International Amateur Radio Union, Region 1

27th General Conference - Vienna, Austria
19 September - 23 September 2026

Conference Report

1. Foreword

The 27th General Conference of IARU Region 1 was held from 19 to 23 September 2026 at the Parkhotel Schönbrunn in Vienna, Austria. The Österreichischer Versuchssenderverband (OeVSV) hosted the Conference during its centenary year.

This report is issued under Byelaw B.1.22.1. It gives a summary of the Conference. The full record of all decisions, with proposers, seconders and voting results, is in **Annex A: Minutes of the Final Plenary**.

Vienna was a fruitful conference! Member Societies adopted 44 recommendations, a three-year budget and elected a new Executive Committee.

They also made long-term choices for the Region: a permanent Youth Committee, a sustainable funding model and a structured process to modernise our Constitution.

I thank all delegates for their constructive work. I wish every success to the new Executive Committee, which takes office on 31 October 2026.

2. Key Outcomes

- **Youth Committee** confirmed as a permanent committee of the General Conference.
- **Budget 2027–2029** adopted. The membership fee increases progressively, from 1.80 CHF to 2.60 CHF per member in 2029.
- **Constitution and Byelaws**: a Constitution Revision Working Group was created. Online voting was accepted for the adoption of the revised texts.
- **Shaping the Future** closed as a central programme. Its core values and strategic objectives remain the standing goals of the Region.
- **Spectrum protection** confirmed as a priority, with a new Spectrum Protection Coordinator role and a strategic review of HF.
- **New Executive Committee** elected for 2026–2029. President: Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T.
- **Next General Conference**: Skopje, North Macedonia, in 2029, hosted by RSM.

3. Conduct of the Conference

Opening. The OeVSV President, Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU, opened the Conference. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, addressed the Conference on behalf of the IARU Administrative Council and recalled the importance of preparation for WRC-27. The Conference observed a moment of silence for radio amateurs who had died since the last Conference.

Plenary meetings. Four Plenary meetings were held, as required by Byelaw B.1.11:

- an Opening Plenary (19 September), which approved the agenda and set up the conference committees;
- a Second Plenary (20 September), on credentials;
- a Third Plenary (22 September), on nominations;
- the Final Plenary (23 September).

Committees. The following committees met during the Conference:

- C2 Credentials and Finance, chaired by DL3MBG (DARC), with OK1RI (CRC), SP5E (PZK), GU4YOX (RSGB), OH2BQZ (SRAL), ON5OO (UBA) and EA4BFK (URE). The President, Treasurer and Secretary were ex-officio members (B.1.14);

- C3 General Administrative and Organisational, chaired by F4GKR;
- C4 HF;
- C5 VHF/UHF/Microwaves;
- C6 Election and Ballot, chaired by R5AA (SRR);
- C7 EMC;
- C8 Youth, meeting for the first time as a permanent committee.

Working methods.

- The Opening Plenary approved by unanimous decision that the Plenary and C3 meetings be streamed to remote listeners.
- An electronic voting system was used for the first time. Votes cast with it were treated as secret ballots.
- Remote attendance was low: between 2 and 12 persons, fewer than 5 on average. Future decisions on hybrid formats should take this into account.

Presentations. The following presentations were given during the Conference. The slides are available on the conference website https://conf.iaru-r1.org/documents/ under "Presentations".

Date	Presentation	Speaker
20 Sept	EMF (electromagnetic fields)	Petter Gärdin,SM3PXO
20 Sept	ENAMS noise measurement project	Dr. Andreas Lock, DG8AL, Klaus Eichel, DL6SES
21 Sept	ARSPEX — Amateur radio in space	Stefan Dombrowski, ON6TI
21 Sept	Amateur satellites	Graham Shirville, G3VZV
21 Sept	Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC)	Rosy Schechter, KJ7RYV, ARDC
22 Sept	50ohm — the DARC education initiative and its internationalisation (Third Plenary)	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Matthias Jung, DL9MJ
22 Sept	Mauritius Amateur Radio Society (MARS), at its first General Conference	Ashwin Mandary, 3B8GL

References: Minutes VI26_PIC_1, VI26_PIC_2, VI26_PIC_3 and Final Plenary; Conference Programme, Version 10.0.

4. Credentials

At the Second Plenary, C2 reported the following figures:

Member Societies of Region 1	104
Member Societies entitled to vote	74
Majority required for Constitution changes (2/3)	49
Majority required for Byelaws changes and other decisions (50% + 1)	38
Member Societies present	36
Proxies	16, corrected to 15

AFVL (Liechtenstein) left before the Final Plenary. Under Byelaw B.4.8, AFVL appointed USKA to vote on its behalf, except in the election of the Executive Committee (B.4.8.2). The proxy count was corrected to 15.

