



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Circular Letter
CR/217

23 August 2004

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU¹

Subject: Activities resulting from the decisions of the first session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-04): actions towards the establishment of the reference situation concerning the broadcasting services

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. In accordance with the decisions of the first session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-04), which was held in Geneva from 10 to 28 May 2004, the Radiocommunication Bureau informed your Administration on the results of RRC-04 and brought to the attention of your Administration the Resolutions adopted by RRC-04 that are relevant for the preparation of the Member States for the second session of the RRC (see Circular Letter CR/214 of 25 June 2004). In that Circular Letter the Bureau indicated that it would address other aspects of the intersessional activities in separate communications. This Circular Letter addresses some issues regarding the establishment of the reference situation concerning the broadcasting services.

2. As you are certainly aware, RRC-04 considered the issues regarding the protection of the existing and planned assignments and allotments of the broadcasting service in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz. In this connection, RRC-04 adopted the definition of existing and planned assignments and allotments of the broadcasting service that are to be taken into account in the design of the new plan for digital terrestrial broadcasting in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz. This definition is included in § 1.7.1 of Chapter 1 of the Report of the first session of the Conference to the second session of the Conference (see Annex to Resolution 1 from RRC-04). According to this definition, the existing and planned assignments and allotments of

¹ This Circular Letter is primarily addressed to the Member States of Region 1 (except Mongolia) and to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is for information only for other Member States.

the broadcasting service have been divided into two categories, depending as to whether the concerned frequency assignment or allotment is associated with a station situated within the territories covered by any of the applicable Regional Agreements (ST61 or GE89), or outside these territories. For the territories covered by the ST61 or the GE89 Agreements, or both, the RRC-04 established five sub-categories of existing and planned assignments and allotments of the broadcasting services, notably:

- i) analogue and digital assignments contained in the ST61 and/or GE89 Plans on 31 October 2005;
- ii) analogue and digital assignments successfully coordinated under the procedures of Article 4 of the ST61 and/or GE89 Agreements by 31 October 2005;
- iii) T-DAB allotments and assignments successfully coordinated by 31 October 2005 with all administrations affected, the territories of which are inside the RRC planning area;
- iv) assignments recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) by 31 December 1989 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations, and without complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- v) analogue broadcasting assignments to be submitted to the Radiocommunication Bureau by Iraq within three months after the end of the first session of the Conference under the procedure and conditions mentioned in NOTE 4 to § 1.7.1.

3. This Circular Letter deals with the fourth sub-category of assignments, i.e., assignments recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) by 31 December 1989 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations, and without complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau, for the territories covered by the ST61 or the GE89 Agreements, or both. Based on the decisions of the RRC-04, including the statement of the representative of the BR during the Thirteenth Plenary meeting (see § 2.6 in Document RRC-04/188), the Bureau extracted, from the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) with a reference date 31 December 1989, the concerned frequency assignments, i.e., only those frequency assignments to stations situated within the areas covered by any of the Regional Agreements ST61 or GE89 that are recorded with a favourable regulatory finding (column 13A1) and without findings with respect to the Plan examination procedures (i.e., no finding in column 13A2). This resulted in 1 320 frequency assignments, from 18 Member States, as indicated in the summary Table in the Annex to this Circular Letter. Out of these, 175 frequency assignments are associated with stations situated in the planning area of the ST61 Agreement, and 1 145 frequency assignments are associated with stations situated in the planning area of the GE89 Agreement. After analysing these frequency assignments, the Bureau concluded on the possible reasons why these frequency assignments have no findings with respect to the Plan examination procedures:

3.1 Almost all of the concerned frequency assignments associated with stations situated in the planning area of the GE89 Agreement (1 132 frequency assignments out of 1 145) have been notified on behalf of the administrations of the neighbouring countries to the African Broadcasting Area (notably ARS, BHR, IRN, KWT, OMA, QAT, UAE, YEM and YMS). These frequency assignments have no findings with respect to the Plan examination procedures due to the fact that, for these Member States, the only applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations, at the time of receipt of the concerned assignments, were those of No. 1240 of the Radio Regulations (edition of 1982, revised in 1985, 1986 and 1988). The provisions of No. 1245 (conformity with a regional or service agreement) were not applicable to these frequency assignments due to the fact that the concerned Plan (i.e., the GE89 Plan) entered into force on 1 July 1992.

3.2 With respect to the remaining frequency assignments associated with stations situated in the planning area of the GE89 Agreement (6 assignments from AFS and 7 assignments from NIG), the applicable provisions were those of No. 1240 and 1245 (conformity with the Regional Agreement GE63). Normally, these frequency assignments should have contained findings with respect to their conformity with the GE63 Plan. The Bureau presumes that the lack of findings with respect to Plan conformity, for these 13 assignments, was a processing error. It is to be noted that the concerned assignments from NIG have been notified during the second session of the Regional Administrative Conference for the planning of VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African Broadcasting Area and neighbouring countries (13 November – 8 December 1989).

