offers to cover the membership fees of less well-off societies by private subscription. This will be factored into the solution.

action G3BJ

4 2020 General Conference

In June the EC will decide if and how the 2020 General Conference will be held. A partial virtual general conference will be considered as an option. Documents EC20-4_23 (Conference infrastructure) and EC20-1_03A (Constitution for a Virtual General Conference) were presented and discussed. A task Group (G3BJ or PB2T, SM6EAN, 9A8MM and an IT specialist from the Youth WG group) will look into the matter in detail. The chairmen of the HF WG, and EMC WG will be invited to review the work of the task group. [Note: ON4AVJ was subsequently added to the task group]

A possible change in the constitution in support of virtual general conferences is not foreseen for 2020.

G3BJ will circulate a revised version of document EC20-1_03A. The EC was invited to carefully consider the document.

action G3BJ

A Task group will address "technology for a virtual conference"

action SM6EAN

4.1 Conference logistics and Conference options.

Doc EC20-1_02 was presented and discussed.

4.2 Time schedule

Minor changes to the time schedule were made.

4.3 Committee Chairmen

The list of Committee chairmen and secretaries was discussed.

4.4 Conference Planning

In June the EC will decide if the General Conference will take place as planned. Doc EC20-3_02 describes the issues that the EC will need to consider in case the GC2020 will have to be deferred. Various options were discussed.

G3BJ will reframe Doc EC20-3_02

Action G3BJ

4.5 Supported Societies and young people.

Doc EC20-1_08 and Doc EC20-1_02 were discussed. An amount of around CHF 15.000 is available to support young people and Member Societies. Different options were discussed. G3BJ and PB2T were tasked to make a recommendation for the EC

action G3BJ and PB2T

Member Societies will be approached to find out if they plan to bring young people to the conference.

action G3BJ

The web-team will implement a master template in support of GC2020 and future Conferences.

action SM6EAN

4.6 Conference Papers

An update of a proposed change of the constitution is in Doc EC20-1_03A. It was noted that there would need to be another version covering a virtual conference in due course.

The EC agreed that the report to Conference from the EC should be a single consolidated document. President to draft and circulate for comment.

action G3BJ

The EC identified the following topics to be addressed by GC2020, with documents from the EC:

- The pressure on amateur spectrum, not only in C5 but also in C3
- A future IARU

5 The GC2020 Workshop

5.1.1 Objectives for the workshop

After a brief introduction of Chris G4IFX, Don G3BJ explained how we could get more value of the General Conference by addressing strategic issues in a 2 to 3-day workshop.

Chris and Don presented the draft approach to the Workshop section for the General Conference in October 2020. The plan is to present some case studies, followed by facilitated break-out sessions. The outcome of these sessions will be presented and a plan for further action will be agreed upon.

5.2 self-reflection questionnaire

A disappointing number of 31 Member Societies responded to the self-reflection questionnaire, missing several larger Member Societies. Sylvain and Alex took a detailed view and presented their analysis of the data received. It was agreed that feedback of initial conclusions and questions arising would take place to MS shortly, and the full data will be used at the Workshop as a baseline.

5.3 Comments and Observation

Some valuable comments and observations were made by the EC, including:

- It is vital to make the event action-oriented afterwards
- We lack an external view of how people see amateur radio
- A real concern on the figures on loss of MS members and the low percentage of membership in many MS
- A concern about the lack of replenishment of MS boards with “new blood”
- A need to pull out of the data “what has worked” for some MS
- The lack of volunteers limits our ambition in some areas
- A concern at the high number of MS who did not bother to respond to the questionnaire
- Questions about whether the IARU Liaison Officers were properly coupled to the boards of MS. A continuous good communication between the IARU liaison and the MS board is important so that IARU information will be passed on to Board the MS members.
- We should publicise the fact that we have conducted the survey and the low response. We should also publicise some of the core data (numbers) and the questions that arise from the data (without making judgements)
- We need to recognise that the core mission of IARU is representation of the interests of the amateur service – all else is secondary
- It would be interesting to know what percentage of MS members REALLY see QSL as “mission critical”
- It was not clear from the data how many MS regard themselves as passengers on this journey vs those who see the opportunity to influence direction
- We need to get everyone to understand that they can influence the direction
- We need a lot of emphasis on the post-workshop review process
- We may need a collaboration platform to “keep the pot boiling” after the workshop
- We may need to consider a “change support group” to keep the pressure and leadership on MS. The role of the President is pivotal in leading change as well.
- We need the follow through on getting papers on “what has worked for me” and select a few of these for presentations in the workshop

