



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany  
16 – 23 September 2017



<b>Subject</b>	<b>IARU Region 1 Report</b>		
<b>Society</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>IARU Region 1</b>
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## 1. Introduction

When standing for election at the 2014 Conference, G3BJ explained to the Conference the five areas where, if elected, he hoped to make real progress in the three years up to 2017:

- keep the focus firmly on our agenda with ITU and the RTOs
- financial stability
- managing the spectrum threats in the EMC field
- helping member Societies increase the inflow into amateur radio including at youth level
- making sure IARU remains relevant in terms of its organisation and strategies as we move into the future

The following paragraphs comment on each area.

## 2. Keep the focus firmly on our agenda with ITU and the RTOs

We must never forget that IARU's prime role is to work globally for spectrum privileges for the amateur service and for spectrum protection, to ensure our spectrum remains usable. With this in mind, since 2014 we have gained rights as observers at the two Regional Telecommunications Organisations (RCC in Russia and ASMG in the Middle East) where we had no presence beforehand. This means that Region 1 is active in all four RTOs in the Region (CEPT, ATU, RCC and ASMG). This is significant as it is becoming clear that success at World Radio Conferences will in future depend on achieving a supportive position in each of the RTOs. For WRC 2019 our focus is particularly on Agenda Item 1.1, seeking a Region 1-wide allocation at 50-54 MHz. Extensive work is under way to develop a position in the Region 1 RTOs which will support the outcome at WRC19

Resourcing the work in the RTOs (and indeed at ITU) is demanding, both in terms of the personal commitment of those volunteers in IARU who do this work, and also in terms of our budget. For the next plan period the EC believes we need to look carefully at our non-core activities to ensure that we can properly resource our work on Spectrum Privileges in ITU and the RTOs.

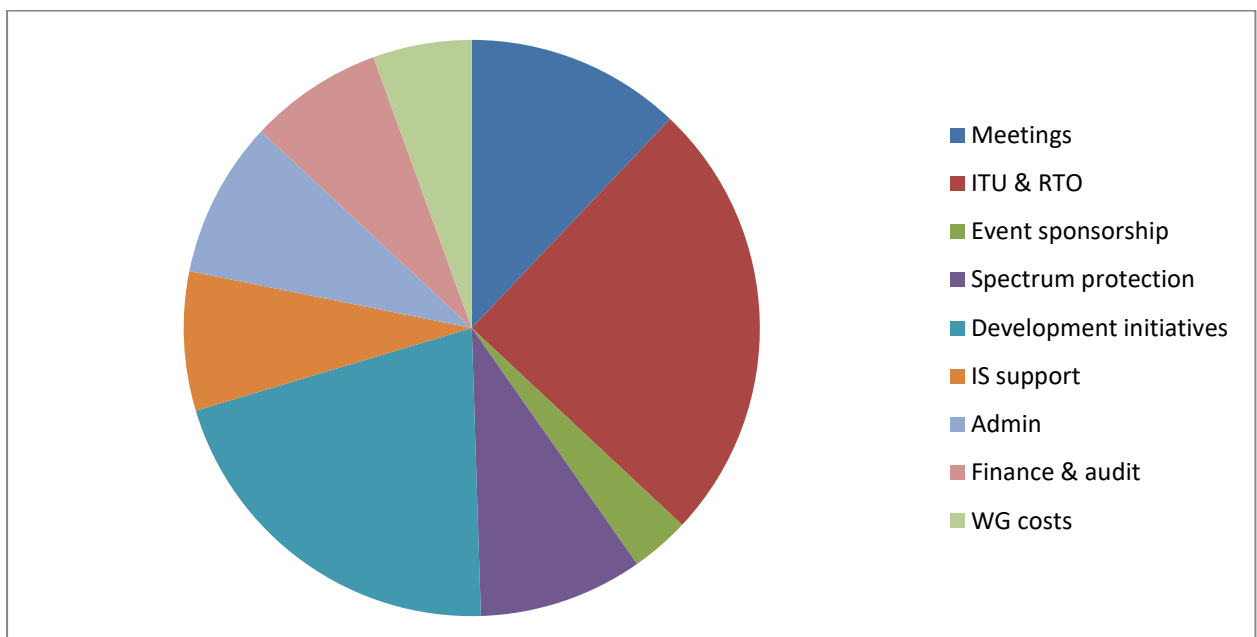
## 3. Financial Stability

We inherited a budget from the 2014 Conference which shows a very significant drain on reserves over the plan period to 2017. Whilst it accepts that this was Conference's decision in 2014, the EC questions the wisdom of running down the reserves so steeply, at a time when membership numbers are dropping and we are in very uncertain times concerning the future

