

**EUROPEAN RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

ERC Decision  
of 10 March 1999  
on Free Circulation and Use of Terrestrial Trunked Radio  
System (TETRA) Civil Mobile Terminals

(ERC/DEC/(99)03)





## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Terrestrial Trunked Radio System (TETRA)<sup>1</sup> is a European standard for the mobile radio network system aimed at professional users. TETRA systems supports both common and advanced professional radio communication applications such as group calls, speech/data, facsimile, file transfer, access to data bases, message handling, vehicle location services and fleet management.

TETRA civil networks may be installed and operated either by network operators offering telecommunications services to the public in general and to closed user groups or by other entities for its internal use. Typical TETRA civil users, as service subscribers or based in self-provided networks, are enterprises involved in the field of transport (e.g., airline, port, airport, air-freight, river transport, taxi, bus, railway), utility (e.g., gas, electricity, water, oil), industry (e.g., manufacturing plant distribution, construction, small manufacturing) and non-emergency authorities. As an additional feature, TETRA terminals may be equipped with Direct Mode of Operation (DMO) enabling direct radiocommunications between terminals outside the control of a network.

### 2 BACKGROUND

The ERC/DEC/(96)04 designated the bands 410-430 MHz and/or 870-876/915-921 MHz as preferred bands and, if not available, the bands 450-470 MHz and 385-390/395-399.9 MHz for the introduction of TETRA for civil use.

ETSI developed TETRA standards ETS 300 392 (TETRA Voice + Data), 300 393 (TETRA Packet Data Optimised (PDO)) and 300 394. A scope statement for a TBR for TETRA civil has been produced by the Tetra Type Approval Advisory Board (T-TAAB), endorsed by the Telecommunications Regulations Advisory Committee (TRAC) and approved by the Advisory Committee for Terminal Equipment (ACTE). That scope statement covers the bands 385-390 MHz, 395-399.9 MHz, 410-430 MHz and 450-470 MHz.

In the future, it is anticipated that the equipment used for TETRA civil will be the same as used by TETRA public safety and emergency services. At some future stage it may be appropriate therefore to amend this Decision to include TETRA emergency and also the possibility of using DMO once (a) harmonised frequency (ies) is (are) designated.

The ERC/DEC(95)01 provides the general basis for free circulation and use of radio equipment in CEPT member countries. This Decision deals only with the carriage and use of radio equipment by foreign visitors in CEPT member countries (Level 1 and Level 2 free circulation) and does not cover the placing of radio equipment on the market (Level 3 free circulation).

This Decision stipulates that whenever use of radio equipment is permitted in the visitor's home country, administrations shall permit free circulation and use of radio equipment (Level 2 free circulation) meeting the following criteria:

- the equipment operates on harmonised frequencies with common technical standards; and
- no frequency planning and individual frequency assignment is needed.

The Decision finally states that free circulation without permission to use the equipment (Level 1 free circulation) is allowed for all types of radio equipment permitted to be used on land vehicles or as portable in the visitor's home country.

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1 Formerly known as Trans European Trunked Radio System (TETRA).

### **3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ERC DECISION**

The current ERC/DEC/(96) 04 offers a choice between a number of bands, which makes full roaming difficult to achieve. In effect, it is recognised in ERC/DEC/(96) 04 that due to the different and extensive use of the candidate bands, it was not possible to accommodate the spectrum requirements for TETRA civil in a single harmonised band in CEPT countries.

Therefore, there is a need to arrange for free circulation and use of TETRA civil mobile terminals subject to the specific requirements contained in this Decision.

**ERC DECISION  
of 10 March 1999**

**on the free circulation and use of  
Terrestrial Trunked Radio System (TETRA)  
civil mobile terminals**

**(ERC/DEC/(99)03)**

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

*considering:*

- a) that TETRA civil systems offering voice and/or data communications are being introduced as a Land Mobile Service in Europe;
- b) that some of these systems provide roaming and interconnection with a public or private telecommunications network;
- c) that TETRA civil mobile terminals operates within the bands identified in the CEPT ERC Decision ERC/DEC/(96)04;
- d) that TETRA civil terminals comply with ETS 300 392, ETS 300 393, ETS 300 394, ETS 300 396 and the relevant TBRs;
- e) that it is desirable for administrations to implement a licensing regime which facilitates the free circulation and use of TETRA civil mobile terminals within the CEPT;
- f) that this Decision relates only to the carriage and use of TETRA mobile terminals and does not cover the mutual recognition of conformity assessment and/or placing on the market;
- g) that TETRA civil mobile terminals fall within the scope of the EC Directive 98/13/EC;

*recognising*

that this Decision shall not impede EEA member countries from fulfilling their obligations according to community law;

*noting*

that the use of Direct Mode of Operation (DMO) is not covered under this Decision until (a) harmonised frequency (ies) is (are) designated;

DECIDES

- 1) that administrations allow the free circulation and use of TETRA civil mobile terminals without requiring a national licence provided that:
  - the mobile terminals are permitted to be used in the visitor's home country;
  - the mobile terminals operate within the frequency bands identified in ERC/DEC(96)04;
  - the mobile terminals are under the control of a TETRA network or operate on harmonised European DMO channels
- 2) that this Decision shall enter into force by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1999;
- 3) that administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ERC Chairman and the ERO when this Decision is nationally implemented.”

Note:

Please check the ERO web site ( [www.ero.dk](http://www.ero.dk) ) under “Documentation / Implementation” for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ERC Decisions.