



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950

EMC Committee – Interim Meeting 16-17 April 2016 InterCity Hotel, Vienna

Subject	Standardisation and the role of Region 1 Member Societies		
Society	RSGB	Country	UK
Committee:	EMC	Paper number:	C7-04
Author:	Hilary Clayton-Smith, G4JKS		

Introduction

The RSGB believes that participating in the work of Standardisation at a national, European and global level is a vital part of its EMC work. It enables a Member Society to have its voice heard in an important area for the future of radio communication. It also allows those involved, to develop a better understanding of how standards which relate to electronic and radio equipment, are drawn up.

The RSGB is not aware how many National Societies are actively involved in the work of the standardisation bodies at a national or European level across Region 1. This may start to become apparent during discussions in the Vienna interim meeting and it is hoped that by the end, a better picture may emerge of our overall participation.

Background

The RSGB has been actively involved in the Standardisation area for many years. Members of the RSGB EMC Committee participate at a national level in the meetings of the British Standards Institute (BSI), the National Standardisation Organisation for the UK and at a European level in the European Committee for Electro-technical Standardisation (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) as well as in the International Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) at the international level (through the BSI).

The individual RSGB members who attend standardisation meetings are all members of the RSGB EMC Committee, which enables a nationally coordinated approach to input and attendance. There is committee discussion and agreement on the Society's position. Those who attend meetings write reports to inform the Committee of progress. When necessary, reports are made to members through "RadCom," highlighting the work of the EMC Committee in the standards area.

There has been discussion amongst Member Societies about the best way to influence standards development. The RSGB believes that it is essential to be involved at an early stage, and build proper protection for radio services into the draft standard. It is not enough to try to influence final voting on the standard – by then it is generally too late, and unacceptable aspects may have been incorporated into the draft. Involvement in the early development is essential.

Furthermore, it is simply not enough for an “IARU” person to be on the European Standard Committee. That person is just one voice, and the voting is almost entirely influenced by the individual national standards organisations. This emphasises how important it is to be involved on your national standardisation body to be able to influence the thinking.

Many standards bodies are keen to have more people with specific experience of radio communication on their committees. This helps balance the very strong presence of non-radio members, who are often seeking to relax standards to the detriment of radio services. Only by providing a firm and authoritative voice on standards committees can the interests of radio users be properly presented. The radio user is often taking a different position in committee to those who want to relax standards, so those representing radio services need to be able to present their case from a sound technical basis, and to argue and advocate for common sense. Linking together with any other radio users within the committees can also be beneficial. Building the necessary respect amongst other committee members takes time. This is not a “quick fix” and so where Member Societies propose members for standards committees, it should be viewed as a five -year appointment. This may seem a long time but it takes a while to get to know how things work, who the various stakeholders are, and who your allies are. The mechanics of standards writing also takes time to master.

Key Points / Proposals

It would be useful to see which National Societies participate in the national standardisation process. Which ones are involved at a European level and which ones are not involved at all. At a more detailed level, what standards in particular have the Societies been involved with? Once this is established the gaps in coverage can be identified and managed through the Chairman of the Region 1 EMC Committee.

Furthermore, the RSGB believes that greater “pooling” of resources to handle new standards makes a lot of sense. Perhaps a virtual group of those in Member Societies involved in standards could work together to discuss and develop the response of the Amateur Radio Service to emerging standards.

Recommendations

That Member Societies discuss the present situation and decide on a way forward, which will increase involvement at NSO level, and that will coordinate the work on standardisation, to influence outcomes.

That each Member Society, uses every effort to identify a suitable member who can represent the interests of radio users at their national standards committee.

That a ‘virtual group’ of those active in standardisation work be set up (building on the network that Thilo has already created) to facilitate active discussion and formulation of joint positions across Member Societies.

RSGB

January 2016