



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



SUBJECT	Report of the Executive Committee		
Society		Country:	
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The Executive Committee is pleased to present its report to the Conference.

The Committee has worked during the last three years on the basis of one physical meeting each year, with most of the work being done by e-mail.

Main points to highlight are as follows:

a) Administration and Finance

The Region continues to operate within its budget and with a healthy level of reserves.

The Committee is very conscious of the financial pressures being experienced by many member societies, and so is presenting a paper to Committees C2 and C3 offering options for the future activity profile (and costs) of the Region. Whilst there is scope for reduction in the expenditure of the Region (and hence a reduction in Society dues) this also implies a reduction in the activity of the Region.

The office activity is handled by the Secretary, and only incurs costs related to postage, telecommunications and routine administration (plus any IARU travel undertaken by the Secretary). Similarly other members of the Committee claim expenses on the basis of cost incurred necessarily and wholly on IARU business. Most of the costs of the Region, therefore, relate to:

- working groups
- triennial conference
- attendance at World Radio Conferences
- attendance at CEPT and other regulatory/standardisation meetings
- contribution to the costs of the International Secretariat

b) WRC and relationships with administrations

The Region was well represented at WRC 07, with a number of national delegations featuring IARU office holders. Whilst WRC07 did not result in major changes for the Amateur Services, it was a satisfactory outcome, when viewed from a global perspective.

Relationships with CEPT are generally good, and those with ATU similarly. Region 1 has the ability to raise with both organisations issue of concern and to get a good hearing. Work needs to be done to establish similar levels of interaction with the Arab area.

c) Working Groups

The Working Groups continue to be active in their respective areas of specialism – see the individual reports being presented to Conference. The Executive Committee thanks the Working Group Chairmen and Coordinators for their work over the last three years.

d) Website

The work done to update the website in 2003 is now in need of updating, and the Committee has prepared a forward plan which will bring the website up to date, including a content management system and the separation of the webmaster role from that of Region 1 Secretary. The EC notes that OeVSV has presented a paper to Conference on the Web site, and looks forward to a constructive discussion on what further improvements can be made.

e) Amateur Radio Development

A number of Amateur Radio Administration Courses have been held in developing countries, to help administrations in their support of the Amateur Radio Service. More are planned, and this program will continue so long as there is a perceived need for such support.

f) Member Societies

The number of member societies has remained static over the last three year period. However, a number of societies have apparently ceased to operate, and despite the efforts of the secretary it has not proved possible to establish any local contact in some countries. There are a few signs of awakening in some countries, where the society had effectively died, and the possibility of one or two new member societies, but progress in bringing these to the point where a formal application is presented to IARU remains slow.

To strengthen the communication with member societies, we have adopted a different approach to our presence at the Friedrichshafen HamRadio event. For the last two years, rather than an IARU stand, the Region 1 President and some EC members have had individual talks with presidents and/or board members from various member societies attending Friedrichshafen. Also the informal international meeting that DARC organizes during this event has proved useful for communication with member societies as well as to share information among Region 1 Member Societies. Normally between 25 and 30 societies attend this fair every year.

g) IARU Organisation Project

Region 1 has been actively involved in the work to consider the future shape of IARU. Whilst this work has taken longer than the EC would have liked, it is hoped that later this year we can begin consultation on a draft set of issues that will shape the future of IARU.

h) Operating Standards

In common with most responsible amateurs, all members of the EC are very concerned about the deterioration in operating standards amongst a small minority of radio amateurs. Region 1 has made proposals to the AC on this matter and has also arranged for it to be covered in depth at the Conference. The EC believes that IARU needs to take a stance on this matter.

i) Succession

A number of EC members are likely to stand down at the end of 2008. This therefore means that good, energetic, candidates are needed for a number of posts. Member Societies are asked to consider who they wish to propose for membership of the EC from the end of 2008. Posts which are likely to be vacant include:

President

Secretary

Probably two ordinary EC members

There will be a separate note, in advance of the Conference, giving details of the vacancies.

j) Other issues

In addition to the above, specific proposals are being made to Conference by the EC in respect of:

- Spectrum Defence Fund
- Standing Recommendations
- Proposed annual budget approval
- Working Groups Terms of reference
- Changes to ARDF rules
- General Conference timescales