



## GSM Europe

The European interest group of the GSM Association

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### GSM-Europe views on WRC-03 mobile issues

This document develops high level views which are intended to be presented by GSM-E to the Commission in order to inform the Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) of the ECC during the CPG/EC workshop scheduled on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003.

*The agenda for a World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is generally established several years in advance and a final agenda is established by the preceding WRC for approval by ITU Council and membership some two years before the conference. The updated WRC2003 agenda includes 39 items; some of them are of direct interest for the GSM-E members.*

- 1) The most important issue concerns **agenda item 1.22**, to consider progress of ITU-R studies concerning future development of IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000. The mobile operator community recognises that identifying and making available frequency bands is a long process and believe that it is too early to consider in detail possible dates for wide deployment of systems beyond IMT-2000. GSM-E believes that the use of alternative terminology risks introducing a disruptive influence on the deployment of 3G, and in particular of UMTS networks in Europe. Based on the date of introduction of UMTS in Europe (2000-2003/2004), and taking into account the authorisation duration (typically at least 15-20 years) and the scale of investments made, it is desirable for the European mobile operators community to postpone detailed discussion of possible deployment dates until after WRC-03. Also, it is likely that continuous improvement of IMT-2000/UMTS will occur in an evolutionary way, increasing progressively the available data rate in line with market demand. Consistent terminology used to describe this evolution is therefore required.

In summary, WRC-03, through **agenda item 1.22**, should not give inappropriate indications to the telecommunication market on a possible deployment of systems beyond IMT-2000 in a timeframe not compatible with the European telecommunication market.

In addition, if the WRC-07 is to consider further the need for additional spectrum for terrestrial mobile communications, which would be timely for possible requirements by 2015/2020, such a spectrum identification should not be restricted to systems beyond IMT-2000, i.e. it should not preclude the use by

IMT-2000 and evolved IMT-2000 systems. This is relevant to the WRC-07 agenda, covered by **agenda item 7.2** of WRC-03.

- 2) Secondly, the present IMT-2000 extension bands, and in particular the 2.5GHz band (which is the primary European IMT-2000 extension band) should be secured in term of quantity and quality. Some recent discrepancies in the interpretation of the Radio Regulations concerning satellite service procedures and associated allowed field strengths has lead to the possibility of significant disturbance of this band by the Broadcasting Satellite Service, even if such systems are operating far from Europe.

WRC-03 should, under the **agenda item 1.34**, take all provisions in order to ensure that satellite procedures are unambiguous and suitable for protection where appropriate of other services, in this case IMT-2000 terrestrial systems operating in the 2.5GHz band.

- 3) It is apparent that world-wide frequency harmonisation will increase the economies of scale on wireless equipment, therefore increasing the chances of success of wireless access systems including R LANS

Therefore, it is important that **agenda item 1.5** should result in the co-primary harmonised allocation on a world-wide basis of both 5150-5350MHz and 5470-5725MHz bands for mobile use.

- 4) During recent months, and in relation to **agenda item 1.3**, discussions have included the opportunity to use IMT-2000 systems for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) systems as well as the associated regulatory framework. It is recognised that IMT-2000 systems characteristics could address certain PPDR applications and IMT-2000 operators should not be prohibited, assuming a commercial basis for the provision of services could be negotiated, from providing PPDR services. Nevertheless, it is not in the scope of a WRC to draw a regulatory framework aiming to associate a standard or a family of standards such as IMT-2000 to an application, in this case PPDR. Therefore, WRC-03 should take care that there is no direct or restrictive link between PPDR and IMT-2000; the consideration of relevant systems should be open to the market in order to avoid unnecessary regulatory constraints on PPDR and commercial 3G networks.

*GSM Europe, London 29th January 2003*