RA-97 places
Radiocommunication Sector's activities
on sound footing for the next two years

The Radiocommunication Assembly took place under the Chairmanship of Erhard Hauck (Switzerland), assisted by five Vice-Chairmen (see Table 1). In his opening remarks, Robert Jones, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) announced that most of the BR's operational plans for 1996 and 1997 had been complied with and put the success of these efforts to the commitment of the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU–R) to efficient and transparent resource management. "Notwithstanding the tight budgetary limitations, the achievements of the ITU–R Study Groups have been outstanding".

From left to right: Messrs P. Tarjanne, R. Jones and E. Hauck

(Photo: A. de Ferron, ITU 970154)

In his opening address, Pekka Tarjanne, ITU Secretary-General, drew particular attention to the urgency and seriousness of purpose with which ITU should move in the direction recommended by the ITU-2000 Group in order to ensure that the Union retains its pre-eminent position in global telecommunications as it moves into the 21st century.

For five days the Assembly discussed:

• The results of the work of the Study Groups in the 1995–1997 study period and approved Recommendations.

• Further improvements to the working methods of the Study Groups. The working practices of the Radiocommunication Sector are covered by a series of ITU–R Resolutions, some of which were reviewed by the Assembly. Of greatest significance was Resolution ITU–R 1-1 which describes in detail the organization of meetings, the processing of documentation and the adoption and approval of the Sector's Recommendations. The Assembly made several revisions to this Resolution, essentially to clarify the procedures for Study Group adoption of Recommendations and their subsequent approval by Member States.

• The organization and structure of the Study Groups, including the future of the Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters (SC) and of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM). Since 1993, world radiocommunication conferences have been held every two years, thus exerting considerable pressure on all those involved in their preparation. However, although that view is shared by all the Members of the Radiocommunication Sector, the Assembly has shown that opinions vary on ways and means of strengthening and streamlining the existing preparatory mechanisms. Following lengthy discussions, and after a review of Resolutions ITU–R 2 and 38, governing respectively the CPM and the SC, those structures were maintained.

The Assembly also appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the CPM, the SC, and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) (see Table 2).

Structure of Radiocommunication Study Groups (1997–1999)

The Assembly has maintained the Sector's eight Study Groups and appointed or confirmed their

Table 1
Structure of the Assembly

Assembly
Chairman: E. Hauck (Switzerland)
Vice-Chairmen: A. A. Al-Darrab (Saudi Arabia), D. Angoula (Cameroon), B. Gracie (Canada), Mrs A. Karwowska-Lamparska (Poland) and B. Zhou (China)

Committee I — Steering Committee
This Committee was made up of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Assembly as well as the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the other Committees of the Assembly.

Committee 2 — Budget Control
Chairman: G. Kithinji (Kenya)
Vice-Chairman: S. Kobayashi (Japan)

Committee 3 — Editorial Committee
Chairman: L. Bourgeat (France)
Vice-Chairmen: P. García Barquero (Spain) and A. Heightman (United Kingdom)

Committee 4 — Structure and work programme of the Study Groups
Chairman: J.-M. Fortes (Brazil)
Vice-Chairmen: M. M. Al-Awa (Syria) and D. Cole (Australia)

Committee 5 — Working methods of the Study Groups
Chairman: L. Barclay (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen: K. Nebbia (United States) and A. Pavliou (Russia)

Table 2

Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM)
Chairman: T. Bøe (Norway)
Vice-Chairmen: R. Barton (Australia) and E. Behdad (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters (SC)
Chairman: R. N. Agarwal (India)
Vice-Chairmen: F. Williams (United States) and F. Rancy (France)

Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)
Chairman: M. Goddard (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen: A. Kouchtouev (Russia) and I. Samake (Mali)

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen (see Table 3). The work of these Study Groups involves developing technical, operational and procedural bases for efficient use of the radio spectrum and the geostationary-satellite orbit.

The Sector will continue to cooperate with international and regional organizations in developing standards for radiocommunication systems and operations.

As in the past, the BR will organize the work of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) in liaison with the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU–T), the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU–D), the ITU General Secretariat and other interested organizations.