3.3 With respect to the frequency assignments associated with stations situated in the planning area of the ST61 Agreement (175 assignments), the applicable provisions were those of No. 1240 and 1245 (conformity with the Regional Agreement ST61). Normally, these frequency assignments should have contained findings with respect to their conformity with the ST61 Plan. The Bureau presumes that the lack of findings with respect to Plan conformity, for these 175 assignments, was either a processing error, or a result from the non-synchronized examination practices (at that time, administrations could submit the same notice form for simultaneous application of two different procedures, i.e., Plan modification procedure and notification for recording in the Master Register). It is to be noted that, for several of these assignments, the Plan modification procedure, which was initiated by the concerned administration, has not been completed yet at the time of the preparation of this Circular Letter.

4. In further analysis, the Bureau compared the list of these 1 320 frequency assignments with the current versions of the ST61 and GE89 Plans. The comparison process was rather complex, due to the different formats of the two files. Using the current criteria for the permissible tolerances for the transmitting sites, as stipulated in the ST61 and GE89 Agreements, the Bureau found that 864 frequency assignments from this list have their equivalents in the concerned Plan. Therefore, as these 864 assignments are eligible for inclusion into the reference situation as part of the first sub-category of the definition of existing and planned assignments of the broadcasting services (see § 1.7.1 of Chapter 1 of the Report), it may be appropriate to exclude them from further consideration so as to avoid duplicate equivalent assignments.

5. The Bureau also analysed the remaining 456 frequency assignments (i.e., those that have no equivalents in the current versions of the ST61 and GE89 Plans), as summarised in the third column of the Table presented in the Annex to this Circular Letter. The Bureau concluded that some of these assignments appear currently in the updated versions of the ST61 and GE89 Plans on the same frequencies, but with somewhat different characteristics (e.g., changes in the geographical coordinates), as a result of the application of the Plan modification procedures after 31 December 1989. On the other hand, many entries from this list, especially those that have been notified on behalf of the administrations of the neighbouring countries to the African Broadcasting Area (notably ARS, BHR, IRN, KWT, OMA, QAT, UAE, YEM and YMS), have been included in the GE89 Plan on other frequencies, in the process of the establishment of the GE89 Plan, so as to ensure their compatibility with the frequency assignments from the concerned Member States. Finally, some frequency assignments from this list have been deleted from the Master Register after 31 December 1989.

6. The above considerations indicate that some of these 456 assignments, which have no equivalents in the current versions of the ST61 and GE89 Plans, may not be relevant any longer and, consequently, there may be no need for them to be included in the reference situation, given the fact that they have updated “equivalents” in the Plans, either on the same frequencies or on different frequencies. Furthermore, it is questionable whether the frequency assignments from this

list, whose frequencies have been changed in the negotiating process at the GE89 Conference with a view to ensure their compatible operation with the frequency assignments from other Member States, should be considered in the context of the reference situation also on their old frequencies, given the fact that they could not be included in the GE89 Plan on the indicated (“old”) frequencies.

7. All details concerning the 1 320 frequency assignments dealt with in this Circular Letter can be found on the CD-ROM attached herewith. Administrations are invited to study their frequency assignments included in this CD-ROM and, in accordance with Resolution COM5/1, Annex 2, Note 1 of RRC-04, they are requested to indicate to the Bureau those frequency assignments from this list that are ***not*** to be taken into account in the planning process, bearing in mind the considerations in § 3.1 to 6 of this Circular Letter. If no explicit indication is submitted from the notifying administration concerned by 31 October 2005, all the concerned assignments will be taken into account in the planning process, despite the fact that such an inclusion may result in duplicate analogue assignments or in severe incompatibilities.
8. In order to facilitate the examinations of the concerned assignments from this sub-category only, for each Member State from the planning area, separate national extracts (if such assignments exist) have also been included on the CD-ROM, for appropriate follow-up action.
9. The other categories of existing and planned assignments and allotments of the broadcasting service that are described in § 1.7.1 of Chapter 1 of the Report, will be dealt with in separate Circular Letters.
10. The Bureau remains at the disposal of your Administration for any clarification you may require with respect to the subjects covered herein.

Yours faithfully,

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Annex

Attachment: 1 CD-ROM

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board

Annex

Assignments to broadcasting (television) stations recorded in MIFR by 31 December 1989 with a favourable regulatory finding and without any finding with respect to the procedures regarding the conformity with a relevant plan

Administration	Number of assignments	Number of assignments without corresponding assignments in ST61 or GE89
AFS	6	0
ARS	343	140
BEL	2	2
BHR	4	3
BUL	1	0
CYP	1	1
D	5	3
F	1	0
IRN	462	199
KWT	13	4
NIG	7	1
OMA	240	47
QAT	14	9
TUR	163	36
UAE	24	6
YEM	27	4
YMS ²	5	1
YUG ³	2	0

² This Member State now forms part of the Republic of Yemen.

³ One of the concerned assignments is currently associated with MKD and the other with SCG.