



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950



## General Conference, Davos, 11 to 16 September 2005

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Emergency Communications – a new approach</b>		
<b>Society</b>	<b>BFRA</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>
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### Introduction

Great number of countries, represented in IARU Region 1 with their Amateur Radio Societies, suffer natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, etc. An eventual big accident in a chemical plant or nuclear power plant can easily affect large areas, too. Many countries, especially European, should be a possible scene of terrorist acts.

### Background

Radio Amateurs in these countries are as a rule voluntarily part of the rescue teams and their best experience is setting and maintaining communications. In this way they help not only government authorities, but also the ordinary people.

ITU gave national administrations and radio amateurs more freedom to use emergency radio communications. Now, after the changes in Art.25 of Radio Regulations (WRC03):

**“Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in the case of an emergency or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction.”**  
**(25.2)**

**and:**

**“Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief.”** (25.9A)

The IARU Region 1 makes its specific play in the recent situation – coordinates the efforts and actions of its Member Societies, discusses principles and actual matters, prepares a common guideline on amateur radio emergency procedures, etc. It should be underlined the fruitful activity in that direction of the emergency communications coordinator, as well as the participation of IARU Region 1 in important international meeting, for instance GAREC Tampere meeting.

### Key points and recommendations

Unfortunately, there are various obstacles toward increasing the field of Region 1 activities and among them the most substantial one is the very restricted budget. Obviously, no one will support an idea for increasing the membership fee. That will be a wrong step. IARU Region 1 has to resolve this problem accepting a new approach:

#### 1. Formulating the goal

IARU Region 1 has to announce a competition amongst Member Societies for best project concerning the amateur radio emergency communications structure, networks, equipment, training activities, etc. Emergency communications coordinator in close cooperation with Member Societies has to summarize the best features of the proposed projects in a expedient pilot project.

## 2. Financial support

IARU Region 1 has to start looking for partners able to support financially the project. IARU Region 1 is held in high esteem throughout the whole Region. Besides the traditionally good and useful relations with important institutions such as European Commission, IARU Region 1 has to take steps in establishing contacts with other internationally recognized institutions concerned to the problem such as International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office for Project Services, etc. National governmental structures, such as Civil Defence or similar, should be reliable partners, too. Other possible teammates could be found amongst producers and sellers of amateur radio equipment, producers of rescue equipment, etc.

## 3. Starting the project

IARU Region 1 has to select three to five Member Societies in countries situated in different areas, vulnerable to different natural hazard to start the pilot project. The results have to be reported at next IARU Region 1 Conference in 2008 in order a strategy for common Region 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Network to be discussed and relevant decisions taken.