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Two Regional Radio Conferences complete their work

The two Regional Radio Conferences convened by the Member countries of the ITU, which opened at the end of February and at the beginning of March 1985, respectively, have completed their work with the signing of their Final Acts (see the Telecommunication Journal of April 1985, pages 223-224).

Conference for radio-beacons in the European Maritime Area in the 283.5-315 kHz band

The Regional Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of frequencies for radiobeacons in the European Maritime Area*, opened on 4 March at the International Conference Centre of Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr T. Hakkio (Finland) with Messrs M. S. Bchini (Tunisia) and D. Stamatov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference was attended by 188 delegates from 34 countries. The Final Acts were signed as scheduled on the evening of 13 March. Their 52 pages comprise a Regional Agreement, Annexes, Resolutions and Recommendations.

The Regional Agreement lays down, *inter alia*, the conditions for execution of the Agreement, the procedure for modifications to the Plan, the procedure applicable to new assignments of the aeronautical radionavigation service which uses the same frequency band, approval of and accession to the Agreement, termination of participation and the date of entry into force of the Agreement on 1 April 1992.

The Annexes contain the technical data used in establishing the Plan, a table showing the channelling arrangements for radiobeacons, and the "Frequency Assignment Plan for stations of the radionavigation service (radiobeacons) for the European Maritime Area in the

band 283.5-315 kHz". The Plan includes some 520 stations and as of 1 April 1992 will supersede the 400-station Plan drawn up in 1951 in Paris.

The Resolutions and Recommendations relate to the procedures to be applied before the Agreement enters into force and to a number of technical points such as data transmissions from maritime radiobeacons.

Maritime Mobile Conference

The Regional Administrative Radio Conference for the maritime mobile service and the aeronautical service in Region 1 (Africa and Europe) which opened on 25 February in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr T. Hakkio (Finland) with Messrs M. S. Bchini (Tunisia) and D. Stamatov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chairmen, ended on 15 March with the signing of the Final Acts. Some 200 delegates from 54 countries participated.

The Final Acts comprise:

- a Regional Agreement for the MF maritime mobile and aeronautical radionavigation services;
- six Annexes;
- Resolutions and Recommendations.

The Regional Agreement specifies, *inter alia*, the frequency bands to which the Agreement applies in Region 1 (415-435 kHz, 435-495 kHz, 505-526.5 kHz, 1606.5-1625 kHz, 1635-1800 kHz and 2045-2160 kHz), the conditions for execution of the Agreement, the procedures for modifications to the Plans and the date of entry into force of the Agreement on 1 April 1992. This Agreement will abrogate and replace the European Regional Convention for the maritime

mobile radio service (Copenhagen, 1948) and the Copenhagen Plan annexed thereto.

The Annexes contain, *inter alia*:

- 1) the Frequency Assignment Plan (Region 1) for stations of the maritime mobile service in the bands 415-435 kHz, 435-495 kHz, 505-526.5 kHz, 1606.5-1625 kHz, 1635-1800 kHz and 2045-2160 kHz, including about 2200 stations;
- 2) the Frequency Assignment Plan (Region 1) for stations of the aeronautical radionavigation service (radiobeacons) in the bands 415-435 kHz and 510-526.5 kHz. This Plan includes about 800 stations;
- 3) the channelling arrangement for the maritime mobile and aeronautical radionavigation services in the various bands concerned;
- 4) the technical data used in establishing the Plans.

The Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the Conference cover, in particular:

- the use of channels for digital selective calling system* in the bands 435-526.5 kHz and 1606.5-2160 kHz;
- the transitional procedures applicable before the Agreement enters into force, especially to frequency assignments;
- updating of the Master International Frequency Register with regard to assignments to stations of the planned services in the planned frequency bands to permit the entry into force of the Agreement and associated Plans;
- replacement of the world-wide maritime mobile working frequency 425 kHz for ship stations of the maritime mobile service by the frequency 458 kHz, a matter to be studied by the World Administrative Radio Conference for the mobile services in 1987;
- the channelling arrangement for the maritime mobile service in the planned frequency bands 415-526.5 kHz, 1606.5-1625 kHz and 2141.5-2160 kHz in Region 1;
- the channelling arrangement for single-sideband radiotelephony in the frequency bands 1635-1800 kHz and 2045-2141.5 kHz in Region 1;
- the deletion from the Plans of assignments which are no longer required.

* Selective calling involves the allocation of a specific coded signal, similar to a telephone number, to each ship and the use of an automatic receiver which reacts to the coded signal emitted by a calling station.

* The European Maritime Area covers Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.