

# 10 things you need to know about...



## WRC-12

### 1 What is a World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC)?

Organised by ITU-R roughly every 4 years, it is a Conference to review, and, if necessary, to revise the Radio Regulations: the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the satellite orbits. WRC-12 takes place in Geneva from 23 January to 17 February 2012 and will be followed by one in 2016. The basis of work at the Conference is the CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting) report resulting from the work of ITU-R Study Groups and the inputs from countries.

### 2 How is the EBU preparing the WRC-12?

EBU prepares positions to ensure protection of broadcasting services from interference from other services and to guarantee that an adequate amount of spectrum is allocated to ensure the future delivery of broadcasting services. The EBU Strategic Programme on Spectrum and its project groups SM-RAP (Regulatory And Policy) and SM-SDB (Sharing with Digital Broadcasting) collect Members views and prepare contributions to relevant CEPT and ITU groups. Full details at <http://workspace.ebu.ch/display/ecsrap/WRC-12+preparations>.

### 3 What are the high priority agenda items for broadcasters at WRC-12?

- 1.2: looking to enhance the international regulatory framework
- 1.5: looking for harmonization of spectrum for Electronic News Gathering (ENG), which includes wireless microphones, cameras, etc.
- 1.17: to consider sharing studies between the mobile service and other services in the band 790-862 MHz
- 1.19: to consider regulatory measures to enable the introduction of software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems
- 8.2: to recommend items for inclusion in the agenda for the next WRC

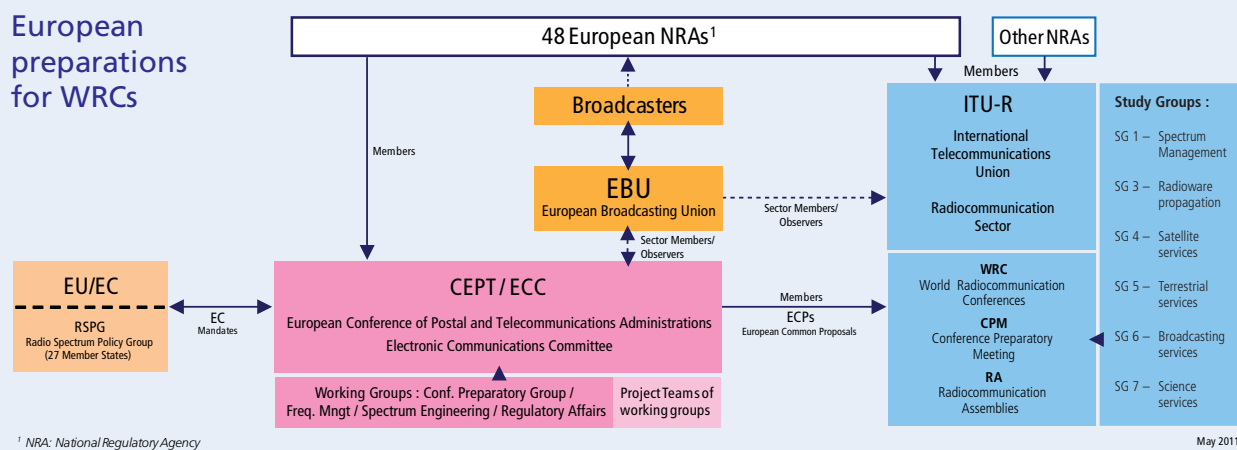
### 4 Enhancing the international regulatory framework (Agenda Item 1.2)

EBU supports the development of general principles for allocating frequency resources with the aim of making the use of the spectrum more flexible and to facilitate spectrum access to new services and applications. Such principles for allocating frequency resources need to consider the protection and the compatibility with existing services before extending frequency allocations. In particular, the quality and coverage of broadcasting services need to be preserved. To retain a vibrant terrestrial broadcasting platform, spectrum requirements for the future evolution of broadcasting services need to be taken into account.

### 5 Harmonization of spectrum for ENG (Agenda Item 1.5)

Harmonization of spectrum usage on a worldwide scale is desirable (economies of scale, facilitates worldwide events) but in practice, it may be difficult to achieve. EBU supports the harmonization of frequency ranges over which ENG radio equipment is envisaged, i.e. 'tuning ranges'. This would provide stability for equipment manufacturers. This would help those broadcasters and ENG operators, who cover international events, to use their own equipment across international borders.

## European preparations for WRCs



## 6 Sharing in the band 790-862 MHz band (Agenda Item 1.17)

The results of EBU studies for sharing between broadcasting and mobile services confirm that the impact of the cumulative effect of interference from base stations into broadcasting could be significant. EBU supports making mandatory arrangements at WRC-12 to take account of a potential impact of such a cumulative effect. EBU is also of the view that adopting optional safeguarding arrangements will provide a solution that covers the concerns of all stakeholders. It also provides flexibility to deal with the effect of cumulative interference without additional regulatory measures.

## 7 Software-defined radio (SDR) and cognitive radio systems (CR) (Agenda Item 1.19)

EBU supports the current regulatory framework for the introduction of SDR and CR devices and the need for sharing studies with existing services. The introduction of CR devices should be considered in any suitable frequency band (e.g. within the 1-6 GHz range) and not only in bands allocated to broadcasting services (e.g. in the white spaces in the 470-790 MHz). In addition, it will be important to protect broadcasting and programme-making services. Broadcasters have interests on SDR & CRSs for broadcasting related applications and EBU supports research studies in that sense.

## 8 Additional spectrum for mobile services at WRC-16? (Agenda Item 8.2)

EBU believes that any consideration of extension of mobile services into the broadcasting bands below 790 MHz would substantially hinder the future development of the digital terrestrial television platform. The need for additional spectrum should be studied and any new allocation should be restricted to the 1-6 GHz frequency range. Existing allocations to mobile services can be used to alleviate congestion of certain bands and the capacity limitations of mobile networks. Mobile services should also deploy the most efficient technologies (e.g. migration of GSM networks to 3G and LTE) before looking for new spectrum allocations.

## 9 Other WRC-12 items important for broadcasters

- The introduction of new aeronautical mobile systems in the band 112-117.975 MHz. Sharing studies have shown that new aeronautical services can operate on a compatible basis with FM radio services in the 87.5-108 MHz (Band II). Regarding compatibility with digital sound broadcasting in Band II, studies are still needed.
- The use of the band 21.4 to 22 GHz for the broadcasting-satellite service. EBU supports flexible use of the band for HDTV or 3D TV in the future. EBU is not in favour of a priori planning of satellite services because that could restrict access to spectrum and prevent technological developments.

## 10 How can EBU Members best prepare WRC-12?

All services (including broadcasting) need to define their spectrum requirements, to justify them and to migrate to more spectrum efficient technologies. It is essential that spectrum regulation provides adequate protection against interferences to all services. Identification of spectrum for new services should balance economic benefits against social and cultural benefits and not be focused purely on economic considerations. EBU Members need to define the positions that best satisfy their national requirements and contribute to the national discussions for WRC-12 preparations.