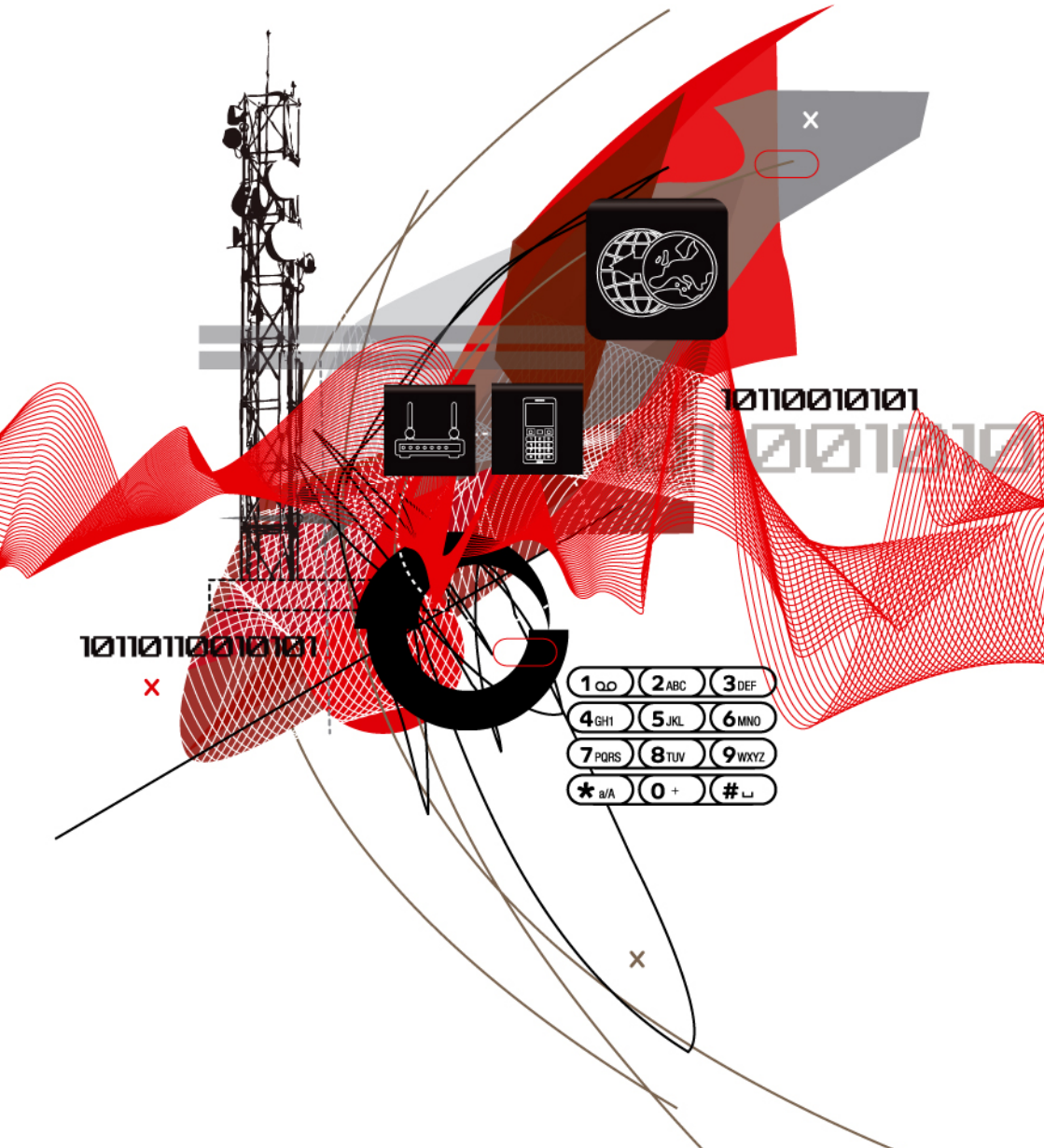
CEPT ECC
Electronic Communications Committee

