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CCIR The dynamism of Düsseldorf

In an atmosphere clearly reflecting the changing telecommunication environment, the XVIIth Plenary Assembly reassessed the role of the CCIR and introduced the most far-reaching changes in 25 years in its organization and work.

Study Groups were restructured in line with the priorities and technologies of the 1990s and their working methods rationalized. Decision-making procedures were streamlined; provision was made for the approval of Recommendations in the interval between Plenary Assemblies.

In other words, the CCIR was given the tools to deal effectively with its tasks in a situation where the boundaries between the different services are becoming progressively blurred and an increasing number of entities are becoming involved in standards-making.

It is not my intention to review all the reforms undertaken, but merely to stress the potential of the steps taken to enable the CCIR to face the challenge of the future. Nor shall I go into the details of the nearly 200 new or revised Recommendations adopted; information on the results of the Plenary Assembly can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

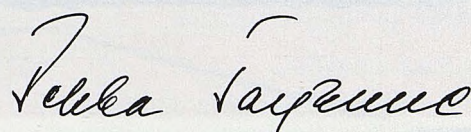
Nevertheless, I would like to refer briefly to the progress made in matters of particular significance during this era of rapid technological advances.

The obstacles facing any attempt to reach global agreement on standards are only too well known. It is therefore encouraging to note that the five Recommendations

adopted on HDTV could serve as a foundation for a world-wide studio standard. A significant step towards universal personal telecommunications was also taken with a new Recommendation on future public land mobile telecommunication systems, a fast-growing technology which could well lead to "tetherless" telecommunications becoming as common as those physically connected to a network. In addition, the integrated services digital network (ISDN) was on the agenda and Recommendations were adopted to assure ISDN-compatible performance of digital satellite and microwave radio-relay transmissions. Furthermore, many Recommendations and Reports dealing with frequency spectrum and orbit utilization matters were approved.

Finally, the Plenary Assembly addressed a problem which has long been of concern to the ITU: how to increase the participation of developing countries in the work of the Study Groups. The Recommendation encouraging the organization of some CCIR meetings in developing countries and the institution of information meetings for these countries are therefore most welcome.

The XVIIth Plenary Assembly dealt with an extraordinarily heavy programme and is to be congratulated on its successful results. The phrase "The dynamism of Düsseldorf" coined by Mr Gabriel Warren, Chairman of ITU's High-Level Committee, is indeed justified.



Pekka TARJANNE