



International Amateur Radio Union - Region 1 EUROCOM WG

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EUROCOM Newsletter

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1. Using Amateur Radio in the car

During vacation season many radio amateur take their car to other countries and use the amateur gear in it just like in their own country thanks to CEPT regulation. However we all know, that using a mobile phone in the car is fined in some member states, in other it is not. For example in Germany it is not allowed to use a telephone while driving, but it is allowed to use any other kind of radio (including amateur radio). For a ham tourist this information is rather important and I would like to collect this legal information of all European societies to publish it on the website. Please provide me with this information, if you can. If your society should have a downloadable information papers on the topic please include it in any emailed information to me.

2. Question to the European Commission on antenna construction in Spain

Amateur radio antennas in Spain cannot be erected by the amateur itself. This regulation counter intends the experimental character of the amateur radio service. A written question to the European Commission whether this is in line with European law was inserted by a Spanish MEP and printed in full wording here:

WRITTEN QUESTION¹ E-6214/09 by Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE) to the Commission

Subject: Spain, the only country in Europe where amateur radio antennae have to be installed by a professional, infringement of Directive 1999/5/EC

It is a well-known fact that radio amateurs throughout the world play an important role in cases of emergency and natural disasters and in cultural, social and scientific activities in normal times. The International Telecommunication Union itself defines an amateur service as "a radiocommunication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest".

In Spain, the new Amateur Radio Regulations (Reglamento de Radioaficionados, Order ITC/1791/2006 of 5 June) state in Article 23.4 that "as a general rule, installations shall be performed by a telecommunications installer entered in the Register of Telecommunications Installation Companies", which is contrary to the very spirit of experimentation that motivates the radio amateur. On top of that, installers are not prepared or trained for this type of installation work, nor do they have any economic or technical interest in it. Furthermore, the register of installation companies which emanates from Royal Decree 401/2003 of 4 April 2003 approving the rules governing common telecommunications infrastructures for access to telecommunications services inside buildings and the installation activity of telecommunications teams and systems makes absolutely no mention of amateur radio antennae.

In the other European Union Member States, amateur radio antennae can be installed by radio amateurs themselves, subject to authorisation and inspection by the corresponding State bodies, as was the case in Spain before 2006.

This measure is not helpful in any way, and actually continues to penalize the Spanish radio amateur community, which has seen a 50% drop in numbers over the last 12 years because of policies of this type that are drawn up behind the backs of those concerned.

In the light of the above, does the Commission not consider that the rules imposed by Spain infringe Directive 1999/5/EC², and in particular Articles 6 and 7 where it is stated that: "Member States may restrict the putting into service of radio equipment only for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the radio spectrum, avoidance of harmful interference or matters relating to public health"?

EUROCOM WG has contacted MEP Ramon Tremosa i Balcells to learn about the Commission's answer, which could have an effect to the amateur radio service in general.

¹ Scroll to E6214/09 on <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP->

WEB/application/home.do?language=EN&SELECT_TAB=qe_param

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31999L0005:en:NOT>

3. European Parliament Exhibition

The preparations on the 2010 Parliament exhibition, happening in the week 26th-30th of April, are under way. The planning group has had three telephone conferences so far and have decided on title (European Amateur Radio benefitting society), the main topics (Emergency Communication, Education & Space) and lots of poster materials.

The members societies are invited to send further delegates to the EUROCOM WG and the exhibition planning group, if they would like to contribute to gaining a greater influence in European policy making. Please contact me via eMail, if you would like to contribute.

Besides the exhibition work, there is a vast number of papers distributed by the European commission every day. Some of those might contain possible threats to amateur radio but can only be detected if read thoroughly. Unfortunately I cannot read all of the papers myself, and have so far only very few helpers. If you would like contribute a EUROCOM WG in this way, please let me know.

URGENT!!!

4. Swedish withdrawal of PLC Adapters

As most of you probably have noticed already, Sweden has withdrawn some PLT Modems of their market. The Swedish administration argued, that those PLT devices do not meet the protection provided by the harmonized standard and in many cases harmful interference could actually be measured. In those cases reception in accordance with ITU Regulation was no longer possible and therefore the essential requirements violated.

I would suggest to **EVERY** member society to write a letter to their administration asking to follow the very good Swedish example. If you need help, please let me know.

vy 73,
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Chairman EUROCOM WG