ECC ALL ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

The Electronic Communications Committee

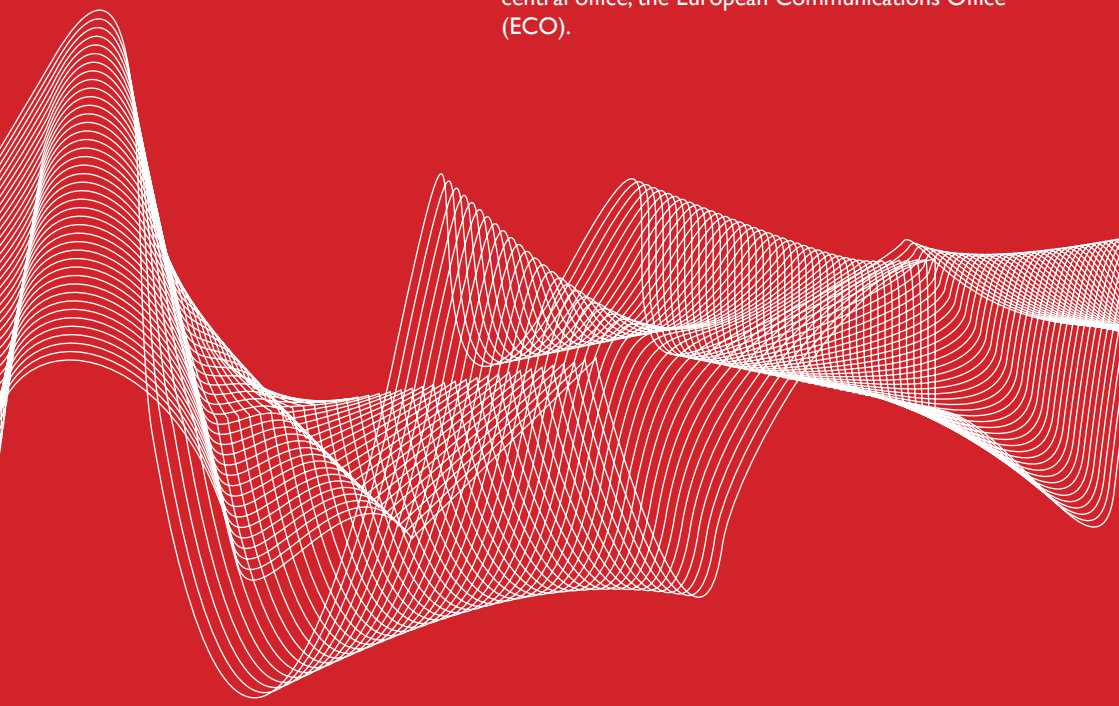


ECC ALL ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

WHO WE ARE

The Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) is one of three business committees of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), an organisation where expert policy makers and regulators from 46 countries across the whole of Europe collaborate to create a stronger and more dynamic market in the electronic communications and postal sectors.

The ECC has extensive expertise in the field of electronic communications. It brings together representatives from CEPT member countries (the Administrations) which provides us with a wealth of experience and technical expertise. Our work is carried out mainly by a set of specialist Working Groups and Project Teams supported by the CEPT's central office, the European Communications Office (ECO).



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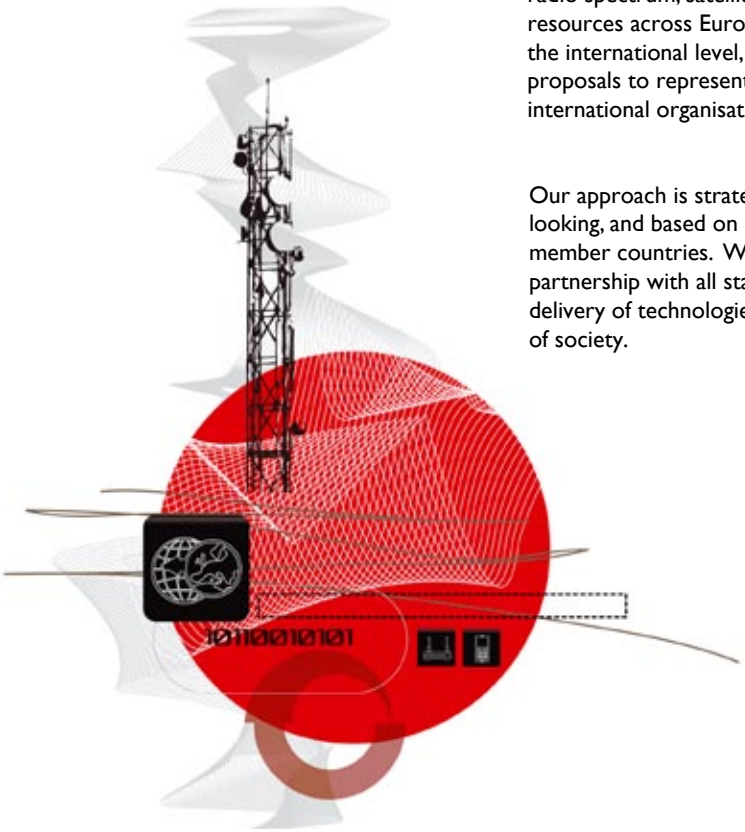

WHAT WE DO

The ECC develops common policies and regulations in electronic communications and related applications for Europe, and is a focal point for information on spectrum use. Our primary objective is to harmonise the efficient use of the radio spectrum, satellite orbits and numbering resources across Europe. We take an active role at the international level, preparing common European proposals to represent European interests in international organisations, especially in the ITU.

Our approach is strategic, open, and forward looking, and based on consensus between the member countries. We apply our expertise in partnership with all stakeholders to facilitate the delivery of technologies and services for the benefit of society.