health of amateur radio. So the EC took the decision to avoid all unnecessary expenditure, whilst continuing with all investment programmes. We have sought to hold annual EC meetings in the most cost-effective locations in Europe, and have looked for every opportunity to hold cost down in other areas, without impacting investment in “future” programmes. We also took the view not to pass on to Member Societies the impact of the Swiss Franc revaluation in early 2015, which has impacted adversely our income by about 10%.

The result of all this is that **total reserves** are now projected to be some 86k better than budget at end-2017. This has been achieved with an over-budget investment in the YOTA programme, but sadly with an under-investment in STARS projects because of the extreme instability in many countries that would otherwise have been targets for STARS investment.

Our strong recommendation to Conference is that there should not be a rapid roll-off in reserves built into future budgets and that the next EC be mandated to operate the overhead of the Region at the lowest possible level. It is perhaps worth reminding ourselves of where we spend money and the following pie-chart shows this in a simple manner:



#### 4. Managing the spectrum threats in the EMC field

The 2014 Conference determined that EMC was becoming so important that it warranted a separate standing committee. This was a clear signal that we needed to make real progress in this area, and we have, but much more effort is needed. Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE has worked tirelessly to argue for sanity in the standards area. He has been very involved in ETSI, CENELEC and CISPR and it is a credit to his professionalism that in 2016 he was appointed as Chair of CISPR Committee H, the key committee of interest to us in the Amateur Radio Service. Thilo has worked with the Region 1 President to draw people from member societies into a new “EMC Committee” which now meets virtually to discuss standards initiatives and make input through national standards bodies and directly. We have been very fortunate indeed in having

had someone with the energy and focus that Thilo has, to lead our work in this area. He has now moved on to a more challenging role which prevents him from continuing with his IARU role and we wish him well in that. We are pleased that Tore Worren, LA9QL, agreed to take over the EMC Committee at least up to the 2017 Conference. We still need more effort behind EMC issues and so we ask all Member Societies that are not actively involved in the work of the EMC Committee to consider identifying someone to help its work.

## **5. Helping member Societies increase the inflow into amateur radio including at youth level**

There are already some good initiatives under way in some societies to attract new names to Amateur Radio. But much more is needed. At the Region 1 level, our main contribution so far has been to drive the YOTA programme. This is becoming a very popular event and is in danger of growing beyond what can be managed at Regional level. For 2016 and 2017 we increased the available budget to help cater for the demand. You will therefore see a paper in Conference asking you to consider a proposal to adjust the strategic focus of the programme. We have also initiated the Youth Contesting Programme (YCP), designed to give young people the opportunity to experience contest operation from some of the “super-stations” in Europe. Contesting appeals to many young people and is a way of rapidly developing technical and operating skills, as well as building a community across Europe. The annual YOTA event and the YCP are all capable of being devolved to countries and sub-regions and the EC commends this to you for consideration in Committee C3.

## **6. Making sure IARU remains relevant in terms of its organisation and strategies as we move into the future**

The Region 1 President’s personal focus in this area has been to look at the way IARU presents itself externally. A paper was presented to the Administrative Council proposing a single global brand in IARU. In the past, IARU has been three more or less independent Regions, working under a loose umbrella of the International Secretariat. The AC agreed that we needed to position ourselves as a truly global organisation, as we were involved in negotiations at global level and have not presented as a single organisation to date. So changes have been agreed to converge on a single IARU logo, a single style for things like business cards and perhaps most significantly a single style for websites. You will probably share the view that the current Region 1 website has served its purpose and is now outdated and in need a total refresh. Work is already underway to develop a new Region 1 website in a “skin” that is identical to the websites of the other regions and we hope we will be transitioning to the new site before too long.

Brand is one thing but being seen as a global organisation also requires us to **act** globally. The maxim “think global, act local” applies very much to IARU. And so the AC has accepted proposals for a much greater degree of global coordination on the strategies and tactics leading up to each WRC. We have developed a “matrix” approach which identifies the key players at RTO and ITU level and places them into a “virtual organisation” with a single person coordinating strategy globally, so that we can move towards the ultimate aim of having all RTOs come to similar positions on a WRC Agenda item where the Amateur Service has an interest. This is hard work, but success should yield greater success for IARU in WRCs.