References: Minutes C2 no 1 and no 2, VI26_PIC_2, VI26_PIC_3.

5. Finances

The Treasurer, HB9JOE, presented the budget to C2. The financial documents were not publicly shared on the conference website, but a link was emailed to member societies and conference delegates (the registered email).

C2 noted three facts:

- the total membership of Member Societies has fallen from about 175,000 to 106,000;
- the work of the Region has grown;
- the fee per member has not changed for many years.

The Conference adopted the budget for 2027–2029 by 41 votes to 6 (REC VI26_C2_REC_01):

- **Membership fee:** 1.80 CHF per member in 2027, 2.30 CHF in 2028 and 2.60 CHF in 2029.
- **STARS funds:** up to 50,000 CHF may be withdrawn in 2027.
- **Priorities:** more support for Youth Committee activities, and continued support for spectrum defence, taking inflation into account.

The Conference rejected an amendment to restore the HST budget line.

C2 also recommended two changes in procedure:

- a full preliminary budget should be prepared for each General Conference when the venue is decided;
- C2 should start its work before future Conferences.

References: Minutes C2 no 2, C3 (item 48).

6. Governance and Organisation

Structure of the Region. The Conference ratified two interim decisions of the Executive Committee:

- the transformation of the Youth Working Group into the permanent Youth Committee (C8);
- the creation of the Open-Source Projects Coordinator role, held by HB9SSB.

It also made the following changes:

- the Technology Working Group becomes a Technology Coordinator role;
- a CEPT/HAREC Coordinator and a Spectrum Protection Coordinator are to be appointed;
- the Terms of Reference of all committees and working groups will be reviewed and published as a single document;
- the Executive Committee will keep a public tracker of active recommendations, and old or impractical recommendations will be closed.

IARU region 1 Constitution and Byelaws. The Conference first tried to adopt revised texts in Vienna. A drafting team chaired by F4GKR worked during the Conference. The time was too short to finalise both texts. The Conference therefore agreed on a structured process:

- The Constitution and the Byelaws will be drafted as two separate documents (VI26_C3_REC_20).
- A temporary Constitution Revision Working Group is created, chaired by HB9JOE, with nine Member Societies. It works with the Executive Committee (VI26_REC_PLENARY_01).
- The revised texts may be adopted by online voting, coordinated by the Executive Committee (VI26_REC_PLENARY_02).
- The Working Group may also study other conference cycles and formats (VI26_REC_PLENARY_03).

Strategy. The Shaping the Future programme closes as a central programme, together with its Programme Board, its Coordinator role and its reserved budget. Its Core Values, Core Purpose, Overarching Goal and eight Strategic Objectives remain the standing goals of the Region. Existing activities continue only where a project coordinator leads them.

IARU structure. VE6SH presented the proposed global restructuring of IARU. Member Societies will be asked to vote on it in 2027. The Conference adopted a position: the federated regional model is the way forward, and changes should come in small, clear steps (VI26_C3_REC_19).

External relations, licensing and education.

- A group led by 3V9A will study how to engage high-profile ambassadors to support amateur radio with regulators and governments.
- The Executive Committee will start partnership talks with EASE on educational material.
- IARU will ask the ITU to support recognition of Morse code as intangible heritage by UNESCO.
- The Conference approved in principle the HAREC syllabus update (T/R 61-02, Annex 6), subject to revision using feedback from Member Societies, and encouraged wider participation in T/R 61-01.

References: Minutes C3, VI26_PIC_2, Final Plenary.

7. Spectrum and Technical Matters

Key points

- The Executive Committee will appoint a Spectrum Protection Coordinator to work with SRLC. The vote was close: 25 in favour, 21 against, 5 abstentions.
- The Region asks the IARU Administrative Council to extend the role of IARU-IWS to all amateur spectrum, not only HF.

HF

- A strategic review of HF will focus on protection against emerging threats. It will be carried out with SRLC and EMCC.
- Member Societies are asked to discuss with their regulators an extension of the 40 m band to 7300 kHz.
- Experimental broadband modes below 30 MHz are supported.
- The 10 m band plan bandwidth limits are updated.

VHF/UHF/Microwaves

Main band plan changes:

- a supplementary 23 cm band plan for countries that implement ECC Decision (25)01;
- removal of the bandwidth limit in 144.500–144.794 MHz;
- a high-altitude balloon telemetry centre of activity at 434.500 MHz.

Other decisions:

- the contest rules now allow limited self-spotting;
- an Open-Source Repeater Database Working Group is created.

EMCC

The ENAMS noise-measurement project continues, with an operational sub-group and a development sub-group.

References: Minutes VI26_C4 (Final), C5 (19–20 September 2026), C7 minutes, Final Plenary.

8. Youth

This was the first Conference of C8 as a permanent committee. Its chair is EA1JAY. Youth participation was higher than at previous Conferences, mainly thanks to the YOTA summer camps.

