

THE STOCKHOLM 1961 AGREEMENT

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1 Introduction

The ST61 Agreement for television and sound broadcasting in the European broadcasting area is the oldest broadcasting Plan still in force after 45 years.

In June 2006, in parallel with the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-06), a smaller conference was held to revise again the ST61 Agreement (the first revision was in 1985) limiting its scope to the bands not covered by the main conference.

This document describes the ST61 Plan as revised in 2006 and in particular the Article 4 Plan modification procedure.

2 Scope of the Agreement

The Agreement is now officially titled “Regional Agreement for the European Broadcasting Area, Stockholm, 1961 (as revised by the Regional Radiocommunication for the revision of the Stockholm 1961 Agreement (RRC-06-Rev.ST61))”.

3 ST61 Planning area:

This Agreement regulates the use of VHF bands for the broadcasting service by the countries of the European Broadcasting Area. As defined in Article 5.14 of the Radio Regulations, the European Broadcasting Area is bounded on the west by the western boundary of Region 1, on the east by the meridian 40° East of Greenwich and on the south by the parallel 30° North so as to include the northern part of Saudi Arabia and that part of those countries bordering the Mediterranean within these limits. In addition, Iraq, Jordan and that part of the territory of Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and Ukraine lying outside the above limits are included in the European Broadcasting Area.

4 ST61 Frequency bands:

The remaining frequency bands used in ST61 are:

BAND	FREQUENCY BANDS	NOTES
Band I	47-68 MHz	FM + TV, exclusive band
Band II	87.5-100 MHz	TV only, exclusive band
Band III	162-174 MHz	TV only, shared band

5 ST61 Plan assignments

At the time of its entry into force, the Plan contained 39 199 stations. At the end of 2005 the Plan contained some 72 402 stations. Since all the entries in the bands 174-230 and 572-862 MHz have moved to the GE06 Plan as a result of the RRC-06-Rev.ST61 conference, there are only 1559 recorded assignments remaining in Bands I, II and III.

6 Plan modification procedure

The Article 4 procedure depends on the frequency band in question. The choice of the procedure originally depended on the way the frequency bands were allocated: as bands shared with other services, or as bands allocated on an exclusive basis. Although subsequent radiocommunication conferences have modified the frequency allocation, the original distinction between the procedures remains.

6.1 Exclusive bands:

In the bands 47-68 MHz, 87.5-100 MHz, the administration proposing a modification to the Plan directly seeks the agreement of any other administration if the distance to the border of its territory is less than the coordination distance. This coordination distance is determined from Annex 1 to the Agreement and depends on transmitter effective radiated power, effective antenna height and propagation zones. If the administration consulted fails to reply within 10 weeks, a reminder telegram is sent. If no reply has been received two weeks after the reminder telegram, the administration consulted is considered as having given its agreement. Once all the agreements have been obtained, the administration informs the BR. The modification is published in Part B of Special Section ST61 and recorded into the Plan. However, in some cases, e.g. for very high effective antenna heights, Annex 1 of the Agreement does not give values for the coordination distance. In that case the procedure described below is applicable.

6.2 Shared band

In the band 162-174MHz, the administration proposing the modification informs the BR, giving the necessary information on the assignment. The BR publishes the information in Part A of Special Section ST61. The time limit for submitting comments (directly to the originating administration) is 12 weeks from publication in Part A. If it has received no comments or has reached agreement with administrations that have made comments the administration proposing the modification informs requests the BR to publish it. The modification is entered in the Plan and published in Part B of Special Section ST61 on the BRIFIC DVD-ROM. As a result, the proposed modification is recorded in the Plan.”

. A summary is also published on the ITU web page. When the modification concerns a television station in the band 87.5-100 MHz, consultation shall also be carried out with an administration whose assignment is in conformity with the Regional Agreement (Geneva, 1984).

Currently there is only one station registered in the ST61 Plan in this part of the band.

7 Features of the ST61 Plan modification procedure

- 2 different procedures depending on Frequency bands;
- Short procedure for direct publication in Part B;
- Technical Annex describes propagation and interference calculations;
- No technical reason needed when giving objections;
- “Dead wood” modifications can stay in the Plan forever.

ANNEX 1

Time-limits for notification and comments relating to modifications under Article 4

	ST61 “Exclusive bands” 41-68, 87.5-100 MHz		ST61 “Shared bands”162-174 MHz and when coordination distance does not appear in Annex 1 of the Agreement	
<i>Action by administrations or BR</i>	<i>No. of days</i>	<i>Paragraph of Agreement</i>	<i>No. of days</i>	<i>Paragraph of Agreement</i>
Administrations notify BR of their modifications		1.3		2.1.1
BR publishes an SS	0 days	1.4	0 days	2.1.2
BR sends telex to administrations that have not acknowledged receipt		NA		NA
End of normal period for comments		NA	84 days	2.1.3 (12 weeks)
If there is still disagreement, BR makes studies and informs the administrations concerned		1.1.4		1.1.4
Administrations request publication in Part B		NA		2.1.4