



# ECC Decision (11)03

**The harmonised use of frequencies for  
Citizens' Band (CB) radio equipment**

June 2011

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The free circulation of radio communication products and the provision of equipment in Europe for radio communications are only achievable if there are common regulations throughout Europe regarding the availability of frequency bands, harmonised technical conditions and border crossing procedures. The main requirements for fulfilling these objectives for Citizens' Band (CB) radio equipment are the Europe-wide availability of a suitable frequency band, harmonised technical conditions and the implementation of national regulations based on the Harmonised European Standards EN 300 433 and EN 300 135.

This ECC Decision provides the necessary mechanism for CEPT administrations to continue their commitment to the frequency band 26.960-27.410 MHz for CB radio equipment and also fostering further harmonisation. The Decision was initiated by ETSI TR 102 626 and reviewed by CEPT. The technical conditions for the assignment of CB radio detailed in the present document were discussed in ECC with no outstanding spectrum compatibility or sharing issues being identified.

### 2 BACKGROUND

The CB radio application is intended for radio communications with transmission and reception taking place on the same channel (single frequency, simplex traffic). The radio equipment is designed to be used without the need to have any technical qualifications. For the purpose of this Decision:

CB radio equipment means angle-modulated (also called before as PR27), Double Side Band (DSB) or Single Side Band (SSB) Citizens' Band radio equipment operating in the frequency band 26.960 MHz to 27.410 MHz.

Historically, each administration has had its own individual regulations, standards and frequency bands for Citizens' Band radio equipment.

ERC/REC 01-07 lists harmonised criteria for the CEPT administrations to decide whether an exemption of individual licence should be applied.

When radio equipment is exempted from individual licensing, anyone can use the radio equipment without any prior individual permission from the administration.

### 3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The allocation or designation of frequency bands for use by a service or system under specified conditions in CEPT administrations is laid down by law, regulation or administrative action. ECC Decisions are required to deal with the radio spectrum related matters and for free circulation and use of equipment throughout Europe. The free circulation and use of radio equipment and the provision of Pan European services will be greatly assisted when all CEPT administrations exempt the same categories of radio equipment from licensing and apply -to achieve that- the same criteria.

The harmonisation on a European basis supports the *Directive 1999/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 1999 on radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment and the mutual recognition of their conformity*. A commitment by CEPT administrations to implement this ECC Decision will provide a clear indication that the required frequency bands are available on a European-wide basis.

**ECC Decision  
of 24 June 2011**

**on the harmonised use of frequencies for Citizens' Band (CB) radio equipment**

**(ECC/DEC/(11)03)**

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

*considering*

- a) that there is an industry and user requirement for harmonised usage conditions for Citizens' Band radio equipment throughout Europe;
- b) that CEPT has a long term objective to harmonise the use of frequencies and the related regulatory regimes;
- c) that such harmonisation will benefit administrations, manufacturers and users;
- d) that it would be desirable for administrations to have common regulations at their disposal in order to control free circulation and use of Citizens' Band radio equipment throughout Europe;
- e) that the band 26.957-27.283 MHz is used inter-alia for industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) applications and SRDs;
- f) that the main conclusions of the compatibility considerations performed by the CEPT/ECC indicate that there are no outstanding spectrum compatibility or sharing issues being identified when using Citizens' Band radio equipment with the parameters originally proposed in ETSI Technical Report TR 102 626 and Citizens' Band radio usage is therefore considered compatible with all other radio services and applications;
- g) that the ERC Decision ERC/DEC/(98)11 on CEPT PR 27 equipment was initiated 1998 for angle modulated CB equipment operating in the frequency band 26.960 MHz to 27.410 MHz;
- h) that the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has developed the Harmonised European Standards EN 300 433 and EN 300 135 for CB radio equipment operating in the frequency band 26.960-27.410 MHz; using angle-modulation, Double Side Band (DSB) or Single Side Band (SSB) amplitude modulation;
- i) that EN 300 433 and EN 300 135 describe CB radio as a voice service but some administrations allow it to be used also for data transmissions;
- j) that CB radio equipment complying to ETSI EN 300 433 or EN 300 135 also fulfill the recommended limits identified in ERC Recommendation 74-01 on unwanted emissions in the spurious domain which is considered important for compatible spectrum usage of CB radio equipment in the HF frequency band as well as avoidance of interference to broadcast services in the adjacent VHF spectrum;
- k) that in the EU/ EFTA countries the radio equipment that is under the scope of this Decision shall comply with the R&TTE Directive. Conformity with the essential requirements of the R&TTE Directive may be demonstrated by compliance with the applicable Harmonised European Standard(s) or by using the other conformity assessment procedures set out in the R&TTE Directive.

DECIDES

1. that the purpose of this decision is to harmonise the usage conditions for Citizens' Band (CB) radio equipment throughout Europe;
2. that CEPT administrations shall designate the frequency band 26.960-27.410 MHz (10 kHz channel separation), excluding the channels with central frequencies 26.995 MHz, 27.045 MHz, 27.095 MHz, 27.145 MHz and 27.195 MHz, to the application employing Citizens' Band radio equipment;
3. that subject to decides 5 and 6 below, CEPT administrations shall permit free circulation and use of Citizens' Band radio equipment;
4. that CEPT administrations shall exempt Citizens' Band radio equipment covered by the present Decision from individual licensing;
5. that the maximum radiated power for Citizens' Band radio stations shall be limited to 4 Watts for angle-modulation, 4 Watts (measured as a root mean square ) for DSB modulation, and 12 Watts (measured as a peak envelope power) for SSB modulation;
6. that this Decision replaces ERC/DEC/(98)16, ERC/DEC/(98)11 and ERC/DEC/(96)02 which are withdrawn;
7. that this ECC Decision enters into force on 24 June 2011;
8. that the preferred date for implementation of this ECC Decision shall be 01 October 2011;
9. 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 Office web site (<http://www.cept.org/eco>) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.