International Amateur Radio Union
Region 1

EC Meeting 21 September 2022, 20.00 CEST, Zoom

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<th>SM6EAN</th>
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In attendance: F4GKR, DJ3HW, OD5TE, IV3KKW, Z32TO, PA2LS, 9K2DB, HB9JOE, LA2RR, SM6EAN

Meeting folder: Nextcloud\03 Executive Committee\EC meetings\EC 2022-09-21

1. Opening: F4GKR
   F4GKR opened the meeting.
   The meeting approved the agenda.

2. General conference 2023
   F4GKR made a recap of the situation of the decision taken at last VGC and the following situation due to the pandemic.

   In late May, a letter was sent to SRS asking for their position, to take up the work with the decided conference in Novi Sad. SRS responded promptly that they were ready to reactivate all activities for the conference, but contact with the hotel and confirmation of planned dates was needed. Due to lack of communication from SRS for a longer period, a “plan B” has been discussed in the EC.

   A visit to Serbia was arranged by Z32TO and the hotel could be visited on 19/9 together with SRS. It then became clear that the hotel could not host the conference and was ready to return the prepaid amount.

   In a letter dated 19/9, SRS apologized for late reply and action, and expressed that they “are committed to do everything possible” to find a new hotel and to host the GC 2023.

   Although hesitant due to the recent history, the views in the EC were in favour to allow SRS some additional time to find a hotel. In parallel the “plan B” shall be continued.

   It is recommended that the Committees and Working Groups meet online prior to the conference to prepare input documents and reports to the conference.
   - If expected by each committee, a hybrid meeting may also be planned for the conference. Nevertheless, the committee chairmen are expected to be present at the conference.
   - It is expected that the different WG chairmen participate in the conference. If needed, the WG may also meet during the conference.
Decision:

- A letter shall be sent to SRS allowing them another 2 weeks to find a new hotel to host the conference. To clarify expectations and to support SRS discussions with a new hotel, a preliminary set of prerequisites was agreed: Action F4GKR
  - IARU require response from SRS regarding the hotel by 3rd October. This must be a serious offer.
  - An early estimation of 50 to 75 participants.
  - Duration of the conference is estimated to 4 to 5 days.
  - Time of the conference second half of October 2023
  - SRS must urgently identify a responsible contact person with whom the IARU conference preparatory team (CPT) can communicate effectively.
  - The conference preparatory group shall urgently prepare estimates for the needs of the conference. Hopefully this will clarify remaining details for the hotel.
  - General conference invitation is foreseen to be sent out mid-October, which shall be the target for the CPT.

- To inform DARC that we need to prepare for a “plan B”, using the estimations above. As this is a year in advance, hopefully a preliminary booking can be accepted. Decision will be taken on 4th October on how to move on and information will be given to DARC after that, effectively 5th October. Communication with DARC: Action DJ3HW

- The following persons volunteered to take part in the conference preparatory team (CPT).
  - F4GKR
  - SM6EAN
  - Z32TO
  - IV3KKW
  - DJ3HW
  - 9K2DB

3. STARS

F4GKR presented a summary of the STARS recent history and feedback provided by some MS. Bottom line is that STARS is today not working out like expected and today there is no WG chairman. Recent discussions within the EC, and with some persons representing small MS, show a common view that if STARS should remain as an IARU-R1 WG, its scope and ToR needing a review. Over past years, most of the STARS focus has been in Africa with support of young or recent Societies, but there is also a need to support small societies all over Region1. This could be seen as an incubator activity.

In the Shaping the Future program, the strategic objective 8 is very much in line with the scope of STARS. The team SO8 has therefore been tasked to give their views on the situation around STARS and related ideas.

F4GKR also reported about an ongoing discussion among the French speaking MS in Africa regarding STARS. In addition, a proposal for a seminar in Ivory Coast has been received from Jean-Jacques, TU2OP, with the idea to introduce amateur radio to a wider audience. As several societies have showed interest to this idea, a discussion of coordinating this with
an IARU meeting has been started. Items like Shaping the Future, reshaping of STARS, African contributions to the next GC, etc. could be on the agenda.