Table 3

Radiocommunication Study Groups

Study Group 1 (Spectrum management)

Chairman: R. J. Mayher (United States)
Vice-Chairmen: T. Jeacock (United Kingdom), N. Kisrawi (Syria) and A. Pavliouk (Russia)

Study Group 3 (Radiowave propagation)

Chairman: D. Cole (Australia)
Vice-Chairmen: B. Arbesser-Rastburg (European Space Agency — ESA) and D. Rogers (Canada)

Study Group 4 (Fixed-satellite service)

Chairman: Y. Ito (Japan)
Vice-Chairmen: J.-M. Fortes (Brazil), Mrs V. Rawat (Canada), A. G. Reed (United Kingdom) and J. Seseña Navarro (Spain)

Study Group 7 (Science services)

Chairman R. Taylor (United States)
Vice-Chairmen: G. De Jong (Netherlands), V. Meens (France) and J. B. Whiteoak (Australia)

Study Group 8 (Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services)

Chairman: E. George (Germany)
Vice-Chairmen: A. A. Al-Darrab (Saudi Arabia), T. Mizuike (Japan), R. Swanson (United States) and O. Villanyi (Hungary)

Study Group 9 (Fixed service)

Chairman: M. Murotani (Japan)
Vice-Chairmen: G. F. Hurt (United States) and V. Minkin (Russia)

Study Group 10 (Broadcasting service (sound))

Chairman: A. Magenta (Italy)
Vice-Chairmen: H. M. Joshi (India), O. Karpenko (Ukraine), H. Kussmann (Germany) and L. Olson (United States)

Study Group 11 (Broadcasting service (television))

Chairman: M. Krivocheev (Russia)
Vice-Chairmen: T. Nishizawa (Japan) and R. Zeitoun (Canada)

Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV)

Chairman: J. Schwob (France)
Vice-Chairmen: L. Barclay (United Kingdom) and P. García Barquero (Spain)

New Resolutions and Opinions

Cooperation and harmonization in the future activities of ITU–R and ITU–T

The Assembly adopted an Opinion that seeks to foster cooperation and harmonization in the future activities of ITU–R and ITU–T. The Opinion was endorsed following a debate on the need to find ways of assisting the Union to adapt not just to the changing political and technological environment but also to the changing market needs. These needs call for timely, stable, world-wide, implementable standards (recommendations in ITU jargon). A common, harmonized approach within the ITU is all the more necessary to cope with the changing scopes and roles of those involved in the field of telecommunications.

In particular, the Opinion calls on RAG and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) to consider ways of responding to these changes at their joint meeting in January 1998. One way would be to establish joint ITU–R/ITU–T project teams. Any such joint initiatives should be reflected in the draft Strategic Plan for the Union for the period 1999–2003.

ITU-2000 Group Recommendations

The Assembly noted the work of the ITU-2000 Group and its 27 recommendations dealing with the membership structure of the Union, its financing mechanisms, rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members, the Union's working methods, and in

particular the implications of these recommendations for developing countries.

The Assembly recognized the pertinence of many of the recommendations to the future of the Sector and was of the view that RAG should, at its meeting in January 1998, consider the implications

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Table 4

Recipients of awards

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen who have been moved from one responsibility to another

- R. N. Agarwal (India): from Vice-Chairman to Chairman of the Special Committee (SC) on regulatory procedural matters. (Mr Agarwal was also Vice-Chairman of Study Group 1).
- R. Taylor (United States): from Chairman of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) to Chairman of Study Group 7.
- Mr L. Barclay (United Kingdom): from Chairman of Study Group 3 to Vice-Chairman of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV).

