



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



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| SUBJECT | | EMC WG Report | |
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REPORT on the Work Period September 2003 to February 2005

The activities of the EMC WG have consisted of 4 major issues: Standardisation of EMC in general, follow up on PLT, the revision of the EMC Directive, and preparation for the working group meeting in Friedrichshafen. Two EMC WG Newsletters have been issued during this period.

There is an increasing interest among the IARU Member Societies in EMC matters and this has increased the awareness of EMC dramatically. It is now important to make use of this awareness in the most efficient and positive manner.

Regarding action points related to PLT

At this point in time we are preparing for strengthening the radio amateur influence on the relevant EMC standards. The most important document is the product standard for PLT equipment. This is the document, which will limit the emissions from PLT products. In addition the new EMC Directive addresses Communications networks including PLT network. There is a special mandate for this work. The standardisation work is done primarily in CISPR where IARU is an associated member.

In parallel the standardisation organisations ETSI and CENELEC is working on an EMC standard for wired telecommunication networks. This document is expected to be circulated in CENELEC and ETSI in late June or early July. We shall make sure that the appropriate comments are forwarded to the national standardisation organisations and for this purpose we have updated the EMC mailing list and added a few people. The timing of the IARU membership of ETSI seems to be rather perfect.

In the long term we shall need to influence EMC issues in CISPR because CISPR is responsible for the limitation of emissions from most equipment. From recent investigations it is clear that the present limits do not protect radio services adequately from emissions from broadband systems. In order to correct this we need to influence CISPR directly by participation in the work and by influencing the commenting / voting through national standardisation organisations. In order to achieve this we are searching for a "radio amateur friendly" national standardisation organisation through which we can launch comments and proposals.

Regarding the revision of the EMC Directive

The revised directive allows manufacturers to use any technical specification as the basis for showing presumption of conformity without the need for a competent body to supervise the relevance of the specification. This, together with the almost non-existing market surveillance, may lead to anarchy and open the door for unfair competition. However, manufacturers are forced to make technical documents in relation to EMC and the Directive gives a high priority to the role of harmonised standards even though they are not mandatory.

Regarding SRD's

Short Range Devices have been a problem in the 70cm band for a long and some industries wants to make use of the spectrum between 9kHz and 30MHz for SRD's. The maximum emissions are under discussion and IARU has asked Member Societies to approach their national administrations to ask for stringent limits that will protect our bands.

General

The strategy decided at the last IARU conference and confirmed at subsequent EMC WG meetings has been followed e.g. by circulation of information and proposals to Member Societies.

The terms of reference and the work repartition in the WG has been specified. The relation between the work done in EUROCOM and the EMC WG has been clarified in order to support each other without too much overlap.

The active participation from more people in the EMC WG has increased dramatically which is very positive.

The Future

- The increased awareness of EMC in the IARU Member Societies shall be maintained
- The work related to relevant CISPR standards shall have a higher priority
- The WG shall discuss and find ways to highlight and report practical EMC problems to administrations, manufacturers and others.

Best 73

Christian M. Verholt, OZ8CY

ANNEX

Work repartition and corporation

IARU officials and others have expressed some confusion over the way the fight against PLT is organised, especially in the area of the common EMC WG and EUROCOM meetings which may have blurred the understanding of the responsibilities.

I see the responsibilities and practical division of work like this:

EUROCOM is responsible for having close connections to the European legal system e.g. the Commission, the Parliament and other institutions of this kind. EUROCOM (mostly Gaston ON4WF) participates in relevant meetings on behalf of the EUROCOM WG in order to influence discussions at the legal and regulatory level. This is done in close coordination with the EMC WG and there is an open exchange of information. All activities in relation to EUROCOM are covered by the EUROCOM budget.

The EMC WG covers the technical areas and legal and regulatory issues that are relevant to EMC. Within the EMC WG the tasks are coordinated by and under the responsibility of the Chairman.

In the EMC WG there is a network of active “workers”:

1. the EMC WG members in the national societies
2. individual experts that are given specific tasks or supply information
3. an EMC consultant – see below
4. a network of people dedicated to the fight against PLT
5. a network of people who have access to the national standardisation organisations related to CENELEC, IEC, CISPR and ETSI

All activities in the EMC WG are covered by the EMC WG budget including the cost of membership of ETSI. The EMC WG Chairman is responsible to IARU Reg.1 for the use of resources.

EMC Consultant, IARU Region 1

The EMC Consultant reports to the Chairman of IARU Region 1 EMC Working Group

The job purpose of the role is to act as a focal point for issues relating to the impact of Powerline Telecommunications on the Amateur Radio Service in Region 1, and to develop and implement a strategy (agreed by the Chairman of the EMCWG) to defend the interests of amateur radio in this regard.

The responsibilities of the role include to:

1. Monitor the development of PLT in Europe and beyond, including proposed standards and legislation
2. Represent IARU Region 1 in the ETSI/CENELEC Joint Working Group
3. Identify areas of concern that require action to protect the radio spectrum
4. Develop strategies to protect the interests of radio users and agree these, and the related implementation actions, with the Chairman EMCWG
5. Co-ordinate the implementation of the agreed strategies, communicating as appropriate with relevant specialists and Member Societies.
6. Maintain a network of interested parties (both within and outside amateur radio) to encourage exchange of information, and development of joint strategies.
7. Through the Chairman EMCWG, report as appropriate, on significant developments

Ms. Hilary Clayton-Smith, G4JKS, is presently appointed EMC Consultant.

IARU EMC WG meeting at IARU REG 1. 2005 Conference

Provisional agenda:

1. Registration of attendees
2. Appointment of meeting secretary
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Interference below 30MHz
 - 4.1 PLT status (internet on the mains)
 - Status report from ITU, CEPT, CISPR, CENELEC & ETSI (G4JKS – DJ1ZB & OZ8CY)
 - Actions
 - 4.2 Short Range Devices
 - ECC report
5. Electromagnetic fields regulation
 - National regulation
 - Status report from CENELEC, ETSI and IEC by OZ8CY
6. Standardisation issues
 - EN55022, Emissions from ITE equipment
 - EN55024, immunity of telephones
 - EN55020, immunity of radio and TV etc.
 - CISPR H input, database over protection needs for radio services
7. Status report from the CISPR meeting by OZ8CY
8. Revision of EMC Directive
9. Working group structure and nominations
 - Nomination of Chairman
 - Nomination of EMC Consultant
10. Report to conference
11. Future meetings / communications
12. Any other business
13. Closure of the meeting