The ECC's key priority is to manage and plan the harmonisation of scarce public resources in telecommunications. We use our expertise to reduce spectrum scarcity and improve sharing and access to spectrum to enable the introduction of new technologies.

As part of a global community, it is important to have effective harmonisation measures in place to take advantage of economies of scale and reduce spectrum wastage near national borders.

PAVING THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN EUROPE

The ECC's unique expertise in spectrum management has been developed over many years and is strengthened by contributions from industry and Administrations. This enables us to deliver real benefits through harmonised and efficient regulatory frameworks.

The ECC has paved the way for the development of mobile services in Europe by harmonising the conditions of use of all the relevant frequency bands, including the definition of frequency arrangements and least restrictive technical conditions.

A UNIQUE FORUM TO DEVELOP COMMON EUROPEAN POSITIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Our geographical footprint, technical expertise and effective collaboration with spectrum users, gives us an exceptionally strong base on which to draw. We use this to develop and adopt European Common Positions and lead the negotiation in international conferences, such as World Radiocommunication Conferences, to achieve the best possible outcome for Europe.

ENSURING A PROPER MIGRATION TOWARDS DIGITAL WORLDS

Our extensive work in developing regional agreements in digital television broadcasting has facilitated a change to an all-digital environment throughout Europe. This has brought significant benefits to the economy. Broadcasting and a wider range of other services, such as mobile broadband, can use the capacity of the so-called 'Digital Dividend' spectrum (frequencies made free by replacing analogue with digital TV signals).

OUR WORK LEADS TO FOUR MAIN OUTPUTS

ECC DECISIONS

These are measures to harmonise the use of spectrum and numbering across the CEPT membership. This is to make the use of spectrum more technically efficient to improve market efficiency across Europe. Drafted by consensus, ECC Decisions are widely supported and adopted by individual countries, even though they are non-binding. This provides a sound basis for manufacturers and service providers to prepare to address the European market confidently.

The ECC ensures compatibility between its own Decisions and the binding EC Decisions on the same subjects made between the member states of the European Union. This allows the benefits of harmonisation to be fully realised across all 46 CEPT member countries.

ECC RECOMMENDATIONS

ECC Recommendations are measures that national Administrations are encouraged to apply. They are principally intended as harmonisation measures for those matters where ECC Decisions are not yet relevant, or as guidance to national Administrations.

ECC REPORTS

ECC Reports are the result of studies by the ECC. They are developed in support of ECC Decisions, ECC Recommendations or European Common Positions (ECPs) adopted on a voluntary basis by European countries at World Radiocommunication Conferences.

CEPT REPORTS

CEPT Reports are technical studies carried out by the ECC under mandates from the European Commission. These studies give results that are typically used as the technical basis of EC Decisions on spectrum policy matters.

All the above deliverables are developed based on inputs from Administrations and industry and are subject to public consultation before final approval.

FREELY AVAILABLE ONLINE INFORMATION ON SPECTRUM USE IN THE CEPT COUNTRIES

The ECO Frequency Information System **(EFIS; http://www.efis.dk/)** provides an important central resource for information on actual and projected spectrum use across Europe. This online database hosts the European Common Allocation (ECA) Table. It holds information on spectrum use, radio interfaces and licensing conditions in CEPT member countries. It also includes references to allocations under the ITU Radio Regulations, references to ECC and EC deliverables, to relevant ETSI standards and to non-regulatory information for spectrum inventory purposes.

SEAMCAT **(http://www.seamcat.org/)** is an open source and free-of-charge software tool, which permits statistical modelling of different radio interference situations. It enables Administrations and industry to assess the potential interference between different radiocommunication systems that operate in shared or adjacent frequency bands.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The ECC has a long-established tradition of working collaboratively with a range of partners and sharing best practice and knowledge. We want to broaden these partnerships and engage more effectively with those who have an interest or stake in our work, from academic institutions to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
Our defining characteristics are expertise and consensus. We understand and respect that our different countries have different local situations, different legacy systems and some diversity in their priorities. But our countries have much more in common.

We seek to use the spectrum as efficiently as possible in the interests of our citizens. Especially in a continent with so many countries packed together and with a long history together, we place a premium on co-operation, knowing that harmonised approaches bring big benefits for all.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The ECC depends on active external participation to complement our members' own expertise. We believe that working together and sharing our different experiences will lead to better policies and a stronger, more dynamic, marketplace.

If you would like to find out more about what we do and on the many ways to get involved with our work just follow the link from the front page of our website: www.cept.org/ecc. This also provides a portal to our meeting documents, and to our online tools. We also organise workshops for newcomers explaining who is doing what in the ECC and on the best ways to contribute.

You can contact the ECO, the permanent office of the ECC, at the following address:

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