

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

ECC Decision  
of 15 November 2002  
on the harmonised European use of the bands  
1670 - 1675 MHz and 1800 - 1805 MHz and on the  
withdrawal of the ERC Decision (92)01  
“Decision on the frequency bands to be designated  
for the coordinated introduction of the  
Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System”

(ECC/DEC/(02)07)





## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Based on market forecasts and requests from industry CEPT has designated spectrum and provided relevant regulatory provisions for TFTS in a number of ERC Recommendations and ERC Decisions. In many CEPT countries TFTS networks were licensed, however the actual development of subscriber numbers in those TFTS networks have shown that TFTS networks in Europe have not been a success. Based on a recent survey carried out by the ERO a vast majority of CEPT administrations have indicated that there is no further interest in TFTS in those bands.

ERC Decision ERC/DEC/(92)01 on the frequency bands to be designated for the coordinated introduction of the Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System (TFTS) was adopted in 1992 to enhance the development of an Aeronautical Public Correspondence (APC) service to provide public telecommunications facilities between passengers on aircraft and users on the ground.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

The WARC92 allocated frequency spectrum for the Aeronautical Public Correspondence (APC) service within the frequency bands 1670 - 1675 / 1800 - 1805 MHz (see FN 5.380) based on proposals from the CEPT Administrations. Within CEPT spectrum for TFTS was identified by Recommendation T/R 42-01 and ERC Decision (92)01. This ERC Decision was implemented by 33 Administrations. Furthermore CEPT Administrations agreed on a detailed frequency plan for the deployment of the TFTS system in Europe, the Schiever Plan (See ERC Decision (97)08). This ERC Decision has been implemented by 24 Administrations.

### **3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION**

The poor subscriber development in TFTS networks in all CEPT countries over the last years has clearly shown that the earlier market estimates were far too optimistic. Based on a survey carried out by the ERO a vast majority of CEPT countries have indicated that there is no further interest in TFTS in CEPT. In order to give room for new harmonised applications to use the bands currently reserved for TFTS the existing ERC Decision (92)01 needs to be abrogated. Consequentially also the ERC/DEC(97)08 is to be withdrawn. Since the future use of these bands will partly depend on the results of WRC-03 on MSS which is one possible service proposed for the band 1670 - 1675 MHz, it is suitable to postpone the identification of new harmonised applications until after the WRC-03.

**ECC Decision  
of 15 November 2002**

**on the harmonised European use of the bands 1670 - 1675 MHz and 1800 - 1805 MHz  
and on the withdrawal of the ERC Decision (92)01  
“Decision on the frequency bands to be designated for the coordinated introduction of  
the Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System (TFTS)”**

**(ECC/DEC/(02)07)**

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

*considering*

- a) that CEPT has designated spectrum, in accordance to FN 5.380 and provided relevant regulatory provisions for TFTS in a number of ERC Recommendations and ERC Decisions over many years;
- b) that the actual development of subscriber numbers in TFTS networks did not meet the forecasted numbers and consequently the TFTS networks were not an economic success;
- c) that many CEPT administrations have indicated that there is no further interest in TFTS in those frequency bands;
- d) that CEPT administrations strongly promote the retention of each of the frequency bands 1670 - 1675 MHz and 1800 - 1805 MHz for harmonised European applications to be identified taking into account the results of WRC-03;

**DECIDES**

1. to withdraw the ” ERC Decision on the frequency bands to be designated for the coordinated introduction of the Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System (TFTS)” (ERC/DEC/(92)01);
2. to reserve the bands 1670 - 1675 MHz and 1800 - 1805 MHz for harmonised European use;
3. that this Decision will enter into force on 15 November 2002;
4. that CEPT Administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when the Decision is nationally implemented.”

*Note:*

*Please check the CEPT web site(<http://www.CEPT.org>) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.*