Chairmen retiring from the Sector's activities

- A. Berrada (Morocco): as Chairman of the SC
- H. Kimball (United States): as Chairman of Study Group 7
- E. Hauck (Switzerland): as Chairman of Study Group 4

Vice-Chairmen retiring from the Sector's activities

- S. Mbaye (Senegal): as Vice-Chairman of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)
- V. Rubio Carretón (Spain): as Vice-Chairman of the SC
- A. Heightman (United Kingdom): as Vice-Chairman of the CCV
- Y. Hirata (Japan): as Vice-Chairman of Study Group 8
- J. Saint-Etienne (France): as Vice-Chairman of Study Group 7
- F. Fedi (Italy): as Vice-Chairman of Study Group 3

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of such recommendations and how they could be applied. RAG is expected to share its findings with the BR Director for the purposes of his report to the 1998 session of Council. Both Member States and Sector Members were invited and encouraged to submit written comments on any of the recommendations relevant to ITU–R.

Collaboration with ISO and IEC

The Assembly passed a new Resolution on collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The Resolution

The Resolution requests the BR Director and RAG to fine-tune the procedures for cooperation between the Radiocommunication Sector, ISO and IEC. ITU Member States and Sector Members are also expected to play a significant role in ensuring adequate coordination of national activities associated with the three organizations.

Worldwide databases of terrain height and surface features

This Resolution, among other things, considers that the availability of digital maps of terrain height and surface features would be of great benefit to developing countries in the planning of their existing and newly introduced services. It stipulates that administrations should be encouraged to make these terrain databases freely available for ITU purposes.

Closing ceremony

An important highlight at the closing ceremony of the Assembly was the presentation of the ITU medal by the Secretary-General to Mr Hauck for his "outstanding leadership, efficiency and professionalism". In accepting the honour, Mr Hauck said that the medal was a great souvenir for his retirement. Mr Hauck who retired at the end of the Assembly as Chairman of Study Group 4 (Fixed-satellite service) has been very active in the Radiocommunication Sector. The participants praised him for his humour, patience, and efficiency and joined Mr Jones in wishing him well in his retirement.

From left to right: Messrs P. Tarjanne, R. Jones and E. Hauck during the award-giving ceremony

(Photo: A. de Ferron, ITU 970155)

notes, in particular, the increasing cost of developing international standards and invites ISO and IEC and ITU–R Study Groups 10 (Broadcasting service (sound)) and 11 (Broadcasting service (television)) to examine their work programmes and identify subjects for which coordination may be desirable.

Three categories of people were also honoured for their outstanding contributions to the Sector and were presented with certificates and gifts by Mr Jones (see Table 4). ■

The world has so many exquisite places

An interview with Erhard Hauck
Chairman of the 1997 Radiocommunication Assembly

Erhard Hauck was Chairman of the Radiocommunication Assembly, the forerunner to the World Radiocommunication Conference. Mr Hauck who retired from the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU–R) at the end of the Assembly (24 October 1997) was awarded the ITU medal by the Secretary-General, Pekka Tarjanne, for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Sector. He has held several important functions within the ITU. He was Chairman of Study Group 4 (Fixed-satellite service), Chairman of the Conference Preparatory Meeting in 1984, Rapporteur in the Radio-

(ITU 970156)

communication Advisory Group. He was also one of the Rapporteurs for the Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters.

From 1963 to 1965 he was a test engineer with Standard Telephon & Radio AG in Zurich. From April 1966 to March 1967, he was a design engineer with ITT Microware Inc. after which he joined Farinon Microware where he worked until 1971 — both companies are based in Mountain View (California). Since 1972 till today, Mr Hauck is Manager in the Research Division of Swisscom (formerly Swiss Telecom PTT until 30 September 1997).

■ *Mr Hauck, you have just chaired the Radiocommunication Assembly, what is your reaction as to the results?*

We had lots of work with so many different topics. We had to consider the output of the Study Groups. That is, the pink documents (in ITU practice this means texts that are ready for approval) which were in the range of 100. We had to prepare for the next study period (1997–1999), review the structure and work of the Radiocommunication Sector's Study Groups, including the election of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for these and other groups of the ITU–R. Finally, we reviewed the working methods which included the future of the Special Committee for Regulatory/Procedural Matters and that of the Conference Preparatory Meeting, more popularly known as CPM. With so many documents and so many important issues to consider, five days was a very short time. Nevertheless, we approved everything and this was very much due to the cooperative attitude of the delegates to whom I extend my sincere thanks. Let me also offer my thanks to Bob Jones, and the Secretariat, the engineers, and the secretaries of the Assembly's Committees for their great help.

