International Amateur Radio Union
Region 1

EC meeting, Amersfoort, The Netherlands, 16-17 February 2024.

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In attendance: 9K2DB, DJ3HW, IV3KKW, F4GKR, PA2LS, SM6EAN, OH1ESI, LA2RR, Z32TO, HB9JOE

In attendance partly: OH1ESI, PA0AGF, OD5TE (partly online)

Meeting folder: Nextcloud\03 Executive Committee\EC meetings\EC 2024-02-16--17 Amersfoort

Visit of the Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure; Rijksinspectie Digitale Infrastructuur (RDI)

The EC would like to thank the RDI for a very interesting meeting with information and presentations of their activities. The open informal discussion between EC and RDI employees was appreciated, and several interesting topics were covered. The code of conduct and the area of common awareness of the radio environment for radio amateurs was in particular noted as a potential improvement needed on IARU-R1 improvement work.

Some notes from the presentations and discussions:

- Out of about 700 interference complaints per year, 20% are related to amateur radio. (Note: There are roughly 12,000 amateur radio licenses in Holland)
- Roughly 9000 hours/year are spent on radio interference complaints.
- Deregulation increase the complexity in some interference cases.
- Although well known to many radio amateurs, the real-world situation of noise and interfering signals on amateur radio bands seems not to be a common understanding in the community. Interfering noise and discrete signals may be within regulation limits but still cause problems to amateur radio.
- Information regarding co-existence with other radio services in some frequency bands could be added to IARU band plans to increase general awareness.
- There is a difficult balance in some co-existence interference situations where amateur radio may have difficulty to gain acceptance against “common use in society”.
- There are no reported interference complaints filed due to the co-existence between amateur radio and WiFi/Bluetooth in the 2400 MHz band.
1. **Welcome**
   F4GKR welcomed the attendees, the agenda was approved.

2. **ENAMS 2**
   Following the General Conference 2023 recommendations ZL23_C7_Rec_01 and ZL23_C7_Rec_02, the EMC committee have proposed to move forward with a second production batch of 100 receivers.
   
   F4GKR made a short presentation of the background of the ENAMS project and the available information regarding a second production batch. The information and suggestions from the EMC committee chair was also presented.

   After a lengthy discussion, some EC concerns could be summarized.

   - Although there is a proposal for production of more receivers, the EC does not understand the “Why” (the motivation, “sales information”). In light of the already existing receivers, the EC does not clearly understand the value of another 100 receivers and is looking forward to a clarification.
   
   - The EC believe there is a need for information to motivate member societies (MS) to engage in ENAMS 2. In addition to the investment of the receivers, the MS will need to find motivated volunteer(s) and locations including long term Internet connection.
   
   - Although implicitly understood, the use and acceptance of the output data is not clear to the EC. With output it is meant understandable information for the amateur radio community and organisations where IARU is active. This is seen as the main value of the ENAMS project. It is important to understand if this data will be accepted by other organizations, such as ITU, or if we need to further explore ways to gain such an acceptance.
   
   - The proposals from the EMCC were discussed but the EC cannot take on the responsibility to manage the production, “sales” to the MS or any planning of the project.

With the information at hand, the EC concludes the following:

   - A dedicated project team, EMCC driven/coordinated, must be set up to run the promotion, production, distribution, etc. This cannot be the role of the R1 EC.
   
   - EC can support with promotion prepared by the ENAMS 2 project team.
   
   - The EC is open to further discussions on contributions and funding.
   
   - The EC is looking forward to further discussion in line with the recommendation from GC.
3. **Financial report**
   The balance sheet was presented by HB9JOE and will be distributed to MS with the audit result.

4. **IARU award.**
   A proposal was presented by F4GKR of an IARU award at an IEEE scientific conference (Conference called “Radar 2024” to be held in France in October 2024). The scientific community are using amateur radio equipment and SW in their research. An idea is to promote radio research together with the GNU Radio organisation and potentially local radio amateurs. The idea is to give a price of € 500 to a paper. Details will be discussed.
   
   **Decision**
   The proposal was approved by the meeting.  
   **Action:** F4GKR

5. **Code of Conduct**
   9K2DB presented the status of the ongoing work. 10 volunteers signed up after promotions. Work is ongoing and the first draft is ready and being reviewed. The work is split up between the members of the group, some are drafting the content, while others review.

   The work is covering the two areas: Code of Conduct and Operating Procedures.

   Coordination with NCDXF and DQRM should be made by the HF committee chair F6BEE.

   Following the morning meeting with RDI, it is proposed to contact RDI for additional comments to the drafted documents.

   Jacques F6BEE to be informed on the ongoing work and to get in touch with Ahmad 9K2DB:  
   **Action F4GKR**

6. **IARU-R1 IT resourcing**
   SM6EAN presented a snapshot of the current and planned IT systems within IARU-R1. The number of systems is increasing, and most tools need regular maintenance and support. Without proper staffing there is a risk that both the tool and content may become outdated.

