

RADIONET3

TRIPS OF WP7

RADIO ASTRONOMICAL SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT

Title

CEPT Conference Preparatory Group Project Team C

DATE

**Day Month Year
16th April to 19th April
(incl.) 2013**

PLACE

London

PARTICIPANTS

Name(s) Dr. Peter Thomasson

BACKGROUND:

I represented CRAF at the second of the CEPT Conference Preparatory Group Project Team C meetings to be held during the period 2012 to 2015 (this one was held in London, the first was in Copenhagen). These meetings are held in preparation for the World Radio Conference in 2015 (WRC15) at the ITU in Geneva, and define the European view to be presented at the WRC15. Representatives from most European countries (not just EC), both governmental and commercial, were present unless apologies for absence had been received. CRAF has a 'seat' at these extremely important meetings, which will ultimately define World Spectrum Management Policy and the allocation of Spectrum worldwide (now a multi-billion Euro asset). The 'wrong' allocations could have a devastating effect on the Radio Astronomy and the passive services.

The WRC15 Agenda items discussed at the Meeting were AI 1.4, AI 1.5, AI 1.15, AI 1.16, AI 1.17 & AI 1.18. The frequencies involved in AIs 1.5, 1.17 & 1.18 were of most importance to radio astronomy, and it was fortunate that these 3 Agenda Items formed one of the 2 parallel sessions into which the meeting was mostly divided, I attended all of these sessions, as well as the joint introductory, final agreement and Minutes of the Meeting sessions.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The most important outcome of the meeting was that I managed to ensure that the CRAF position is included in all three (AIs 1.5, 1.17 & 1.18) Draft CEPT 'Brief' documents, ultimately to be sent as input documents to the WRC15 as the European view. (I spoke several times at the various sessions.) However, it must be stated that all of the 'Brief' documents have not yet been agreed and will continue to be discussed at future meetings. Much discussion is still required in particular for an agreed view for two of the Agenda Items (AI 1.17 & 1.18).

It was interesting to note that the current view of Russia concerning AI 1.18 (to consider a primary allocation to the radio location service for automotive applications in the 77.5 – 78.0 GHz frequency band in accordance with Resolution 654 [COM6/23] (WRC12)), in direct opposition to that of Sweden, was closest to that desired for radio astronomy. Russia (and the radio astronomy service) wanted the allocation to apply solely to cars, lorries etc., whereas Sweden wanted it to apply to all forms of automotive applications (e.g. helicopters, very high cranes etc.).

As usual with such meetings, it was very important for CRAF to be present, and, from my point of view, it was important to become acquainted with other participants in order to be able to discuss and hopefully, therefore, to influence the finally agreed documents for the Agenda Items 'away from the formal meeting discussion'.

NEXT STEPS:

The next PTC meeting in the series will be held in Bucharest, Romania from 8th to 11th October 2013. It is very important that CRAF continues to be represented at this meeting to ensure that the requirements of the Radio Astronomy Service in particular and the passive services in general are maintained.

Since this was the first of these meetings that I have attended, I had quite a steep learning curve and my continued presence at the subsequent meetings as distinct from another CRAF representative, is therefore probably desirable.