■ *Is there a chance that the cycle within which an Assembly and the associated World Radiocommunication Conference can be altered?*

As former Chairman of a Study Group, I can tell you that the cycle of two years is very hard on the Working Parties of the Study Group. This is because the actual time in which they can work is just one year, if you consider how long it takes to prepare and distribute the report of the CPM. By way of an example, Working Party 4A of Study Group 4 had three meetings in one year with lots of documents and, some 12 Recommendations which respond to the Resolutions of the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-95). So that was a lot of work.

Now coming back to the Radiocommunication Assembly itself, I think that if it was held every three years, this would at least give the Study Groups one and half years to prepare. As for the duration of the Assembly, I should have had at least one more day. If you remember, at the very end we had only fifteen minutes for the closing ceremony and that is also not enough. Our Director, Bob Jones, had prepared his speech, but even that had to be cut short. So that just goes to show that at least one more day would have been necessary.

I think without this very positive attitude of the delegates we could not have made it.

■ *How is Study Group 4 structured and what are its main functions?*

Study Group 4 which deals with the fixed-satellite service has basically three Working Parties. Working Party 4A carries out work with significant relevance to World Radiocommunication Conferences and the CPM. Working Party 4B deals with standards, in a sense, on quality and availability measures and modulation methods. Working Party 4 SNG deals with satellite news gathering. This Working Party attracts a huge attendance from broadcasters, including the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

These are the pure Working Parties, purely working in Study Group 4.

Then we have Working Party 4-9S, which is shared with Study Group 9 (Fixed service), and studies sharing matters with the fixed service. Then we have the Handbook Group, which is very important because the Handbooks from Study Group 4 are very well received.

■ *Which of these Groups presented the greatest challenges during your Chairmanship?*

They were all challenging. But I think if you look at it in terms of importance and also within the context of world radiocommunication conferences, then I would say that Working Party 4A would be considered the most important by most people.

■ *Was the Assembly able to approve all the Recommendations brought before it or were there some contentious ones that were rejected?*

All the Recommendations were approved except for two, to which some administrations issued reservations. Let me just underline that there is the possibility to approve Recommendations by correspondence and those Study Groups which had their meetings at an early stage of the year, had the opportunity to approve most of the Recommendations by correspondence. Study Group 4 as an example had only four Recommendations on which we needed more time and discussion and also coordination with other bodies including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Recommendations which we brought before the Assembly had to do with:

— the method for determining coordination distances, in the 5 GHz band, between the international standard microwave landing system stations operating in the aeronautical radionavigation service and the non-GSO mobile-satellite service stations providing feeder uplink services;

— the feasibility of sharing between spaceborne passive sensors of the earth exploration-satellite service and inter-satellite links of geostationary-satellite networks in the range 50 to 65 GHz;

— sharing between feeder links for the mobile-satellite service and the aeronautical radionavigation service in the space-to-earth direction in the band 15.4–15.7 GHz and the protection of the radio astronomy service in the band 15.35–15.4 GHz;

— sharing between feeder links for the mobile-satellite service and the aeronautical radionavigation service in the earth-to-space direction in the band 15.4–15.7 GHz.

■ *What do you think of the concept of incorporating Recommendations by reference in the Radio Regulations?*

I think it is an important and good concept because Recommendations which are incorporated in this way get the necessary support and attention. What maybe sometimes difficult to achieve is how to synchronize the updating of such Recommendations with the updating of the Radio Regulations. Let us take an example. If you have a Recommendation that has just been revised by the Assembly shortly ahead of the Conference, it may be very difficult for the Conference to consider, understand and accept the revisions.

■ *What are your hobbies, and which ones will you concentrate on as you retire?*

My hobbies are partly to work in the garden, which in a way, is a must, otherwise you have a jungle growing around the house. Another hobby is travelling, and that is why I am looking forward to retiring as that gives me more than just a short time of vacation that I usually have during work. The world has so many exquisite places.

We wish you a happy retirement Mr Hauck. ■