5.4 Facilitators

EC members were asked to consider who might make good facilitators. Critical skills for facilitators include:

- Non-judgemental
- Able to suppress their own opinions
- Clear speaking in English
- Able to draw out the views from the more reticent of the participants

G3BJ to propose facilitators from the list of EC Members, WG Chairmen and coordinators

Action: G3BJ

5.5 Time schedule

Following the discussion, it was agreed that day #3 morning was also needed for the workshop. The social event needs to be shortened to half a day. PB2T to inform SRS.

A revised schedule will be developed.

Action: PB2T

5.6 Other Action items

A feedback note to MS will be prepared commenting on the survey.

Action: G3BJ

MS need additional guidance on the right people to send to the workshop

Action: G3BJ

6 WRC-2023

LA2RR presented document C20-3_04 Agenda Items for WRC-23 relevant to IARU and EC20-3_04A the IARU matrix for WRC-23 and WRC-27. Both the relevant Agenda Items and the matrix were discussed. All IARU Regions are requested to identify experts who will represent IARU in ITU and the Regional Telecommunication Organisations. The names in the matrix for Region 1 will be finalised once the CEPT PT structure is known

6.1 AI 9.1 issue B (Galileo)

Studies and meetings related to the protection of the Radio Navigation Satellite Service (RNSS) will require a significant IARU effort. The Region 1 lead will be Barry Lewis G4SJH. IARU is looking for a person with good Seamcat knowledge and experience.

6.2 At risk spectrum

Several European administrations are looking for opportunities to share spectrum, including amateur bands. IARU President has sent a letter to all member societies, making them aware of the pressure on our bands. Member Societies were asked to inform IARU of any such threats to amateur radio allocations as soon as they learn about them. Focal point for Region 1 is PB2T.

7 Relating to our Stakeholders

A presentation by EI8BP and IV3KKW showed that the traditional communication lines have been replaced by horizontal communications.

A short movie, about the role of IARU, was shown as proof of concept.

Actions

- Propose to GC2020 social media manager and/or WG. There needs to be a driver at EC level
- define/describe rules, roles and processes

Action EI8BP, IV3KKW

8 Communication and PR

SM6EAN updated the EC on the status of the transition of the IARU websites, that took place last January. Some minor tweaks are still needed. Content owners will need to update their content on a regular basis. It was agreed that where EC members identify issues of omissions with the WebSites across IARU they contact the content owner directly in the case of Region 1 or where it relates to another IARU site, notify the K1ZZ or secretaries of Regions 2 and 3 with copy to SM6EAN. The need to keep the sites “fresh” was stressed. SM6EAN was congratulated on his work.

9 Future and growth

A kick-off meeting has taken place with Ward Silver N0AX, F4GKR and IV3KKW

As a result of discussions with individual EC members F4GKR presented a view on how our amateur radio world might look in the future. Key points are

- The competition element of amateur radio will remain, as well as the drive to understand technical phenomena.
- There will be a growing pressure to give up a significant part of our microwave spectrum.
- Radio clubs may not be able to survive without cooperation with other technical interested groups. Modern clubs operate both physical and virtual.
- Individuals might be more easily involved in “horizontally” and in short-term projects.

Sylvain stressed that we should be pro-active where it comes to pressure on our bands.

The presentation was followed by a discussion. A possible problem may be the age gap between the existing amateur community and those interested in modern electronics.

We want to learn why youngsters joined amateur radio. The TTT sessions have worked on this. A small group will be asked to identify questions for a questionnaire to youth.

Action 9K2RR, DF5JL, IV3KKW, PA2LS

More work has to be done on developing a working hypothesis of the way ahead for IARU. The EC will discuss when it is further advanced.

