



RRC-06, Geneva (SUI),

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Progress report 5th week of RRC-06

“The marvellous package” and reading 1810 pages

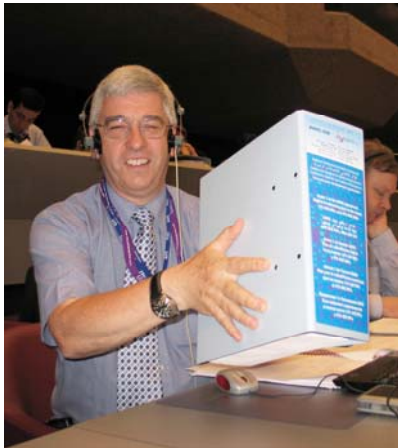
The package deal mentioned in the report of the 4th week, also known as “the marvellous package”, obtained support of all CEPT delegations after careful study and analysis.

Meeting the deadlines were again a challenge, this week it was reported that a head of delegation of a CEPT member country needed to take a four hour car drive in order to sign the final protocol declarations in time.

A paper copy of an extract of the digital plan consisting of 1810 double sided printed pages, was the basis for approval of the digital Plan at Committee level and for the first and second reading in Plenary. The two “readings” of the 1810 pages in Plenary took only a few minutes!

Since the ERC in Oslo, 29.11 – 3.12.1999, concluded that the conference to revise ST61 should be an ITU conference for the whole of the European Broadcasting Area, a considerable amount of work has been carried out in CEPT, initially in Working Group FM (Project Team 24) and later in Working Group RRC-06. All these efforts have resulted in a satisfactory outcome of RRC-06.

Planning process



The CNG-1 chairman Nigel Laflin with the paper version of the Plan

After having corrected errors, the digital Plan has been agreed in Plenary on the basis of a paper copy containing an extract of the digital Plan. Only a few countries in Europe did not achieve 100% satisfied requirements and all European countries have more than 90% of their requirements satisfied.

It was concluded that the most appropriate way to deal with unsatisfied requirements is to apply the Article 4 procedure for these requirements as soon as possible after the conference. In doing so reference should be made to the agreements achieved during RRC-06.

It should be noted that many of the plan entries are subject to bilaterally agreed conditions that need to be fulfilled before the digital stations are brought into use.

Agreement text

The package deal mentioned in the report of the 4th week, also known as “the marvellous package” has been analysed carefully within CEPT. The explanation of the package is given in CEPT document RRC06/021rev3: Flexibility in future use for released spectrum in RRC-06 Planned Bands. This document can be found at the rrc document section of the ERO website under RRC-06 information/CEPT meetings during RRC. The conclusions are:

- 1) The objectives of the ECPs have been met to the extent possible within the constraints of the negotiations and the mandate of the Conference.
- 2) The Agreement is future proof to take advantage of possible changes in the Article 5 of the Radio Regulations, or the definition of services.
- 3) Europe has made the issue of increased flexibility in the use of the spectrum one of the major issues on RRC-06. In bilateral discussions with representatives of other regions, there has been a high degree of agreement of the need to introduce greater flexibility in the Radio Regulations in forthcoming WRCs, including the introduction of primary allocations to the Land Mobile and Fixed services in the band 470-862 MHz.
- 4) Within CEPT, providing CEPT countries join the declaration as outlined in Section 9 of doc RRC06/021rev3, the objectives of the ECP will be met fully without further action. The declaration is to the effect that CEPT countries will protect the Plan entries of other CEPT countries in the case they are used for alternative terrestrial applications providing they operate under the envelope of the digital broadcasting entry in the Plan, i.e. the peak power density in any 4 kHz shall not exceed the spectral power density in the same 4 kHz of the notified digital broadcasting assignment.

Annexes to the Agreement

It took a number of extra Committee meetings to agree on all agreement text including the technical annexes. All annexes have been agreed in line with the ECPs, but with the following remarks:

- Annex 5 (Operation of alternative terrestrial applications within the envelope of a digital entry to the Plan). The ECP for this annex was part of the “marvellous package”, and is incorporated in Article 5 of the Agreement. A separate annex is therefore not necessary.

- Annex 4 Section II (Conformity check for conversion of allotments or assignments into one or more assignments). The technical basis is in line with the ECP, however the application of the conformity check in relation to Article 4 and Article 5 of the Agreement has been separated. Throughout the conference this section caused considerably difficulty mainly because of its complexity. Even in the final stage, during the first reading in Plenary, there was a discussion on some of the paragraphs.

Declarations to the Final Acts

The following declarations have been signed by CEPT delegations:

- A generic declaration in relation to the RRC-06 Agreement stating that all former declarations are still valid
- A generic declaration in relation to the RRC-06-rev ST61 Agreement stating that all former declarations are still valid
- A declaration in relation other use of plan entries (see section Agreement text); this declaration was also signed by 13 African delegations.

In addition the EU countries submitted a declaration to express that they will apply the provisions of the Final Acts of the RRC-06 in accordance with their obligations under the EC Treaty.

Acknowledgement

After six and a half years of preparing RRC-06 and five weeks of intensive work during RRC-06, the chairman of WG RRC-06 would like to express his appreciation to the vice-chairmen of WG RRC-06, the Project Team chairmen, the other members of the CEPT coordination team and the European chairmen and vice-chairmen of RRC-06 Committees, Working Groups, Drafting Groups, Coordination and Negotiation Groups (CNGs) and sub-CNGs. Their knowledge, experience and endurance contributed highly to the success of the RRC-06.