So that is a summary of the progress against the five areas that G3BJ committed to in 2014. We now cover a few more areas of concern where Conference may want to give further guidance.

## 7. STARS

You will see a paper on the future strategy for STARS. The EC is disappointed that we have not made more progress on STARS. Partly this is because of significant instability in target countries, but partly it is because the STARS model was in need of review. In 2016, when it became clear that STARS projects were simply not happening, the Region 1 President held a review to consider the future direction. The EC still believes that the concept of STARS is right but it has been built on insecure foundations in some countries. You will see some statistics in the STARS papers, but it is a major concern that the countries accounting for some 66% of the STARS past investment do not currently pay their dues to IARU (indicating a society that is either non-existent or in serious financial difficulties). In the past, the focus has been on creating member societies and in many cases there has been too much reliance on expatriate resources, with the result that when these people left the country, the Society collapsed. For the future, we will insist that there is a core team of local nationals with the energy and commitment to make things happen. Only after that will we consider any funding of equipment, and even that will follow only after some intermediate steps covering training and relationships with the administration.

Jean-Jacques Niava will be standing down as STARS Chair this year. We are grateful to him for his efforts to try to get some action in STARS. It is now particularly important that we find someone with drive and commitment to take over this task. It is not easy, and requires a dedication and focus on development in target countries as well as the necessary political skills to handle the challenges of working in diverse national cultures.

## 7. EURAO

You will probably be aware that EURAO is a small international radio society, with members in a handful of countries.

Despite its small size, EURAO has been able to agree a MoU with CEPT in the same way that IARU has. Having secured the rights to attend CEPT meetings, EURAO has sought to introduce text (originally proposed by IARU in the most recent version of [T/R 61-02] which recognised that there is now more than one user group organisation representing the amateur service) in all CEPT deliverables. This new text replaces 'IARU' with 'international organisations representing amateur radio service licensees'.

This led to a decision at the recent WGFM meeting that tasked the ECO to editorially align all CEPT deliverables dealing with the amateur service with the Terms of Reference of the forum group and the wording recently approved in ECC/REC/(05)06.

Furthermore, EURAO and IARU were asked to work together on a common code of conduct for operation on the amateur bands (as referenced in recommendation T/R 61-02 and elsewhere). It is therefore necessary for IARU to work with EURAO on this matter.

This raises the question of how we should handle the ongoing relationship with EURAO. There is no facility under our Constitution for EURAO to become a member society of IARU (which could be a positive way of resolving the issue). However, the EC view is that the future will be better if EURAO and IARU have a constructive working relationship, rather than one based on conflict. We should perhaps mention in passing that much of the growth of EURAO would seem to be related to the reluctance of some IARU member societies to provide an incoming QSL service to non-members at a reasonable fee (in accordance with IARU Resolution 85-9)

The EC recognises that some member societies hold very strong views about EURAO and regard it as a threat. Somehow however, the EC feels that we need to establish a relationship with EURAO based on mutual respect and trust.

Conference will be updated on the latest position with EURAO when this paper is discussed.

## **8. Other work**

Other work undertaken by the EC during the period under review includes the following.

### **2014**

#### **IARU Region 1 Tri-Annual Conference 2014**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Tri-annual Conference of IARU Region 1 was held at Varna-Albena, Bulgaria over the period 21 to 26 September 2014 hosted by the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs. Forty-three Region 1 Member Societies were present in person at Conference with sixteen proxies approved, thus 59 Member Societies were represented at Conference. Officers from the IARU, Region 2 and Region 3 also attended the conference.

The following were elected to serve as the Region 1 Executive Committee for the period 2014 to 2017:

President: Don Beattie, G3BJ

Vice President: Fiasal Alajmi, 9K2RR

Secretary: Dennis Green, ZS4BS

Treasurer: Eva Thiemann, HB9FPM

Members: Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE; David Court, EI3IO; Ranko Boca, 4O3A; Ivan Stauning, OZ7IS, and Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO.

The DARC will host the 24<sup>th</sup> Tri-annual Conference in 2017 in Wildbad Kreuth, near Munich Germany.

### **2015**

#### **Region 1 Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 held its annual meeting on 7 and 8 February 2015 at the Mecure Hotel Frankfurt Airport in Germany.

