

Italy

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE RECENT APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-T G.9960

1 Introduction

The Italian Administration wishes to draw the attention of the RAG to a serious problem arising in the activities of the ITU-R Study Groups and in particular of Study Group 6. The advice of the RAG is requested to help to solve this problem according to Resolution 16 (Rev. Minneapolis 1998) and Resolution ITU-R 6-1.

2 Approval of Recommendation ITU-T G.9960

At the block meetings of Study Group 6, November 2009, the Italian delegation has been informed of the approval (9 October 2009) of Recommendation ITU-T G.9960 on “*Unified high-speed wire-line based home networking transceivers*”.

The approval of this Recommendation appears to show a serious lack of coordination and consultation between the two ITU Sectors about matters of common interest. The interference caused by PLT systems has been the subject of extensive studies in ITU-R and CISPR for ten years. The newly approved ITU-T Recommendation does not only specify modems with powers considerably higher than those currently considered by the ITU-R Study Groups, but it also extends their operational frequency range up to 200 MHz, considerably exceeding the frequencies considered by ITU-R.

In particular, Study Group 6 appears to be deeply concerned because analogue and digital broadcasting services in the HF and VHF bands will likely be seriously affected by the implementation of Recommendation ITU-T G.9960. This will also jeopardize the efforts of those administrations, like Italy, that have recently introduced digital sound and television broadcasting services, or that are planning to introduce such services in accordance with ITU Regional Planning Agreements, where, at the time when the Agreements were signed, no account was taken of any additional interference coming from equipment specified according to Recommendation ITU-T G.9960.

In addition, it should be stressed that ITU-R Study Group 6 as well as other ITU-R Study Groups (e.g., SG1, SG5 and SG7) have conducted studies to develop suitable protection criteria on the assumption that PLT modems would have much lower permissible powers and use frequencies lower than 80 MHz. In particular, Study Group 6 has carried out extensive research studies and expensive laboratory tests that now need to be carefully reviewed in order to match the new situation.

3 Coordination between the ITU Sectors requested in Resolution ITU-R 6-1

The occurrence of such a situation is a clear indication of failure in proper coordination between the two Sectors as clearly requested in Resolution 16 (Rev. Minneapolis 1998) and Resolution ITU-R 6-1. The consequences are deemed to be detrimental not only to the relevant activities in various ITU-R Study Groups, creating a *de facto* situation that voids already carried out studies and spent resources, but also to the very credibility of the ITU and its role in the telecommunication domain.

4 Impact on ITU-R Study Group 6 (Broadcasting)

As restated also by the RAG at its last meeting, each service Study Group is the sole relevant body charged to establish ITU-R Recommendations to set the protection criteria for its specific service. Unfortunately, at its last meeting (November 2009) ITU-R Study Group 6 failed to promptly react by producing an ITU-R Recommendation to set the protection criteria for the Broadcast Service, since some very few Administrations, as in the past years, blocked this initiative. Once again a Preliminary Draft New Recommendation "Protection Requirements for Broadcasting Systems" in WP 6A, unanimously improved and completed in a drafting group with the aim to move on to Study Group 6 as a Draft New Recommendation ready for final approval, was blocked due to the opposition of the same very few administrations. Thus, the Recommendation will be reconsidered for the fourth consecutive year at the next SG6 meeting in spring 2010. As a consequence, precious time has been wasted while the broadcasting services will continue to be completely unprotected, contrary to what has been concluded in other Study Groups.

5 Invitation to the RAG

The Italian administration feels obliged to respectfully urge the RAG to activate all the available means in the light of Resolution 16 (Rev. Minneapolis 1998) and Resolution ITU-R 6-1, in order to:

- Resolve the present conflicting situation between the two Sectors, which appears to be seriously detrimental to the ITU image worldwide;
- Invite ITU-T SG15, through the TSB Director, to put into practice any means to correct the impact of Recommendation ITU-T G.9960 on the radio services under the competence of the ITU-R;
- Develop and put into practice all the necessary steps to avoid the future occurrence of similar situations.

6 Conclusions

The Italian Administration wishes to restate its full availability to come to a solution that could preserve the interests of the affected radio services and in particular the broadcasting service, while not precluding the implementation of the technology outlined in Recommendation ITU.T G.9960.