   F4GKR commented that if we face a situation of insufficient staffing by volunteers, we may need to look for consultants.

   **Decision**
   It was decided to make an inventory of current and planned systems within IARU-R1. 
   **Action OH1ESI, SM6EAN**
7. **EC meetings**

A discussion was held around the participation at future EC meetings. Attendance at EC meetings may increase inclusivity and motivation for IARU-R1 officials but must be balanced against the time and efficiency for all attending. The “EC+” has been a way to plan EC meetings including the chair from groups that have more frequent discussions with the EC.

**Decision**

The conclusion was to invite participants to EC meetings based upon the actual agenda.

8. **Recommendation ZL23_C3_Rec_12**

At the General Conference 2023 the following recommendation was accepted following the input paper ZL23_C3_35:

1. The IARU-R1 EC should publicly acknowledge that it has not handled the communication on this matter well – both with the ARDF-WG, the wider ARDF Community, and Member Societies.

**EC:** The acknowledgement was made already during the conference in Zlatibor to the participating member societies and is confirmed at this EC meeting.

2. The EC is invited to set out a clear plan how to handle safety concerns, dispute resolution and communication.

**EC:** Safety issues are a priority and the EC, together with each working group, must proactively mitigate safety concerns through maintaining regular communication. It is important to handle each event by considering prerequisite at hand.

9. **SBP144 – A special beacon project for 144 MHz**

A proposal has been submitted for the SBP144 project by DH4FAJ (R1 VHF Beacon Coordinator). The VHF+ working group is asked to prepare a proposal, for a band plan amendment, to the EC for an interim decision.

**Action DH4FAJ, OM3BH**

10. **Study of hybrid meetings & conference**

In line with the General Conference decision, the voting regarding a study of hybrid meetings & conference has been completed. 38 societies voted and the study was approved by 29 “Yes” in favour against 9 “No”. The list of votes can be emailed at request to the secretary.

**Decision**

The study will be carried out by the Bylaw update task group and the group shall report with a proposal to the EC as a first step. As a second step, the proposed changes of the Byelaws for hybrid meetings will be sent for comments to those who...
voted on the study (both “Yes” and “No” voters).

Action Byelaw task group

11. Recommendations from conference
SM6EAN reminded of the list of recommendations for the listed actions from the General Conference. Due to the number of actions, the secretary will prepare a list for easier follow-up of actions.

In addition to the list of actions, the secretary will present a proposal for updates of the IARU-R1 Standing Recommendations https://www.iaru-r1.org/reference/regional-standing-recommendations/

12. Attendance at FOSDEM
F4GKR presented a short report from FOSDEM and pointed out the huge content published on the fosdem.org website. There was a large interest of amateur and amateur satellite radio, and FOSDEM seems to be a very interesting platform for presenting and talking about amateur radio.

In summing up of the event among the present radio amateurs from different countries, a volunteer group agreed to plan a following event as an IARU-R1 participation to promote amateur radio. F4GKR will liaise with the group and present plans at future EC meeting.

Decision
The EC is positive to apply for participation at next FOSDEM. It is important to encourage cooperation with other communities and support a project group under the flag of IARU.

Action F4GKR

13. PRC Chair
The position as chair for PRC have been vacant since the General Conference 2023. Discussion is ongoing with one candidate, in cooperation with former PRC chair, EI8BP.

14. 100-year celebration
F4GKR introduced the item and the recommendation from the General Conference. The event was discussed at the recent IARU AC meeting and the IS secretary, W5ZN, was volunteering to take part in the planning task group. As coordinator of the task group, Z32TO will inform who are finally in the task group.

The initiatives for a celebration have so far been taken by REF and IARU-R1. The views, or ideas of participation, of the AC and R2 and R3 are today not clear and needs to be understood in the near future.

The task group will continue the work in line with the recommendation from the R1 2023 General Conference and present a first plan for the event. The plan with timelines is important to make all aware of the actions that needs to be taken in good time.
Informal contacts are needed early for VIP invitations. ITU, CEPT, ATU, ASMG and possibly additional RTO’s.

15. Committees & WG’s
SM6EAN introduced the document with received first draft reports (document in meeting folder). The aim is to present the final document to the member societies in time for HAM RADIO 2024. An overview presentation will be made at the International Meeting at HAM RADIO 2024, where it also will be open for questions from member societies to the different groups.

Action Committee and WG chairs

16. Youth WG
OH1ESI presented an overview of the draft plans for the Youth WG. The EC liaison is maintained through IV3KKW and PA2LS.

As the budget for the Youth WG is substantial, the plans and reporting from the WG is important both for the EC and the member societies.

