International Amateur Radio Union Region1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia

SUBJECT	SPECTRUM DEFENCE FUND		
Society	EC	Country:	
Committee:	C2 -> C3	Paper number:	CT08_C2_07
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Introduction

This paper summarises the issues associated with the creation of a Spectrum Defence Fund and recommends a way ahead for the future

Background

At the 2005 IARU Region 1 General Conference in Davos, resolution no DV05_C3_Rec_19 stated:

Conference recommends the creation of an IARU Region 1 Spectrum Defence Fund to address the possible threats to the amateur spectrum. The Fund's primary objective will be to support the work of the Region's specialist committees and assist National Societies, subject to approval by the EC or IARU Region 1 General Conference. Donations to this fund are voluntary and supplemented by restructuring the Regional budget to provide funding for this purpose. A fund budget will be developed each year, and will form part of the Proposed Annual Budget.

Since then the EC has allocated initial funds from Region1 reserves to the Fund, and has made modest payments to cover activities in a Member Society related to spectrum defence activities on behalf of IARU. But the EC has not implemented the full proposal, as it has appeared somewhat difficult to develop a marketing case for seeking additional contributions from Member Societies to finance this Fund.

IARU Region 1 has current assets (funds) of some CHF 500,000. The current annual running cost of the Region is some CHF 300,000, including the annual provisions for WRC and General Conferences. It therefore seems rather strange to seek further funding from member societies, when the Region's annual running costs are covered nearly twice by cash reserves. A prudent budgeting process would probably suggest that cash assets should be a minimum of one year's operating expense. This means that the current level is very comfortable, and that funds could be released if needed.

The Executive Committee also has a concern that the creation of a specifically identified fund could perhaps give rise to incentives to find ways of spending the fund !

It is not apparent that any activities have not taken place since 2005 directly because of the absence of the Fund.

Proposal

That the original concept of the Spectrum Defence Fund be modified to permit the Executive Committee to allocate funds from reserves to spectrum defence activities, one the basis of an EC decision, such spends to be fully disclosed and justified to the subsequent General Conference.

The EC shall not reduce the level of cash reserves at any time below one year's operating expense.