

## **Proposed changes to the IARU Region 1 Constitution and Bye-laws arising from the Region 1 Davos Conference 2005**

The following paragraphs set out the background to the resolutions being submitted to Member Societies for voting. The Resolutions amend the Constitution and Bye-Laws of IARU Region 1. The background paragraphs are followed by the formal wording of the resolutions

### **RESOLUTION 1 - background**

The Region 1 Constitution and Bye-laws define the process by which matters are decided by Member Societies. In most cases decisions needing a vote of Member Societies require a simple majority of those voting.

However, in the case of changes to the Constitution of the Region, a vote in favour by two-thirds of ALL Member Societies is necessary, and in the case of changes to the Bye-laws, a vote in favour by a majority (50% +1) of ALL Member Societies is required.

Whilst this may seem reasonable, the requirement for the vote to be of ALL Member Societies has caused some significant difficulties. There are a number of Member Societies which, whilst technically still in membership of IARU, do not currently have any members, and do not reply to any correspondence (and in some cases have no confirmed address for correspondence). Equally, there are other societies who fail to pay their membership dues to IARU and in some cases are several years "out of date".

It seems unreasonable that these societies should be included when determining the total number of Member Societies to be counted in the case of a ballot on Constitutional matters. This Resolution therefore introduces into the Constitution and Bye-laws the concept of "eligible to vote", to make clear that for the purposes of voting, only those Member Societies which have paid their dues to IARU Region 1 are eligible to vote.

### **RESOLUTION 2 - background**

At the San Marino Conference the EC was tasked to consider the question of setting a limit on the number of years that an EC member might serve. It was recognised that, even if such a limit were introduced, there would need to be scope for exceptions, and the following proposal allows for this. Term limits were felt to offer the advantage of refreshing EC membership on a regular basis, whilst allowing a sensible period for EC members to make a contribution to the affairs of the Region.

The Davos Conference supported the concept of term limits for EC members, and this resolution makes amendments to the Constitution of IARU Region1 to introduce such limits.

### **RESOLUTION 3 - background**

Since 2002, as a result of cost savings, the Region has operated at a cumulative surplus of some CHF 110k.

This position seems likely to continue, and so the Executive Committee feels that it is now right to review the basis on which subscription levels are calculated. At present the subscription level for each Member Society is CHF 1.80 per society licensed member, plus a "voluntary" subscription of CHF 0.10 per member to Fund 4 for STARS and similar work. The "voluntary" nature of the CHF 0.10 relates to a tax issue, which no longer seems to exist.

Most societies have, fortunately, elected to pay this "voluntary" fee.

Very small societies (particularly in countries where the GDP per capita is very low) find the CHF 1.8 per licensed member difficult to pay, and thus each year there are a number of smaller societies who do not pay their fees to Region 1.

The EC therefore proposed to the Davos Conference, and Conference unanimously agreed, that an alternative structure for Member Society fees should be:

Society membership 50 or less: Flat rate of CHF 10. Where bank transfer fees make this sum uneconomical to transfer, the payment may be made in IRCs. The Treasurer can advise of the number of IRCs necessary  
Society membership over 50: CHF 10 plus CHF 1.80 per licensed member over 50  
(i.e. a society with membership of 100 pays CHF 100 instead of the current CHF 190)

The above figures include the contribution to Fund 4 (now renamed the Development Fund).

### **FORMAL RESOLUTIONS**

The formal resolutions, on which you are being asked to vote, are on the following pages.

The voting form, which is a separate document, has been sent as a separate "Word" file. It is that voting form that you should return to the IARU Region 1 Secretary.

## THE FORMAL RESOLUTIONS

The following pages contain the formal Resolutions, on which Member Societies are being asked to vote.

### RESOLUTION 1:

a) That Article A7 of the IARU Region 1 Constitution be amended to read

**A.7.1** This Constitution shall only be amended by a decision of a least a two-thirds majority of the total number of the IARU Region 1 Member Societies which are eligible to vote, by voting procedures as stated in the Bye-Laws

**A.7.2.** The Bye-Laws shall only be amended by a decision of a simple majority of the total number of the IARU Region 1 Member Societies which are eligible to vote, by voting procedures as stated in the Bye-Laws

b) That an addition be made to Article 7:

**A.7.3.** Eligibility to vote is defined in the Bye-laws (Section 6.7)

c) That Bye-law 6.7.1 be amended to read:

**B.6.7.1** A Member Society that has failed to fulfil all its financial obligations before the start of the first meeting of the Credentials and Finance Committee (C.2) at a General Conference, shall not be eligible to vote nor to appoint and hold proxies at that General Conference.

d) That a new Bye-law (6.7.2) be introduced as follows:

**B.6.7.2** At other times when a ballot is being conducted, a Member Society that has not fulfilled all its financial obligations by the end of the month prior to the month in which a vote is initiated, shall not be eligible to vote in the ballot

### RESOLUTION 2:

That an additional Clause be added to the Constitution of the Region:

**A.4.14** Each Executive Committee member shall normally serve no more than three consecutive terms of office. One term of office is the period of office as defined in A.4.13. Exceptionally (for example when a particular EC member has unique skills which need to be retained for the time being on the EC) the outgoing Executive Committee may recommend to the General Conference that that member of the EC should be allowed to stand for election for a further term of office in excess of the three consecutive terms. The justification for such exceptional circumstances shall be explained to the General Conference by way of a paper from the Executive Committee and the decision of Conference on the matter shall be by a simple majority of those voting.

That a new Clause be added to the Bye-laws:

**B.5.4** Candidates standing for election for the Executive Committee shall meet the requirements set out in Article A.4.14 of the Constitution.

That Clauses B5.4 – B 5.12 shall be re-numbered as a result of this addition

**RESOLUTION 3:**

That Article A.6.1 shall be amended to read:

**A.6.1** The annual contribution to be paid by each Member Society shall be calculated based on the numbers of licensed radio amateurs who are members of the Society

(This concludes the formal Resolutions, for consideration by the Member Societies of IARU Region 1)