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| **Council Expert Group onCouncil Decision 482****First meeting – Geneva, 27-28 September 2018** |  |
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| **Contribution by the Secretariat** |
| INFORMATION ABOUT EXCEPTIONALLY COMPLEX GSO SATELLITE FILINGS  |

**1. Introduction**

The Terms of Reference of the Council Expert Group on Decision 482 indicates that:

“*3. Once studies of complex non-GSO satellite filings have been completed, and subject to the BR providing information to this Council Expert Group that support the need to take action, to consider whether the approach of Procedure B should also be applicable to the cases of exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings (i.e. filings that require a very significant amount of additional time and resources to process). The results of the studies on these GSO filings should be reported to the 2019 ITU Council in a separate report, for action as appropriate.*”

This document aims at providing information to the Council Expert Group on the need to take action, with the understanding that detailed consideration whether the approach of Procedure B should also be applicable to the cases of exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings could only start once studies of complex non-GSO satellite filings have been completed.

**2. Submissions of exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings**

The Table below shows, for 12-month periods starting on 1st July 2009 and finishing on 30th June 2018:

* the number of published coordination requests (for both GSO and non-GSO filings),
* the average number of units per publication,
* the median number of units per publication,
* the 95% percentile of number of units,
* the maximum number of units per publication,
* the number of publications with more than 100 000 units,
* the number of publications with more than 200 000 units, and
* the number of publications with more than 300 000 units.

The reason for including non-GSO filings in these statistics is to emphasize the exceptional feature of GSO filings having more than 200 000 units. As can be seen from the table, GSO filings with more than 100 000 units, while rare, have regularly been submitted and processed. The Radiocommunication Bureau considered that these types of satellite networks were a form of upper bound to the complexity of GSO filings. However in recent years, the levels of 200 000 units then of 300 000 units have been exceeded.

These satellite networks remain rare and therefore the word “exceptional” is accurate to characterize them. However, from a processing point of view, they have a disproportionate impact on the overall examination and publication process, because they require additional computing resources, increased human analysis and sometimes even software updates (design, implementation, tests, deployment).

For example, for each of the 6 coordination requests of geostationary satellite networks having more than 300 000 units that were received in 2017, the average time for receivability was 8.3 person-days (compared to 4.5 person-days for other satellite networks), the average examination time was 83.8 person-days (compared to 5.1 person-days for other satellite networks), the average time for preparing the special section was 17.5 person-days (compared to 2.5 person-days for other satellite networks).

In order to address the regulatory side of these exceptional cases, the Radio Regulations Board, at its the 77th meeting (19 – 23 March 2018), “instructed the Bureau to consult with administrations on the significant impact on the processing time for complex and extensive satellite network filings, and to invite them to comply with the provisions of RR No. 4.1 when they notify the frequency requirements for their satellite networks.”

It should finally be noted that there are no notification of such exceptionally complex GSO satellite filings (the maximum number of units for the notification of a GSO satellite is 34 833, in the period from 1st July 2009 to 30th June 2018).

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| From 1 July to 30 June | Number of published coordination requests | Average number of units per publication | Median number of units per publication | 95% percentile of number of units | Maximum number of units per publication | Number of publications with more than 100 000 units | Number of publications with more than 200 000 units | Number of publications with more than 300 000 units |
| 2009-2010 | 270 | 5391 | 1021 | 24024 | 143954 | 3 GSO (2 administrations) | 0 | 0 |
| 2010-2011 | 268 | 3357 | 942 | 14256 | 29763 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2011-2012 | 266 | 3250 | 1240 | 14256 | 27610 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2012-2013 | 396 | 3013 | 520 | 9638 | 164178 | 2 GSO (2 administrations) | 0 | 0 |
| 2013-2014 | 206 | 8465 | 1743 | 22723 | 184463 | 6 GSO (1 administration) | 0 | 0 |
| 2014-2015 | 218 | 9675 | 2510 | 27528 | 211680 | 2 GSO (1 administration), 3 NGSO (1 administration) | 1 NGSO (1 administration) | 0 |
| 2015-2016 | 248 | 8687 | 2691 | 24261 | 182282 | 2 GSO (1 administration), 1 NGSO (1 administration) | 0 | 0 |
| 2016-2017 | 309 | 14421 | 2417 | 74749 | 257696 | 8 GSO (1 administration) | 5 GSO (1 administration) | 0 |
| 2017-2018 | 303 | 14918 | 3117 | 33611 | 339725 | 8 GSO (2 administrations) | 6 GSO (1 administration) | 6 GSO (1 administration) |
| **Total** | **2485** | **7809** | **1724** | **23968** | **339725** | **31 GSO (4 administrations), 4 NGSO (2 administrations)** | **11 GSO (2 administrations), 1 NGSO (1 administration)** | **6 GSO (1 administration)** |