10 WG Reports

10.1 SRLC

EI3IO led us through his report (doc EC20-3_17) with the outcome of WRC-19. WRC-23 agenda items were discussed under item 6.

10.2 HF Working Group

DF5JL highlighted the handover of IARUMS from DK2OM to HB9CET and EA6AMM and noted that the coming General Conference will have to elect new leadership for IARUMS. Possible candidates

may be found in the HF group. In particular a candidate is sought for Deputy Coordinator of IARUMS Tom will ask the HF Committee group, but a wider search may be necessary.

Action DF5JL

URE has developed an intruder database. The prototype is working well. EC members are now invited to participate in further testing. A proposal to use this tool as Region 1 tool has to be made to the General Conference.

10.3 VHF/UHF/MW Working Group

ON4AVJ informed the EC that there is just one proposal to change 50 MHz bandplan.

He shared his concerns about the contest robot. A small group will look into the matter

Action G3BJ, ON4AVJ, IV3KKW

ON4AVJ expressed his appreciation for the work done by the new VHF/UHF beacon coordinator DH4FAJ.

10.4 EMC Working Group

LA9QL highlighted the acceptance of IARU experts in the various EMC fora. Our experts mainly operate in CEPT and CISPR, where CISPR-H defines rules for limits. Currently there is a group of around 20 people contributing to the work of the EMC Working Group. Still there is a need for additional EMC experts. Larger Member Societies will be approached to identify experts who can take an active role.

Action LA9QL, G3BJ

The Noise Measurement Campaign progresses well. We need to ensure that any published articles about it strike the correct balance between highlighting the issue of increasing urban noise levels and not prejudicing our arguments for proper emission limits and the need to preserve a low noise environment in the radio spectrum. Simply saying that in some locations noise is bad is neither balanced nor helpful.

10.5 STARS Working Group

The EC noted with appreciation ON6WQ's efforts to revive the STARS program. See Doc EC-20-4_18.

10.6 PRC

EI8BP introduced his report Doc EC20-4_16 and highlighted the participation in relevant European Commission forums associated with the implementation of the two core Directives affecting the Amateur Service (the RED and EMCD) and the Radio Spectrum Policy Group. LSA (licence shared access) could have far-reaching implications for the amateur service.

In addition the PRC has responded to the Public consultation on the RSPG Work Programme for 2020 and beyond and provided feedback on a European Commission Published Initiative on Electromagnetic compatibility.

In a discussion about sharing, the EC concluded that sharing formed both a threat and an opportunity.

10.7 ARDF Working Group

The EC agreed with a proposed change to part A of ARDF rules. The changes in items 4.4 and 8.2 were adopted as interim policy and will have to be confirmed by the next General Conference.

The EC decided that the 2019 balance of ARDF funds will be taken to reserves for 2020.

10.8 Youth Working Group

10.8.1 Visibility of Train the Trainer (TTT)

The WG is encouraged to use any form of publication to bring the TTT program to the attention of Member Societies. A contribution that stresses the importance of the TTT program should be submitted to the next General Conference.

The EC supports cooperation with Scouting organizations. An overview of agreements that are already in place should be published on our website. It was suggested to engage with the new JOTA/JOTI coordinator of the worldwide Scouting organization, perhaps with a view to an MoU.

Action IV3KKW

YOTA 2020 and other youth activities have been cancelled due to COVID-19. YOTA 2021 will be held in Croatia.

10.9 HST Working Group

Z32TO indicated that the HST WG is looking for opportunities to organize HST activities later this year. He was invited to define criteria under which such events could take place.

Action Z32TO

11 Workplan 2020

Doc EC20-4_21 was discussed. G3BJ will circulate a revision

Action G3BJ

12 AOB

12.1 Region 1 medal.

IV3KKW presented a new design for the Region 1 medal (Doc EC20-3_14). The EC approved the design and invited Alex to place an order.

Action IV3KKW

12.2 Friedrichshafen implications.

Ham Radio 2020 was cancelled and will now be held 25-27 June 2021. DARC will soon make an announcement on how to participate in the virtual version of Ham Radio 2020.