The meeting discussed the ideas and possible IARU-R1 involvement. LA2RR commented that it is important that persons joining from the different MS do bring back the information to increase the local spread.

Decision:

- The EC positively welcomes the initiative in Ivory Coast and is willing to support if a local organisation can take the ideas forward and present more concrete plans. Feedback to be sent to TU2OP. **Action F4GKR**
- When the plans and organisation become clearer, the EC will discuss what items could be planned to be held around the seminar. It would be an opportunity to hold such an IARU meeting together with the participating MS.

4. **ARDF chair**

F4GKR presented the recent developments around the ARDF WG and chairman. Z32TO was present at the recent ARDF WG meeting where he presented the EC view. A letter was received from the ARDF chairman shortly after the meeting.

The EC point of view is that the WG is putting “sports” before “amateur radio”, and thus becoming more of an area within the sports and orienteering domain. The EC is of the opinion that ARDF should be an area within amateur radio that includes a sport element. In addition, the EC cannot accept that the chairman mixes his role with also participating in the competition.

The comment was made that the WG chairman is an officer in the IARU-R1 organisation, and as such need to adhere to the decisions made by IARU and the EC.

DJ3HW commented that the WG members should be given an opportunity to understand the views of the EC. This could help to bridge the gap between the WG and the EC.

Decision:

- A letter shall be sent to the full WG, where the EC invite to an online meeting. At the meeting, the EC will present the IARU organisation, constitution, and its views, which has resulted in loss of trust in WG chair. After the presentation there should be time for questions and discussion. **Action F4GKR**

5. **List of MS per EC member**

During the spring the EC decided to move forward with the action to improve communication with the member societies. The list where all MS have been assigned to EC members have been ready and we now must kick this off.

An email shall be sent to the MS with information that the contact with the assigned EC member will start. **Action SM6EAN**

- First contact with president and IARU liaison
- Check of MS details
- Mail list
- MS list on website [https://www.iaru.org/reference/member-societies/](https://www.iaru.org/reference/member-societies/)
- Concerns by the MS?
- Feedback on the planned GC as a hybrid conference. What could then be the plan for each MS?
- Are there any skilled persons to join work around WRC-23 and WRC in general? This could be either in the forefront or in the background. It is important to have a continuity in the ITU work.

6. **Pending actions**

**NRRL: Format for the 2023 IARU Region General Conference**
Give response to NRRL about the EC discussion.  
Action: SM6EAN  
Status: Closed

**USKA: Bring the “Full License” Syllabus of Amateur Radio to the 21st Century:**
To prepare a recommendation how to move forward, to be presented at an EC meeting.  
Action: HB9AMC  
Status: Work ongoing

It was decided that the question shall be discussed during the Interim meeting by the HF (C4) and VHF+ (C5) committees to see the support among the present member societies.  
Action: DF5JL, PA2DW  
Status: Pending

**USKA: Implement Technology Working Group (TWG):**
It was decided to draft the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TWG, to be presented at an EC meeting.  
Action: HB9AMC  
Status: Work ongoing

**EC Action list**
Update of the EC action list in line with the meeting discussion.  
Action: SM6EAN  
Status: Closed

**Creation of a “Radio sports group”**
In line with earlier action item, a separate discussion will be held.  
Action: F4GKR, IV3KKW, Z32TO  
Status: Work ongoing

**Information of registration of a YOTA trademark**
Recent issues show that a registration of a trademark is needed. Consultation with VE6SH is initiated.  
Action: (DK6SP), PA2LS  
Status: Work ongoing

7. **AoB**
- In-person EC meeting in Italy? Informal question received from ARI to have an EC meeting in conjunction with the ARI main event (close to Verona), 2nd weekend in March. The meeting was positive to the question, and it will be investigated further.  
Action IV3KKW
• **ARAC (Amateur Radio Administrative Course):** The request for ARAC material for a potential training in Mozambique was discussed. The discussion is deferred to the upcoming AC meeting. A check for further information before the AC meeting was requested.  

  Action SM6EAN