

United States of America

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

WRC-11 Agenda Item 7: *to consider possible changes in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference: "Advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks", in accordance with Resolution 86 (Rev. WRC-07)*

Background: WRC-03 identified in Resolution **86 (WRC-03)** the scope and the criteria to be used for the implementation of Resolution **86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002)**. The current version of this Resolution (i.e. Resolution **86 (WRC-07)**) resolves "to invite future World Radiocommunication Conferences to consider any proposals which deal with deficiencies in the advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures of the Radio Regulations for space services which have either been identified by the Board and included in the Rules of Procedure or which have been identified by administrations or by the Bureau as appropriate."

There has been a longstanding requirement in Article 9 of the Radio Regulations, under No. 9.1, for the Radiocommunication Bureau to wait a requisite six months after receiving the advanced publication information (API) for satellite networks requiring coordination under Section II of Article 9 before receiving the accompanying coordination request information, even if both sets of information are submitted to the Bureau at the same time. While this six-month delay may have served a purpose in years past when there was a substantial amount of technical data included in the API for administrations to consider and potentially comment upon, this is no longer the case. As a consequence of the simplification of the Radio Regulations at WRC-95, the API for satellite networks requiring coordination under Section II of Article 9 includes very limited information (e.g. orbital position and frequency bands) and, as such, there is little for administrations to review and comment upon. This required six month delay therefore serves no purpose other than to delay the overall start of coordination process for satellite networks.

In addition to creating a delay to the start of the coordination process, this six month period adds considerable uncertainty as to the potential availability of frequency assignments at any given orbital location. Whereas the SRS database maintained by the ITU BR can be queried and carefully examined in the process of searching for and identifying a potential orbital location at which a new satellite network could be launched and operated in a given frequency band, once an API for this new network is submitted there is six months of uncertainty as the filing administration must wait to see if another administration, which may have an API in the vicinity that has already been submitted to the ITU and is still valid, files a coordination request in

advance of the BR's receipt of the coordination request associated with the new API. This very issue was indeed one of the issues highlighted in the BR's recently conducted Workshop on the efficient use of the orbit/spectrum resource. During that workshop, views expressed by administrations "stressed the uselessness of this procedure for satellite networks subject to coordination and indicated in addition that the 6 month period mention in No. 9.1 before coordination adds no value to the registration procedure."¹

¹ See Summary Notes on BR Workshop on the efficient use of spectrum/orbit resources (Geneva, Switzerland 6 May 2009) at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/space-workshop-efficient-use-geneva-2009/en>

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9.1 Before initiating any action under this Article or under Article 11 in respect of frequency assignments for a satellite network or a satellite system, an administration, or one⁹ acting on behalf of a group of named administrations, shall, prior to the coordination procedure described in Section II of Article 9 below, where applicable, send to the Bureau a general description of the network or system for advance publication in the International Frequency Information Circular (BR IFIC) not earlier than seven years and preferably not later than two years before the planned date of bringing into use of the network or system (see also No. 11.44). The characteristics to be provided for this purpose are listed in Appendix 4. The coordination or notification information may also be communicated to the Bureau at the same time. ~~Where coordination information is required by Section II of Article 9, the coordination information shall be considered as having been received by the Bureau upon its actual date of receipt whereas notification information shall be considered as having been received by the Bureau~~ not earlier than six months after the date of receipt of the ~~coordination~~ information. ~~Where coordination is not required by Section II, notification shall be considered as having been received by the Bureau~~ not earlier than six months after the date of publication of the advance publication information. (WRC-12)

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9.5B If, upon receipt of the BR IFIC containing information published under No. 9.2B, any administration considers its existing or planned satellite systems or networks or terrestrial stations¹¹ to be affected, it may send its comments to the publishing administration, so that the latter may take those comments into consideration ~~during~~ the coordination procedure. A copy of these comments may also be sent to the Bureau. Thereafter, both administrations shall endeavour to cooperate in joint efforts to resolve any difficulties, with the assistance of the Bureau, if so requested by either of the parties, and shall exchange any additional relevant information that may be available. (WRC-2012)

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Reasons:

1) to address the unnecessary requirement for the Radiocommunications Bureau to wait six months after receipt of the advanced publication information before receiving the coordination request information for satellite networks requiring coordination under Section II of Article 9.

¹¹ **9.5B.1** The only terrestrial stations to be taken into account are those for which the requirement to coordinate is under Nos. 9.11, 9.11A and 9.21.