



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator's Report</b>		
<b>Society</b>	EMERCOM WG	<b>Country:</b>	
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## Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator's Report

The role and tasks assigned to the Emergency Communications Co-ordinator are specified in the Working Groups Terms of Reference dated November 2008. In this report, I will summarise my activities against each of the tasks listed.

### **1. To prepare and keep updated an inventory of emergency communications services provided by IARU Region 1 Societies.**

The number of countries reporting that they have emergency communications organisations has continued to grow from 35 countries in 2011 to 41 today. I continue to estimate that over 10 000 radio amateurs are involved in emergency communications activities across the region.

It remains the case each country has organised itself to best meet the needs of their governments and user services. This leads to large differences in approach at the national level in the funding and training of radio amateurs for emergency services. There also remain some countries where the emergency communications service is provided by groups, which are independent of the IARU National Society and a few where possibly competing groups exist made of National Societies and independents. I continue to try and include as many emergency groups as possible and encourage them to work together as this presents the best image for the hobby as a whole.

### **2. To act as a focal point on amateur radio emergency communications services with IARU Region 1 to international bodies and user services (e.g. The International Red Cross).**

More visibility needs to be given to the Memoranda of Understandings that IARU has signed on a global and regional basis with organisations such as the IFRC and ITU. It appears that the Radio Amateur community knows more about these agreements than the partner organisations. Better publicity would allow local contacts to be made with more confidence. Also more information is needed from countries about any local level agreements which could be used as good practice. e.g. Turkey has a number of agreements, Italian Emergency Communicators benefit from good laws protecting and supporting volunteers. Finland and Poland now both have better relationships with their governments and emergency responders etc.

The difficulty in presenting the service to International bodies within the region is the lack of positive news about events the amateur service is involved in within the region. This may be because the definition of 'disaster' and the ability of countries with-

in Region 1 vary so widely.

The European Union provides the easiest route to engage with international bodies in Region 1 and it is hoped that together with the Political Relations Committee a way may be found to do this.

### **3. To liaise on emergency matters with IARU Regions 2 and 3.**

Liaison with Dr Cesar Pio Santos HR2P and Jim Linton VK3PC the Regional Emergency Communications Co-Ordinators for Regions 2 and 3 is mainly via e-mail due to time and language differences. The most liaison occurs when a disaster or emergency has occurred and information is shared regarding HF frequencies in use and resources required.

I have continued to attend the GAREC conferences held each year as these provide an ideal opportunity to share information between the regions.

The GAREC conferences which have occurred since my last report were;

Sun City	- 2011
Malaysia	- 2012
Zurich	- 2013

Presentations from these events are made available to all on websites afterwards. The information gained though helps in delivering presentations back to other national society meetings. I was pleased to have given presentations to the Polish Parliament and to the SRAL convention in 2013. This provides a solid link back to our members and regulators of the information gained.

### **4. To prepare a common guideline on amateur radio emergency procedures.**

I share the disappointment of the EC that I have not been able to progress on this topic for a number of reasons. I hope that by September I will have documents with me at the Varna conference to demonstrate some progress.

### **5. To circulate and publicise information on emergency events in which the Amateur Radio Service has been involved.**

The IARU Region 1 website is used along with the dedicated mailing list for Region 1 Emergency Co-Ordinators to circulate information on emergency events and disasters. The mailing list allows member societies and groups to take information rapidly onto their own websites.

The IARU Region 1 website allows information to be made available to the wider community though with occasional delays as postings wait for publication approval.

Updates were posted on the following significant events within the region;

- Van Earthquake Turkey October 2011
- Liguria Flooding Italy November 2011

- Emilia Romagna Earthquake Italy May 2012
- Mozambique aircraft search South Africa November 2012
- 60th Anniversary of North Sea floods - February 2013
- Winter storm and electricity disruption Slovenia February 2014

A large number of events are also reported from outside the region to give prompt publicity given to frequencies in use and hopefully reduce QRM.

**6. To arrange meetings, when deemed necessary, to discuss principle and actual matters on amateur radio emergency communication. Such meetings shall only be arranged after approval, of and in consultation with, the EC.**

I have not organised any specific meetings. The GAREC conference in Zurich in 2013 however was arranged to be at the same time as the HAM RADIO show in Friedrichshafen. This provided an ideal opportunity to meet many emergency communicators within the region across the two events but this link between the events does not occur frequently enough to make good contacts.

The next GAREC to be held in Region 1 is to be in 2015.

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IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator