



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



SUBJECT	EUROCOM WG Report		
Society		Country:	
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	CT08_C3_11
Author:	Gaston Bertels, ON4WF		

1. Summary

In the last three years, the main activity of the EUROCOM working group has been focused on three topics:

- Implementation of EMC Directive 2004/108/EC
- Spectrum surveillance
- Exhibition in the European Parliament, Brussels.

2. Implementation EMC Directive

The EMC Directive 2004/108/EC states:

(2) Member States are responsible for ensuring that radiocommunications, including radio broadcast reception and the amateur radio service operating in accordance with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) radio regulations, electrical supply networks and telecommunications networks, as well as equipment connected thereto, are protected against electromagnetic disturbance.

Moreover:

Article 1.2

This Directive shall not apply to:...

(c) radio equipment used by radio amateurs within the meaning of the Radio Regulations adopted in the framework of the Constitution and Convention of the ITU, unless the equipment is available commercially. Kits of components to be assembled by radio amateurs and commercial equipment modified by and for the use of radio amateurs are not regarded as commercially available equipment.

EUROCOM Newsletter 05.10.2006 draw the attention of the member societies on article 16 of the EMC Directive which states that the *"Member States shall adopt and publish the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by **20 January 2007**. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof"*.

We have forwarded a copy of these drafts to the EUROCOM member societies whenever we could get access to such texts.

3. Spectrum surveillance

Member States submit the drafts of their regulations related to spectrum use for all kinds of services to the European Commission for approval.

I have asked the societies if this kind of information is useful. The societies, especially the smaller societies, wished this kind of information to be circulated, whenever available.

Consequently, in 2007 a total of 89 documents were forwarded to several societies :

State	Society	Number of documents
Austria	ÖVSV	1
Belgium	UBA	1
Denmark	EDR	6
Estonia	ERAU	2
Finland	SRAL	3
France	REF	15
Germany	DARC	28
Great Britain	RSGB	7
Greece	RAAG	4
Ireland	IRTS	1
Lithuania	LRMD	4
Luxembourg	RL	1
Netherlands	VERON	6
Slovenia	ZRS	1
Spain	URE	8
Switzerland	USKA	1

4. Exhibition in the European parliament, Brussels

The IARU Region 1 General Conference, Davos 2005, decided to undertake steps for the setting up of an Exhibition in the European Parliament, Brussels with the purpose to present the Amateur Radio Service to the Members of the European Parliament and to the European Commission and promote the image of our service as a valuable European resource.

MEP Fernando Fernandez Martin (EA8AK) and MEP Mechtild Rothe (Germany) supported our project. The Quaestor of the EU Parliament, responsible for artistic and cultural questions, accepted our request for the week of 5-9 March 2007

AT Ham Radio, Friedrichshafen 2006, an ad hoc working group was set up with representatives from RSGB, DARC and REF-Union. The Exhibition group worked per e-mail and per teleconferences convened by EUROCOM WG chairman.

By EUROCOM Newsletter of 4 October 2006, Member Societies were informed of the proceedings of the ad hoc working group and were invited to submit contributions and films in Windows Media Player format (DVD), preferably in their national language. Several societies provided material and suggestions.

EUROCOM WG vice-chairman Peter Kirby G0TWW drafted texts and Mark Allgar M1MPA prepared the displays whereof the layout was created by a professional stylist employed by RSGB. The working group discussed the projects and oriented the development of five self supporting panels (2m x 3.20m) represent specific aspects of amateur radio:

- Emergency activities
- Space communications
- Personalities who are radio amateurs
- Training of the youth
- Careers directly influenced by amateur radio.

The text of these panels is in English, French and German.

Moreover several posters (1.50m x 1m) provided more detailed information in English on several topics:

- Who we are
- What we do
- Amateur Radio operators in Europe (statistics per country)
- EU legislation (*R&TTY – EMC Directives*)
- Amateur Radio in Space (*ISS – Columbus*)
- AMSAT (*Ionosfera – Go Mars – SSETI*).

A handout flyer was printed in three languages, covering the topics presented in the Exhibition and providing the addresses of the IARU societies in the 27 countries of the European Union.

There were also exhibits:

- EMC box to demonstrate HF interference by several sources including PLT/BPL
- CW writer
- DVD and Internet on large screen
- Engineering model of Sputnik 40
- Engineering model of L/S-band antenna for Columbus.

The inauguration took place Monday 5 March 2007 at 18h00.

About 100 guests participated. Among them was a group of Spanish hams who visited the Parliament, invited by MEP Fernando Fernandez-Martin, EA8AK.

The president of IARU Region1 and several presidents and vice-presidents of national societies were present, representing RSGB, DARC, REF-Union, URE, VERON, RAAG and UBA. AMSAT societies were represented by the president of AMSAT Italy. Shri Suri VU2MY, chairman NIAR (India), was invited by EA8AK.

Among other VIP we noted Joachim Strick, leader of NATO's Frequency Management Office, Freddy Baert and David Erzeel of the Belgian Institute of Post and Telecommunications, Mathieu Bolland Chairman SSETI, Jean-Marcel Thomas General Manager Euro Space Center, Adriano Graziosi (ON5GA) General Manager European Social and Economic Committee (retired).

MEP Mechtild Rothe (Germany) welcomed the guests, saying how much she appreciated radio amateurs for their commitment in educational and emergency fields.

Next EUROCOM WG chairman presented the amateur radio service to the audience, insisting on education, technical research and development and emergency work.

Finally, Ole Garpestad LA2RR, president IARU Region 1, officially opened the Exhibition.

Tuesday 6 through Thursday 8 March 2007, the Exhibition was manned by several delegates of national societies. They accompanied MEP's and assistants who visited the Exhibition and asked many questions.

The Exhibition handout flyer, available in English, French and German, was distributed in several hundreds mail boxes ("pigeon holes") of MEPs.

Follow up

As proven in the recent past, close collaboration with MEP is needed when European law and regulations are discussed in domains of interest to the Amateur Radio Service.

At EUROCOM WG meeting 2007, it was decided to further develop a permanent presence of the Amateur Radio Service in the European Parliament, offering opportunities for parliamentary support when needed. MEP change over time and lobbying is a permanent process.

Consequently I developed the project to offer the MEP something useful they could keep in their office and that would be a reminder of the Exhibition and of the Amateur Radio service in Europe. The object is a permanent calendar featuring only the national feast days of every Member State.

MEP Fernando Fernandez-Martin, EA8AK approved the idea and accepted to cosign a letter introducing the Calendar to the MEP.

The project has been submitted to the IARU Region Executive Committee.

Proposal to the General Conference

The EUROCOM working group proposes to set up an Exhibition in the European Parliament, Brussels every three years.

The next Exhibition would be in 1010.

5. EUROCOM meetings

EUROCOM meetings were held at Ham Radio, Friedrichshafen in 2006 and in 2007.

6. EUROCOM Newsletters

In 2006 – 2007 fifteen EUROCOM Newsletters were circulated.

The EUROCOM Newsletters are presently circulated to 128 addressees.

7. Thanks

We wish to extend special thanks to :

- MEP Fernando Fernández Martín, EA8AK (Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands)

- MEP Mechtild Rothe (Germany)

who kindly accepted to support the Exhibition in the European Parliament.

We are grateful to DARC for kindly hosting the EUROCOM meetings.

Many thanks also to the EUROCOM correspondents for their support and response when called to action on important issues.

Respectfully submitted

Brussels, 26 March 2008

Gaston Bertels, ON4WF
EUROCOM SRWG Chairman