In the work with sustainability goals, the relationship with the Youth WG is important. The EC stresses the importance of involving and promoting young people in the management of the member societies, as well as in IARU-R1.

Decision
The EC agrees to elaborate a kind of mentoring program for members of the YWG, e.g. “Shadowing the EC and officials”. Another possibility could also be some kind of “cross-country mentoring” by experienced Youth WG members with other MS. Mentoring within certain areas of the IARU activities could also be a possibility to explore.

Action F4GKR, OH1ESI, OD5TE

The Youth working group was earlier proposed to become a permanent committee, but the work was put on hold. This discussion is now restarted, and a proposal of Terms of Reference should be presented at an upcoming EC meeting. The change need also to be reflected in the Constitution and Byelaws.

Decision
It was agreed to re-start the work of moving the YWG into a permanent committee. A proposal of updated Terms of Reference shall be presented at an upcoming EC meeting.

Action OH1ESI

17. ATU
OD5TE made a presentation covering the status and the MoU signed between ATU and IARU. Several groups within IARU-R1 are related to the different themes: Youth, STARS and Emergency Communications. The presentation is in the meeting folder.
An important activity would be a planned workshop in Mozambique organized by ATU and coordinated within IARU-R1 by STARS.  

**Action PA0AGF, OD5TE**

18. **STARS**
PA0AGF presented the status and plans for STARS and the current focus of Africa. Work is still ongoing to plan way forward in Africa and Arab countries. The communication is so far difficult and few responses to emails sent.

A main proposed activity is a workshop in Mozambique which also could be showcase for others.

**Decision**
The EC support moving forward with the conference. Depending on engagement and participation, the format may be adjusted.  

**Action PA0AGF**

19. **Sustainability**
PA2LS presented the status of the ongoing work in line with General Conference recommendation ZL23_C3_Rec_8.

Initially the plan forward will focus on the UN SDG (Strategic Development Goals, https://sdgs.un.org/goals) relation to IARU-R1 groups. A draft proposal for a policy will be further elaborated and prioritized. From there, a plan for IARU and the MS should be presented. VERON volunteer to be a pilot organisation during the work.

The GC 2024 recommendation also includes an update of the byelaws, where applicable, with respect to sustainability.

20. **Child protection policy**
F4GKR and OH1ESI presented some background information regarding the Child Protection policy. An external competence has been involved resulting in some recommendations, and the idea was to also find information from other organizations with similar needs. After several organizations were contacted, including World Scout by LA2RR and PA2LS, no useful information has been received.

The IARU-R1 primary needs for an updated Child protection policy are within ARDF, HST, Youth events.

The idea for IARU-R1 is to be proactive and a recommendation from a lawyer is to use the most restrictive legislation as the IARU-R1 rules for attending the relevant event.

**Decision**
The EC support moving forward to find legal advice of how to move forward.  

**Action: DJ3HW, IV3KKW, HB9JOE, F4GKR, OH1ESI, PA2LS**
21. **HAM RADIO 2024**

Preparations have started by the planning team (9K2DB, DJ3HW, OH1ESI, IV3KKW, SM6EAN) and Mike, OE3MZC, as chair for the new Technical WG. In addition to the two booths that IARU normally book, an open innovation area in line with the GC 2023 recommendation is included in the planning. Cooperation has been initiated with DARC, OV and USKA and will continue for coordination around the open innovation area.

An invitation to participate in the open area activities will be sent to MS and others that may contribute with presentations. There will be a priority to locate MS active in the open area presentations around the open area booth.

22. **Shaping the Future**

F4GKR and SM6EAN presented an overview of the status in the Shaping the Future program. As presented during the General Conference, the Program Board is non-functional and until some new steering group has been formed, the EC need to support the program when needed.

The work continues with the design of the new website for the amateur radio community and others interested. However, the work with content for the website is severely hampered due to lack of volunteers for getting content to the webpages.

23. **Technical WG Terms of Reference**

The agreed recommendation from GC 2023 to set up a Technical WG, after the Terms of reference have been agreed by the EC, is moving forward. The agreed chair Mike, OE3MZC, has presented a first proposal for discussion in the EC.

24. **AoB**

- **WRC-23**: A verbal report was presented by LA2RR. ITU work on a consensus basis and participation by IARU during the event is needed to achieve results. This is the only occasion when the Radio Regulations can be updated. The results from WRC-23 have been published on the IARU and IARU-R1 websites.

  For WRC-27, persons are needed to monitor the different agenda items. A similar setup as for WRC-23 is desired.

  The EC need to review the WRC-27 agenda and see where anyone from R1 may be suited to monitor an agenda item.

- **HAMChallenge 2024**: The task group (9K2DB, IV3KKW, PA2LS) has agreed to run HAMChallenge 2024, including a follow-up on previously presented and awarded ideas.
25. Next EC meeting
   An online meeting will be held 14 March.