



IARU VHF+ Newsletter

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Dear friends,

In this issue, I would like to provide information and clarify the situation regarding the 23 cm band, specifically the use of the 1296 MHz segment in 2026 for contests, terrestrial, and EME operations.

The trigger was the WRC-23 conference, whose key decisions were proposals in the 23 cm band to increase the protection of the Galileo RNSS from interference from amateur and amateur satellite services. The conference did not make any changes to the primary or secondary allocation status of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in the 1240–1300 MHz band and reminds national administrations and amateur operators of the need to protect the primary GNSS users from harmful interference. A new footnote in the Radio Regulations refers to ITU-R M.2164, which outlines technical and operational measures to prevent interference, particularly to European Galileo and other GNSS systems.

The most painful aspects of this document are the power limitations in the moonbouncer and narrowband operation segment, which are very restrictive for further development. Band 23cm is the most popular for EME community.

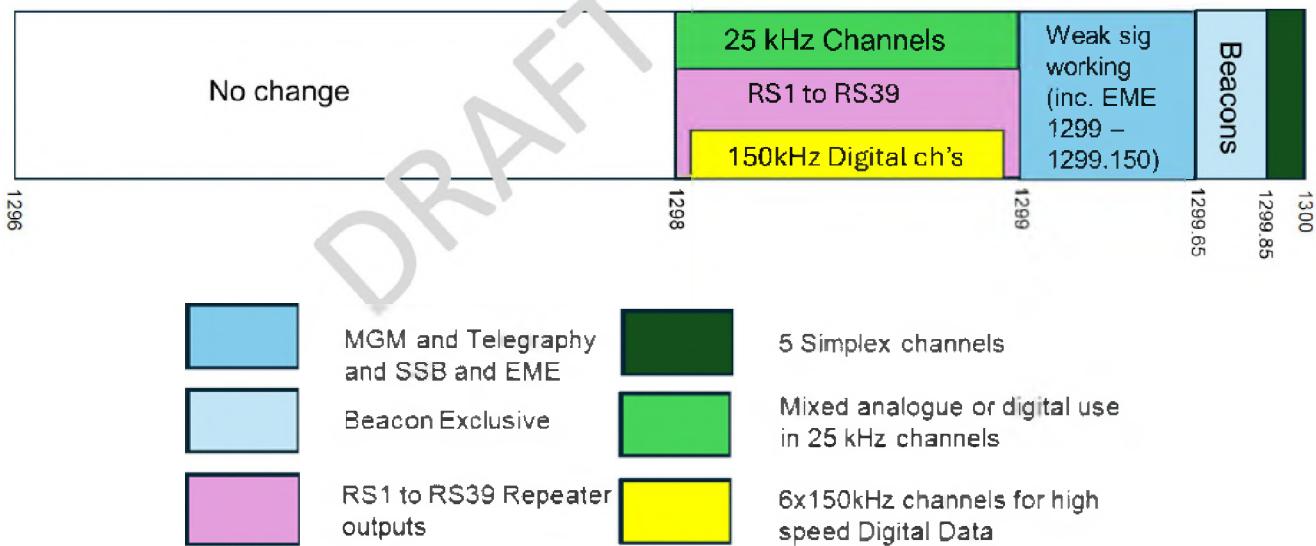
Although the final ECC Decision(25)01 was not yet known at the time of the preliminary meeting in Paris, the C5 group agreed that, after the CEPT conference and the publication of the results, a working group would be set up to review the 23 cm band plan. Barry G4SJH, chairman of SRLC, was appointed to lead the working group.

In the fall of 2025, a working group consisting of representatives from ARI, DARC, SRAL, RSGB, and VERON prepared a new band plan for the 23 cm band. This proposal will be submitted for approval at GC 2026, which will be held in Vienna in September 2026. The original segment 1296-1298 remains unchanged and a new segment for EME and terrestrial narrowband traffic below 2700 Hz is proposed in the segment 1299.0-1299.65.

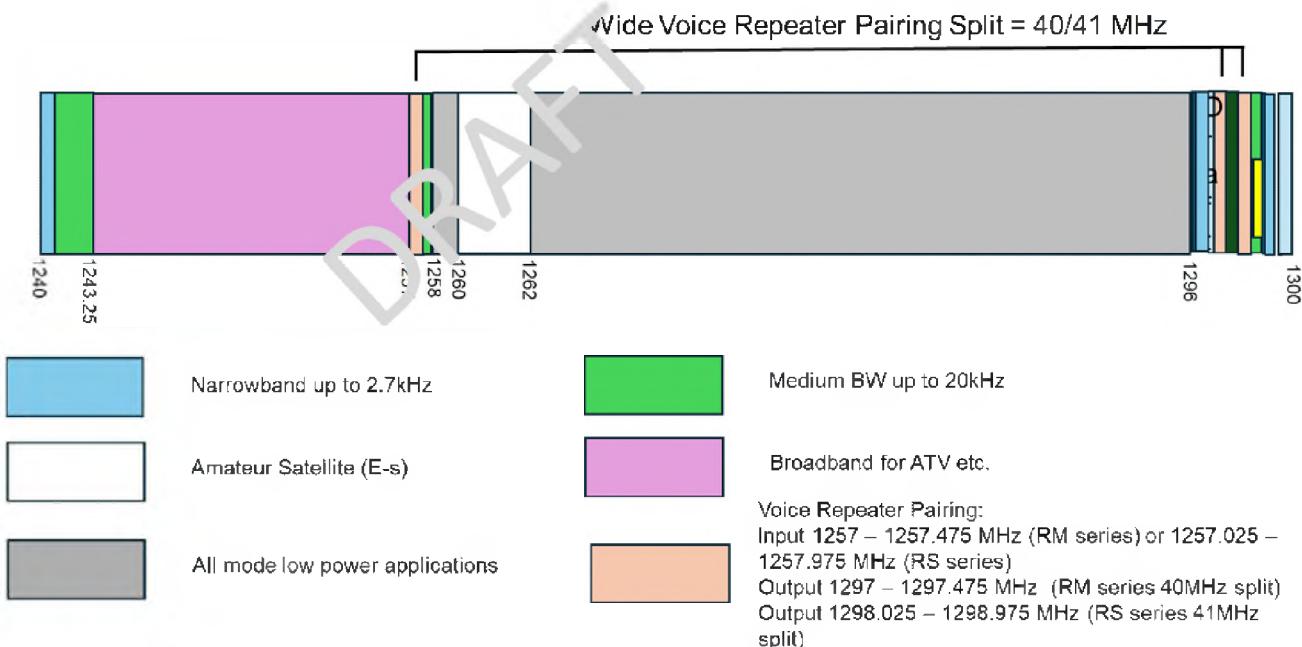
In conclusion, I would like to make it clear that the current band plan IARU R1 is still valid, with the 1296.0–1296.8 segment allocated for EME and terrestrial narrowband operation and therefore we should continue to follow it in 2026.

At the end, I am attaching for discussion the revised 23cm band plan developed by the working group, which will be discussed at GC 2026 in Vienna.

IARU Band plan proposal 1296 – 1300 MHz



IARU Band plan proposal 1240 – 1300 MHz



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Handbook: Current Edition: v10.02:
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