The Conference adopted the following decisions:

- **Provisions** for the revised Byelaws were adopted. The Terms of Reference will be sent to the Executive Committee before the end of 2026.
- **Shadow Chair model:** a non-voting apprenticeship that brings younger amateurs into the work of committees and working groups.
- **Youth Engagement Conference:** becomes a recurring programme.
- **Global Youth Mobilisation:** a temporary working group will explore a cooperation agreement.

- **Child protection:** a working group will revise the Region's child protection policies. The chair of this working group was to be appointed in Vienna. The Conference did not decide this point.
- **Education:** Member Societies are encouraged to promote amateur radio in national education policies and to share good practice.

References: Minutes C8 no 1 and no 2, C3, Final Plenary.

9. Elections and Appointments

Executive Committee 2026–2029. The Election and Ballot Committee conducted the election. There were 15 nominees. Each of the two rounds had 49 ballots.

Office	Name	Call sign	Society	Votes
President	Hans Blondeel Timmerman	PB2T	VERON	44
Vice President	Dennis Green	ZS4BS	SARL	37
Secretary	Achraf (Ash) Chaabane	3V9A	ARAT	47
Treasurer	Elvira (Vera) Hardmeier Balmer	HB9EYH	USKA	49
Member	Ahmad AlHoli	9K2DB	KARS	31
Member	Ana Canizares Bejarano	EI5IXB	IRTS	30
Member	Joseph Msallam	5B4APB	CARS	24
Member	Markus Großer	DL8GM	DARC	21
Member	Florian Zwingl	OE3FTA	OeVSV	21

The new Executive Committee takes office on 31 October 2026 (Constitution A.4.13).

Chairs and coordinators. The Conference confirmed the chairs of permanent committees and the coordinators listed in conference document VI26_C3_58 Rev 1 (VI26_C3_REC_23).

10. Next General Conference

Two proposals were received, from DARC (Landshut) and RSM (Skopje). The Conference chose **Skopje**, with 62% of the votes against 38%. The indicative delegate fee is below 900 EUR. The 28th General Conference will be held in 2029.

11. Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy

Seamus McCague, EI8BP, received the G2BVN plaque awarded at the Zlatibor Conference. In Vienna, the panel (SARL, EDR, ARI, OeVSV, PZK) awarded the Trophy to **Murray Niman, G6JYB**, and **Panayot Danev, LZ1US**.

12. Follow-up for the Executive Committee

Under Constitution A.4.3.1, the Executive Committee decides how to implement the recommendations. The following actions have deadlines:

Action	Lead	Deadline	Reference
C8 Terms of Reference sent to the EC	C8	31 Dec 2026	VI26_C3_REC_15
Global Youth Mobilisation working group: first analysis, then a draft for HAM RADIO 2027	C8	End 2026, then June 2027	VI26_C8_REC_02
Shadow Chair criteria and procedures	C8, with committee chairs	May 2027	VI26_C3_REC_17
Report on the ambassador's approach	3V9A	Sept 2027	VI26_C3_REC_03
Revised Constitution and Byelaws, adopted by online vote	Constitution Revision WG (HB9JOE)	*[TBC]*	VI26_REC_PLENARY_01–03
Review of the conference budget procedure	Treasurer (GU4YOX, EA4BFK)	*[TBC]*	Minutes C2 no 2

Action	Lead	Deadline	Reference
Revision of the child protection policy	Working group (EC, C8, ARDF, HST). Chair not decided by the Conference	As soon as possible	VI26_C8_REC_05
Evaluation of the EASE cooperation	EC	GC 2029	VI26_C3_REC_04

13. Acknowledgements

The Region thanks the OeVSV, its President Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU, and the organising team for an excellent Conference and for inviting all participants to the OeVSV centenary celebration. The Region also thanks:

- the chairs and secretaries of the committees;
- the Election and Ballot Committee;
- the outgoing Executive Committee;
- all delegates and observers.

References

The documents below are not annexed. They are available to Member Societies on the conference website *https://conf.iaru-r1.org/*.

- Conference Programme, Version 10.0
- Plenary minutes: VI26_PIC_1 (Opening and First Plenary), VI26_PIC_2 (Second Plenary), VI26_PIC_3 (Third Plenary)
- C2 Credentials and Finance: minutes of meetings no 1 and no 2
- C3 General Administrative and Organisational: VI26_C3_Minutes
- C4 HF: VI26_C4_Minutes_Final
- C5 VHF/UHF/Microwaves: Minutes C5 Vienna 2026 v2
- C7 EMC: VI26_C7_06 Minutes V1.2
- C8 Youth: minutes of meetings no 1 and no 2
- Chairs and coordinators 2026: VI26_C3_58 Rev 1