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| **Subject** | Report from the C5 Chairman | | |
| **Society** | IARU Region 1 | **Country:** | N/A |
| **Committee:** | C5 | **Paper number:** | NS20\_C5\_02 |
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This report has been made in collaboration with Murray,G6JYB, our spectrum specialist.

# VHF newsletters

Between the Conference in Landshut and now there were 7 VHF newsletters published. 3 between Landshut and Vienna and 4 until then.

# Actions taken after the Interim meeting in Vienna

All proposals approved by the EC in a virtual meeting have been applied. The most changes were done in the VHF Handbook and need no further actions.

Some decisions needs to be done by a project team or by MS, in particular:

* **VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_07: To start immediately after WRC-19 a 6 m Working Group to prepare a new Bandplan including Wideband applications and the technical development.**

This working group started his activities in March 2020

* **VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_11: To carry VIE19-C5-006 to the Contest WG, with the guidance of C5 (a.1 in favour, a.2 rejected).**

The contests working group has not discussed this topic.

* **VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_12: To carry the handling of FT8 in contests to CWG.**

The contests working group has not discussed this topic.

* **VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_15: DL3MBG on behalf of DARC and OE1MCU on behalf of ÖVSV to take over the responsibility and financing for the Contest-Robot in line with the VHF-Handbook and the CWG under the guidance of C5. Furthermore, to share the Contest-Robot with all Member Societies when the Contest-Robot has accomplished an appropriate maturity.**

This topic will be discussed in a separate document.

* **VIE19\_C5\_Rec\_17: ÖVSV to start activities for gaining interoperability in bridging technology for DV.**

Nothing heard from ÖVSV

# VHF Handbook

The new handbook is published (and announced in the VHF newsletters) and on the IARU-R1 website. Next version will be published after this conference

# VHF contesting

## Contest working group

In Landshut we decided to give the major part of contesting matters to a working group. A first evaluation made in Vienna was more or less negative. There was (and is until now) a lack of project planning. The working group is “event driven”; they only react if there is a problem and they are taking no pro-active actions.

## IARU-R1 contest robot

In Vienna we decided that OeVSV and DARC should take care about the financing of the contest robot. It is far from clear that this is done effectively. This situation is not clear and will be one of the core discussions for this conference.

# Spectrum issues

## 50MHz:

ITU WRC-19 was held in October/November 2019 in Sharm-el-Sheikh Egypt. Following four years of team effort and hard work, the conference resulted in an agreement to formally add 50 MHz in Region-1 to the ITU Radio Regulations. A default was agreed of 50-52MHz secondary but with a number of countries also have 50.0-50.5 as Primary; and parts of Africa and the Middle East up to 50-54 MHz Primary (where ATU and ASMG were supportive compared to the more complex situation in CEPT and RCC).

The WRC-19 Final Acts are legally due to come into effect on 1st January 2021, but there is no need to wait with some countries such as Germany already gaining improved access. VHF Newsletters 84-86 have more detail on the results and next steps on how we can innovate in the band. It is important that C5 members engage with their administrations to update their allocation privileges where appropriate.

## 23cm:

Unfortunately, WRC-19 also agreed to an EU demand that 1240-1300 MHz be made an Agenda Item (AI-9.1.b) for the next conference in WRC23 (to protect Galileo, Glonass etc). Preparation for this is already intense with several (mostly virtual) meetings for the study already happening within CEPT and the first one in ITU. This is going to be a very difficult and global problem for the amateur and amateur satellites services.

## Others:

CEPT and ITU WRC-23 agenda also has several other items that may threaten us in other bands as pressures continue across <50 MHz to >240 GHz. Frequencies in the mmWave bands may currently have less use, but they are also important to retain so we can support ongoing innovation such as we are witnessing at 122GHz and even higher. They are also great opportunities for pioneering amateur work to be an important part of planning studies and inputs to administrations. With WRC23 work already started, it is vital that Member Societies engage with their administrations and if necessary coordinate with other societies in their country to present a united front.

In the run-up to WRC-19, several C5 members were involved in defending 144 MHz from being nominated for a future aeronautical band. Whilst successful at the time that pressure to ‘share’ has not gone away and need to be discussed further at the Conference.

# Beacons

I want to congratulate Mathias, DH4FAJ is really doing a very good job as the new beacon coordinator. Not only for the practical beacon coordination, but he has also new ideas for organizing beacons in the future.

# Sharing Licences

Worldwide there is growing need for spectrum above 400 MHz, up to 75 GHz (and maybe above) for new purposes such as 5G, IoT, self-driving cars, etc.

Within the EU there is a growing trend to think about sharing frequencies between different services instead of finding dedicated frequencies. This can be a threat for us, but it gives us maybe also opportunities to keep some bands.

This point was put for the first time on our Landshut conference by the SSA. It needs our growing attention, not only in C5, but also in the Political Working Group (mainly in the RSPG) and maybe in the future in CEPT/ITU.

The RSPG held a public consultation about the future working beyond 2020, we answered that we are willing to participate in this discussion.

This can be seen as a threat, but it gives us also some opportunities to discuss with our National regulators to have access to those bands who are now threatened in the traditional thinking about bandplanning.

Jacques Verleijen ON4AVJ Chairman