



# International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

21 – 27 September 2014

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Subject	QSL cards digital coding		
Society	REF	Country:	France
Committee:	C3	Paper number:	REF #2
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## Introduction

Most of the data on QSL cards is filled in by computer, but only in human readable form so no automated use of this data is possible.

## Background

The process of sorting QSL cards by hand takes a lot of time and manpower. Using 2D-codes technology, it may be possible to add some machine readable code to the human-readable data, in order to automate QSL card sorting processes for those QSL Bureaux wishing to do so.

## Key point and proposal

Various 2D digital codes are available , with the potential of encoding an enormous amount of data. The goal is to define an IARU-standard for the addition of 2D-codes containing QSL data to paper QSL cards.

The main steps would be:

- to choose the best 2D-code for this use
- to define the fields that could be integrated into 2D-codes, based on the ADIF de-facto standard
- to define their encoding syntax
- to promote the use of such-defined 2D codes by logging/QSL-editing software, so that these defined 2D-codes are added to QSL cards along with the human readable data
- to encourage the development of specific applications for QSL Bureaux and/or QSL Managers

## Recommendation

Establish an IARU workgroup to examine the possibility of defining an IARU standard for the addition of 2D-codes containing QSL data to paper QSLs.

The REF offers to lead this group.