During the two day meeting the following items were discussed - strategic priorities, the financial report and budget, spectrum matters including the External Relations Committee, the HF and VHF reports and the review of the European Common frequency Allocation table (ECA), core issues such as EMC, the member society and its regulator, activities involving young people, the STARS programme, the relationship with the European Commission and the Region 1 web site.

In the discussions about activities involving young people, the EC agreed that proper child protection policies and practices must be in place. A child protection policy has been drawn up and is now in use in events involving young people.

Further, the meeting looked at the Emergency Communications Report and reports on ARDF, HST and IPHA. A report was tabled about Member Society matters as well as reports from Region 2 and 3. Amateur Radio in Disputed Areas and second societies were also discussed.

### **Other Meetings**

At the International Meeting at Ham Radio 2015, the DARC informed the meeting that the venue of the 2017 General Conference had changed from Wildbad Kreuth to Landshut.

During the year meetings of CEPT, RCC, ASMG, ITU and other organisations were attended by G3PSM, EI3IO, PB2T, LZ1US, 9K2RR and G3BJ.

G3BJ and 9K2RR attended the AC meeting and the IARU Region 3 General Conference in Indonesia.

### **World Radio Conference 2015**

The World Radio Conference in Geneva in late 2015 was attended by a number of people representing IARU Region 1, including PB2T, 6W1KI, G3BJ, DK4VW and 9K2RR. The outcome on the principal agenda item of interest to the Amateur Radio Service – a global allocation around 5 MHz – was somewhat disappointing, but serves to emphasise the difficulty of acquiring additional spectrum in the current climate. The other significant achievement was securing agreement to an agenda item to gain an amateur allocation in the 50-54 MHz band in Region 1, to align with the existing allocations elsewhere in the world.

## **2016**

### **Region 1 Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 held its annual meeting on 6, 7 and 8 May 2016 at the Novotel Brussels Hotel, Brussels, Belgium.

The coordination issues in the run-up to WRC-15 were reviewed and that it was generally agreed that IARU needed a different approach to prepare for WRCs. A more coordinated approach had been agreed by the AC, involving a matrix structure.

ON4WW and ON4UN had asked that IARU take over custodianship of the publication on Operating Procedures and Ethics for the Radio Amateur. G3BJ had met with ON4WW and ON4UN on 5 May 2016 in Brussels to sign an agreement which passes the intellectual property and the right to make amendments to IARU Region 1. The IARU will look at producing a slimmed-down version as a training manual for the new HAREC syllabus section on standards.

G3PSM, EI3IO and LA2RR discussed various matters pertaining to Spectrum Matters, CEPT/CITEL roaming arrangements and the Agenda items for WRC-19. Agenda Item 1.1 deals with an allocation of the frequency 50 to 54 MHz to the amateur service.. Reports were presented on HF, VHF and EMC matters as well as on STARS, EURAO and the Youth. The meeting spent a lot of time discussing the Region 1 web site and the way forward. The planning for the 2017 General Conference was discussed in detail, the initial documentation would be send out on 16 September 2016.

The recommendations from the Interim Meeting held in Vienna in April 2016 were discussed and most were approved. Certain recommendations were referred back to the Working Groups for further action.

A report on Member Society matters was tabled as well as reports from EC members, Working Groups and Regions 2 and 3.

### **Other Meetings**

During the year meetings of CEPT, RCC, ASMG, ITU and other organisations were attended by G3PSM, EI3IO, PB2T, LZ1US, 9K2RR and G3BJ.

G3BJ attended the AC meeting and the IARU Region 2 General Conference in Chile.

## **2017**

### **Region 1 Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of IARU Region 1 held its annual meeting from 4 to 7 May 2017 at the Sparkassenakademie Bayern in Landshut, Germany. Also present were the Chairs of the three Permanent Committees (HF, V/U/SHF and EMC) together with the Chairs of the Political Relations Committee, the Youth Working Group and IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR

Matters discussed, in addition to regular business were the arrangements for the Region 1 Conference to be held at the Landshut Conference Centre in September 2017, the future financial strategy for the Region, preparations for WRC 19, actions to bring coherence to the IARU brand, including new websites, the STARS programme and the future direction for the Youth programme. Papers to be submitted to Conference by the EC were also approved.

### **2017 Region 1 General Conference**

The 2017 IARU Region 1 General Conference will be held at the Sparkassenakademie Bayern

over the period 16 to 23 September 2017.

**Dennis Green, ZS4BS**  
**Secretary**

**Don Beattie, G3BJ**  
**President**