

## REPORT ON WRC-07

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) was held in Geneva 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The Agenda contained 23 items for consideration one of which, Agenda Item 1.13, contained a number of issues relating to services in the high frequency bands.

***1.13 taking into account Resolutions 729 (WRC-97), 351 (WRC-03) and 544 (WRC-03), to review the allocations to all services in the HF bands between 4 MHz and 10 MHz, excluding those allocations to services in the frequency range 7 000-7 200 kHz and those bands whose allotment plans are in Appendices 25, 26 and 27 and whose channeling arrangements are in Appendix 17, taking account of the impact of new modulation techniques, adaptive control techniques and the spectrum requirements for HF broadcasting;***

This agenda item proved to be very complex, open to interpretation and controversial as proven during the preparation of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) Report in the ITU-R Study Groups. The final CPM Report as input to WRC-07 contained 2 views on this Agenda Item particularly with respect to Resolution 544 and the issue of additional spectrum for the broadcasting service.

The Conference Chairman is usually agreed some time before the conference starts. Although the process for selecting a Chairman had been continuing for many months, there was no agreement until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October, the day before the conference was due to start. This late agreement did not appear to delay the work of the conference as the agenda items and relevant input documents were quickly allocated to sub-committees. This process continued so that a number of sub-committees were soon working in parallel on the different issues.

Unfortunately, this rapid progress soon came to a halt for Agenda Item 1.13. The initial problem was what order to deal with the various issues contained within the agenda item. It became very obvious that all of the Regional Groups outside Europe (CITEL, Arab Group, APT, RCC and ATU) wanted to deal with Resolution 544 first while CEPT wanted to take the issues in order of the agenda item. This stalemate continued until the second week of the conference when the Chairman of the committee managed to get an agreement to take Resolution 544 for 2 sessions and then deal with Resolution 351 for the next two sessions.

At this point, CEPT found that they were the only Regional Group with a proposal to allocate additional spectrum to the broadcasting service. All other Regional Groups wanted a "No Change" (NOC) for Article 5 of the Radio Regulations for all services. They also wanted to deal with Resolution 544 first as they saw a linkage with Resolution 351 in the CEPT proposal for Resolution 544. Despite protracted discussions in the formal meetings and in closed sessions with the Chairman of the conference, this situation persisted until Wednesday of the third week. The Chairman advised CEPT to seek support outside of Europe for their proposal and to draw the inevitable conclusion if none were found and withdraw their proposal. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November, with little public support outside Europe, the CEPT were forced to accept a NOC for the broadcasting service.

Even though this opened the way to discuss the other issues contained in the agenda item, very little progress was made. Resolution 729 was modified as studies were considered to be complete in ITU-R while Resolution 351 was modified and put on the agenda for WRC-

11. No changes were agreed for the amateur service under the review of all services in the range 4-10 MHz.

Although there was no additional spectrum allocated to the broadcasting service, there were some more positive decisions taken by WRC-07. A summary of the outcome of WRC-07 for the HF broadcasting service is as follows:-

1. WRC-07 took the majority view and did not agree any new spectrum for broadcasting in the HF bands;
2. Resolution 544 has been suppressed and will therefore not appear on the agenda of a future WRC;
3. Resolution 517 has been modified to suppress SSB and to extend the range of broadcasting bands where DRM can be deployed to include all Tropical Bands above 3200kHz;
4. Various Footnotes in Article 5 have been modified to remove the reference to the WARC-92 bands and the date of implementation;
5. A new Resolution has been adopted which requests ITU-R to continue studies on HF broadcasting;
6. The provisional WRC-11 agenda item dealing with DRM protection ratios (Resolution 543) has been deleted as this work can be studied in ITU-R Study Group 6 with a view to revise Recommendation ITU-R BS.1615 if necessary.

On the face of it, that doesn't look like much for what is essentially 7 years work but all is not too bleak. SSB has been deleted and the range of bands available to introduce DRM has been extended.

With the new Resolution, studies will continue in ITU-R to build on the information prepared within HFCC and contained in Report ITU-R BS.2105.

### **Other Issues relating to the broadcasting service**

Document 30 from Cuba concerned Radio Regulation No. 23.3:-

**23.3 2) *In principle, except in the frequency band 3 900-4 000 kHz, broadcasting stations using frequencies below 5 060 kHz or above 41 MHz shall not employ power exceeding that necessary to maintain economically an effective national service of good quality within the frontiers of the country concerned.***

The proposal was to create a new Resolution which provided an interpretation of 23.3 such that any broadcasting station that provided coverage outside the country in which the station is located would not be in conformity with the Radio Regulations. After much discussion, no changes were made to No.23.3 and no Resolution was adopted. However, a note of the conclusions of the discussions was agreed to be part of the minutes of the Conference.

Agenda Item 1.4 proved to be the most contentious issue:-

**1.4 *to consider frequency-related matters for the future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000 taking into account the results of ITU-R studies in accordance with Resolution 228 (Rev.WRC-03);***

The bands proposed for IMT included the UHF TV bands as well as C-band used by many services including broadcasting. WRC-07 could not agree on a world-wide allocation for IMT but has provided access to different bands in different Regions for IMT by footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations.