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| WG FM | | Doc. FM(20)103 |
| 96th Meeting | | |
| Web-meeting, 8-12 June 2020 | | |
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| Date issued: | 9 June 2020 | |
| Source: | Romania | |
| Subject: | Questionnaire on the issuance of amateurs’ certificates and licences in electronic format | |
| Group membership required to read? (Y/N)  N | | |
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| Summary: | | |
| Harmonized issuance of radio amateur certificates and licences in electronic format | | |
| Proposal: | | |
| The Romanian Administration is investigating the possibility to use the electronic format for the issuance of amateurs’ documents equivalent to CEPT levels of certification and licensing.  We consider that such initiative cannot be carried out without a thorough analysis and discussions between all CEPT member States.  Considering the outbreak of the new coronavirus pandemic and in order to diminish the spreading risk, in Romania the digital signing of the documents and the possibility of circulating official documents in electronic format have been implemented.  Taking into account the actual situation and with the goal of achieving increased protection, both for the amateur community and for the administrations, as well as in order to open a new approach in line with the digital opportunities now available, the Romanian Administration is proposing to adopt at WGFM level the possibility of issuance for all certificates and licenses with CEPT equivalence for radio amateurs, in electronic format.  Bearing this in mind, the Romanian Administration is also proposing to WGFM to circulate a questionnaire to the CEPT Member States in order to reach consensus on the usage of radio amateur certificates and licenses in electronic format, at European level.  Therefore, the Romanian Administration is working towards issuing certificates and licences in electronic format as PDF files, duly digitally signed. This approach will allow full compatibility with the online official checking and will enable the holders to carry their documents wherever they go, since such documents can be easily stored on smartphones, tablets, and other portable or mobile devices.  We consider that it will be useful to study this topic in the FM Radio Amateur Forum Group in order to perform a detailed analysis on it and to develop templates and guidance of the issuance of the amateurs’ certificates and licenses in electronic format. | | |
| Background: | | |
| The emergence of COVID-19 led to the introduction of social distancing as a means of preventing the contamination with dangerous viral agents. Naturally, the consequence is that the daily activity of people has dramatically changed, involving more isolation, including travel limitation to what is strictly necessary. Moreover, remote work was also encouraged as an alternative to working at the office in order to limit disease spreading.  In this context, obtaining official documents from the national authorities has become more difficult, considering the drastic limitation of the transportation possibilities both for correspondence and for people. Consequently, the time required to get such documents has increased substantially.  Therefore, many governments have introduced the obligation of public institutions to implement the digital signature and to issue official documents also in an electronic format, as a measure of required social distancing and as a form of reducing bureaucracy in a time of profound humanitarian crisis.  In the vein of these measures, the Romanian Administration considers that there is a strong need for the issuance of certificates and licences in the Amateur Service by using an electronic format that will be distributed by electronic means to the applicants.  Consequently, the Romanian Administration deems that such electronic documents should be harmonized at CEPT and at international levels, in order to enjoy full recognition from the other Administrations.  Therefore, the Romanian Administration submits to the members of WG FM the proposal of enabling the electronic issuance of certificates and licenses in the Amateur Service at CEPT level. The intended outcome will be defining templates for such documents to be applied by all the CEPT Administrations and a roadmap for fully migrating to the digital era in the matter of electronic issuance of such official documents.  A questionnaire was added in order to provide a better approach in studying this matter at CEPT level and to gather more innovative ideas designed to have full compatibility across the various digital platforms used by each country. As a starting point, we consider the following main prerequisites:   1. The documents are to be issued in a generally recognized format, for instance as PDF files; 2. The protection of these documents is to be ensured by using digital signature applied inside the file, as it is the normal procedure for the PDF digitally signed files; 3. Such due digital signature must be valid at global level in order to be checked all over the world; 4. The digital signature should have a timestamp valid at global level in order to be checked all over the world; 5. The electronic format should include the information provided in the document also in QR code format in order to be easily readable with a scanner.   These ideas and others will be also included in the questionnaire attached to this proposal. | | |

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

concerning the issuance of amateurs’ certificates and licences in electronic format

Each CEPT Administration is invited to express their opinions on the following issues:

1. Does your Administration take into consideration the issuance of the amateurs’ certificates and licences in electronic format? If yes, please provide further information.

🞎 Yes 🞎 No

Details:

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1. Does your Administration agree with such an electronic format, and even if you do not intend to use it, will your Administration recognize such documents issued by other CEPT Administrations? If yes, please provide further information.

🞎 Yes 🞎 No

Details:

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1. In your opinion, what is the file format that is more suited for issuing these documents in electronic format? Furthermore, what document security method do you consider is more appropriate? Please provide a short description of the advantages offered by them.

🞎 Yes 🞎 No

Details:

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1. In your opinion, could it be useful to include a QR code in the electronic format? If you deem such a code a good idea, please suggest alternative barcodes that could be included.

🞎 Yes 🞎 No

Details:

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1. Does your Administration support this initiative at CEPT level, for the migration to digitally signed documents to be accomplished in a timely and effective manner?

🞎 Yes 🞎 No

Details:

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