



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany



16 – 23 September 2017

Subject:	<b>Support to Countries who cannot afford to send a delegate to the IARU Region 1 Conference</b>		
Society	<b>Executive Committee</b>	Country:	<b>IARU Region 1</b>
Committee	<b>C3</b>	Paper Number:	<b>LA17_C3_33</b>
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## Information Paper

### 1. Introduction

This information paper sets out new arrangements which the Executive Committee has introduced to set additional qualifying criteria for awarding financial support for societies to send a single delegate to a regional Conference.

### 2. Background

For some years, it has been practice providing financial support to Member Societies who are unable to fund attendance at Regional Conferences. This assistance in the past has been based on the funds available and may extend to:

- Funding the complete costs of attendance (including travel)
- Part funding (generally the Conference hotel costs)

The history of this sponsorship is unclear, but it is believed to be based on:

- The wish to encourage participation of developing countries in the work of IARU
- The need to have sufficient societies at a Conference to enable Constitution and By-law change to be approved (these require a majority of either 50% or 66% of member societies eligible to vote)

Since the practice of sponsorship was introduced, the Region has been able to conduct ballots for constitutional change by email. The threshold for approval of constitutional change has also been lowered by virtue of the fact that the words “eligible to vote” have been added, meaning that inactive societies are not counted in the total number of societies eligible to be counted. Today there are xx of the yy Member Societies who are NOT eligible to vote.

Sponsored delegates have historically had a mixed performance in terms of their contribution to, and involvement in, the Conference. Some have seen the opportunity to travel as an excuse for a holiday, making scant appearances at the Conference meetings. Others have been present but played little part in the work of the Conference.

In the past also, the Executive Committee has been surprised that when sponsorship has been agreed, in some cases the MS has brought TWO delegates, one of whom was sponsored by the Region. This hardly suggests that the society had an inability to pay. This has been overcome more recently by a condition that only one delegate may attend from a “sponsored” MS.

In addition, the number of requests for support has increased over the years, meaning that choices have had to be made.

The next section of this paper summarises the changes to the sponsorship policy which have been applied from 2017 onwards.

### 3. The new arrangements

Sponsorship is not a “right.” It has to be earned through being an active society, working for the future of amateur radio in the country concerned. Therefore, in future, Member Societies applying for sponsorship are required to show that they have worked in the interests of amateur radio in their country in the previous three-year period. They are asked to submit a report with their application for sponsorship showing achievements in areas which might include one or more of the following:

- Improvements achieved in the regime of licensing (for nationals or visitors) to also include improvements in the overall relationship between the MS and their NRA.
- Improvements made in the accessibility to amateur radio (availability of training, examinations)
- Improvements made in the cost of gaining a licence (exam fees, training costs, licence fees)
- Improvements made in the activities of the Member Society (membership growth, training programmes etc etc)
- Growth in the number of amateurs
- Other achievements of the MS

Decisions by the EC on sponsorship are now based on the verified submissions by MS and the budget available. Where an MS has made little or no progress over the three-year period, it would not normally be considered for sponsorship.

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