ECC Recommendation (YY)XX

Guidance for operation of maritime VHF channels in CEPT

**Approved DD Month YYYY (Arial 9pt bold)**

**[last updated: DD Month YYYY) (Arial 9pt) [date of the latest update]]**

# introduction

ITU RR Appendix 18 lists the frequencies in the VHF maritime mobile band. The implementation of digital data exchange in this table leads to a new understanding of the related devices. With the exception of AIS1 and AIS2, by now all listed channels are used by one and the same kind of VHF equipment for voice communication. With the upcoming digital data exchange some channels will then be used for data transfer and not for voice communication any longer, making new digital radios necessary which are different equipment than the current voice communication radios.

Several footnotes of Appendix 18 contain implementation dates of 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2019, respectively. Background is the idea of implementing a digital data transfer. The technical characteristics are shown in the Recommendations ITU-R M.1842 and ITU-R M.2092.

Due to the missing satellite part of VDES (Rec. ITU-R M.2092) the final development of VDES is not possible before a decision of WRC-19. As a consequence the two dates of implementation are not relevant at the moment. All amendments in the frequency usage for the utilization of VDES could be postponed until a realistic implementation of VDES is possible.

The IMO is planning to make major changes of SOLAS IV in January 2024. This seems to be a realistic date to implement VDES.

In the meantime, applications based on Rec. ITU-R M.1842 could not be expected because this recommendation has to be understood only as the first step towards VDES.

The possibility of footnote m) of Appendix 18 to split duplex channels into simplex channels, leaving it to the coordination with affected Administrations, has never been realized during the recent decade. The necessary equipment was not available.

Noting the above-mentioned points, it makes no sense to force the Administrations to amend the usage of VHF channels in their responsibility immediately. An effective usage of spectrum would not be possible before the necessary new equipment is developed by the manufacturers. This could not be done before WRC-19 takes a decision on the satellite part of VDES.

Proposal:

Based on the possibility of the coordination with affected Administrations, which is given in the relevant footnotes, CEPT should decide not to put into practice the dates of implementation given by Appendix 18 RR 2016 and to postpone the necessary changes regarding the channelling arrangements to [31.12.2023].

However this document also gives guidance of future usage VHF channels and a time scale of the necessary coordination process of coast stations in CEPT.

# ECC recommendation of YY(XX) on title (style: Heading 1)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

*considering*

1. that WRC-15 amanded RR App. 18
2. that footnotes of RR App. 18 allow a different usage of VHF channels subject to coordination with affected administrations
3. that in addition to analogue voice telefony and AIS, VDES will be operated on RR App. 18 frequencies
4. that the dates of implementation for digital usage of some VHF channels are not realistic
5. that the development of VDES could not be finalized before WRC-19

*recommends*

1. that the of RR App. 18 VHF channels should be used in CEPT in a similar way
2. that the implementation of VDES should not be started before [01.01.2024]
3. that the coordination of coast stations to enable the implementation of VDES should be organized between [01.01.2021 and 31.12.2022]
4. that port operations service and ship movement service should be operated on simplex channels
5. that in CEPT the option of RR App. 18 footnote m will be used for port operations service and ship movement service after [01.01.2025]
6. that CEPT will solely implement the worldwide harmonized VDES terrestrial system on the channels 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86 of RR App. 18

*Note:*

*Please check the Office documentation database http://www.ecodocdb.dk for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Recommendations.*

1. (TBD)

(Additional Information, result of discussions)

1. List of reference

This annex contains the list of relevant reference documents.

1. TBD
2. TBD
3. TBD