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DECT World 2025

DECT Forum's Regulatory Working Group (RWG) update

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The Regulatory Working Group's role

'To address all regulatory issues pertaining to the use and protection of DECT spectrum worldwide. This includes adjacent and co-channel interference issues, as well as the communication and interpretation of new regulatory law from any affected DECT regional usage, and formation of strategic proposals on behalf of DECT Forum as to spectrum usage.'

<https://www.dect.org/wg-regulatory>

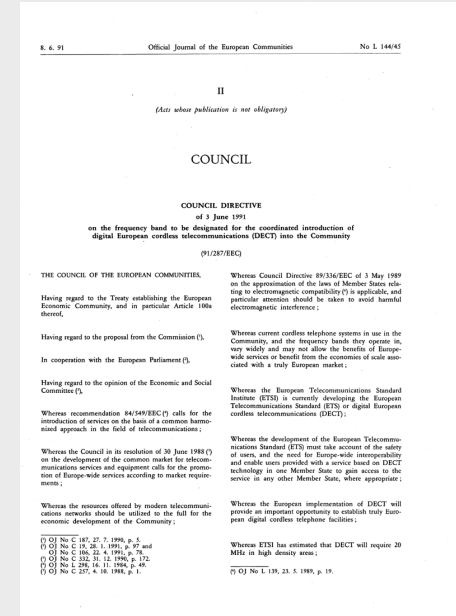
ITU-R WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.12

- The International Telecommunication Union – Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R) is the United Nations specialised agency that plays a vital role in the management of radio spectrum.
- World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) are held every four years to review and revise the Radio Regulations, which have international treaty status. Revisions are based on an agenda determined by the ITU Council.
- WRC-27 will feature several Agenda Items related to additional spectrum allocations for the mobile satellite services (MSS), both Space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space transmissions.
- AI 1.12 addresses the 1880-1920 MHz frequency range as a candidate band for new MSS allocations:

*‘to consider, based on the results of studies, possible allocations to the mobile-satellite service and possible regulatory actions in the frequency bands 1 427-1 432 MHz (space-to-Earth), 1 645.5-1 646.5 MHz (space-to-Earth) (Earth-to-space), **1 880-1 920 MHz (space-to-Earth) (Earth-to-space)** and 2 010-2 025 MHz (space-to-Earth) (Earth-to-space) required for the future development of low-data-rate non-geostationary mobile-satellite systems, in accordance with Resolution **252 (WRC-23)**;*

WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.12

- Preparation work relating to this Agenda Item is taking place in Working Party 4C of the ITU-R.
- A study commissioned earlier this year by the DECT Forum shows that MSS Earth-based user terminals present a significant interference risk to DECT users.
- DECT Forum's study accords with other compatibility studies which shows separation distances are needed to protect DECT in various use case scenarios.
- Earth-based MSS user terminals need to be greater than 2.5 km from a DECT receiver to protect indoor DECT use, and 5 km to protect outdoor DECT use.
- The report on sharing and compatibility studies is expected to be completed at the Autumn 2026 meeting.
- We appeal to DECT industry organisations to express concerns directly to their national spectrum regulators about the risks to established DECT use in the band and to ask their regulator to intervene in opposing a new allocation to MSS.
- In EU Member States, Article 2 of [Council Directive 91/287/EEC](#) of 3 June 1991 designates the 1880 – 1900 MHz band to DECT, gives DECT priority over other services and mandates its protection.



Article 2

Member States shall, in accordance with CEPT Recommendation T/R 22-02 of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration designate the frequency band 1880-1900 MHz for digital European cordless telecommunications (DECT) by 1 January 1992.

In accordance with the CEPT Recommendation, DECT shall have priority over other services in the same band, and be protected in the designated band.

Additional Spectrum for DECT in 1910-1920 MHz

- The Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) comprises 46 European countries. It provides the focal point for information on spectrum use, with a primary objective to harmonise the efficient use of the radio spectrum.
- It takes an active role at the international level, preparing common European proposals to represent European interests in the ITU.
- ECC, via its Working Group Frequency Management (WG FM), recently agreed to add the 1910-1920 MHz band to [ERC Recommendation 70-03](#) which will allow for the use of DECT in this band.
- The conditions of use are:
 - Frequency band: 1910-1920 MHz
 - Power: 20 dBm e.i.r.p.
 - Spectrum access: Transmit Power Control (TPC) and instant Dynamic Channel Selection (iDCS) required
 - Occupied bandwidth: ≤ 3.5 MHz
- Following Public Consultation stage, we anticipate the Recommendation to be updated by Summer 2026.
- RWG is currently reviewing [Ofcom UK's recent consultation](#) on the band.

Expanding spectrum access for DECT-2020 NR

- ECC Decision (24)01 *'Harmonised technical conditions for the shared use of the 3800-4200 MHz frequency band by low/medium power terrestrial wireless broadband systems (WBB LMP) providing local-area network connectivity'*
 - Includes DECT-2020 NR as a candidate technology for the band.
 - Work being undertaken by the FM60 project team (Work Item FM60_02)
 - Builds on initiatives already implemented by some countries, notably UK, Norway and Germany, to make shared spectrum available for local, private broadband connectivity for industry verticals.
 - Outcome likely to be a suite of three recommendations:
 1. Recommendation on the protection of **FS** and **FSS** [Fixed Service and Fixed Satellite Service]
 2. Recommendation on the protection of **Radio Altimeters** [in the 4200-4400 MHz band]
 3. Recommendation on **WBB LMP planning**, and protection of **MFCN** below 3800 MHz [Mobile/Fixed Communications Networks is the broad ECC term for public mobile cellular networks]
- Following a request from RWG, New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment updated its Radiocommunication Regulations in September to include DECT-2020 NR:
<https://www.rsm.govt.nz/about/news-and-updates/updated-radio-standards-notice-released-what-you-need-to-know>

What next?

- Italy's departure from the norm of licence-exempt/general authorisation for DECT
 - Italy appear to have implemented licensing charges that apply to users of DECT equipment in certain circumstances, in accordance with its national Electronic Communications Code.
 - Following intervention by RWG, Italy confirmed it has not transposed [ECC ERC Decision \(98\)22](#)* into its national law and that its national entry in the European Communications Office's (ECO) [EFIS database](#) (which states that it has implemented the ERC Decision) is incorrect.
 - RWG working via the ECO and in contact with Italy's regulator to seek clarification on the scope and basis of the change, and whether it can be reversed.
- Raising the profile of DECT with national regulators
 - Potential 'White Paper' highlighting its success as a European technology and family of standards.
 - "Show and tell" demonstrations for regulators.
- Emerging interest in exploring spectrum opportunities in China
 - Difficult market to access, requiring local contacts but RWG, in tandem with the Board, will explore new spectrum opportunities.

*The ECC Decision provides a basis for administrations to allow the free circulation and use of DECT equipment throughout Europe by exempting DECT equipment from individual licensing. However, it is non-binding on national administrations.

How can the DECT industry help?

- Don't assume that DECT's access to spectrum is guaranteed in perpetuity.
- Protecting and expanding access to spectrum requires constant vigilance and a collective contribution by the DECT industry.
- Get involved! Make representations to your national regulator and government. Educating policymakers about DECT's success, use cases and contribution is hugely beneficial to DECT's continued access to spectrum.

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