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**Author:** Robert Jones

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## EDITORIAL

### Now that WRC-97 is over...

**R**ehearsals have begun for the next radio "concert". In the editorial of the special issue of the *ITU News* (No.8/97), I referred to the preparations for the 1997 Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference and concluded by stating the obvious: that work would not be over when the Conference ended and that the Radiocommunication Bureau would be entrusted with additional post-Conference tasks. Well, the conductor and the orchestra have left the scene and the audience have returned to their homes. But those of us behind the curtains of the opera house are still here, unable to turn off the lights. Rather, we were kindly directed by the audience to prepare the next performance — and this we will do.

The preparation and publication of the definitive version of the Final Acts of WRC-97 is the easier part of our post-Conference work and we are confident that they will be on the sales desk by the end of the first quarter of 1998. More difficult to implement will be the actual decisions of the Conference, some of which you can read about in the interviews in this issue.

Above all, we will have to eliminate the processing delays in satellite network coordination requests. This is because, in future, the publication date of any such request will determine when the coordination procedure will start. Also, a single processing queue will now be required for all related procedures in order to assure adequate protection for all systems concerned.

We will also have to study the feasibility of increasing the capacity of the broadcasting-satellite service Plans in Appendices S30 and S30A of the Radio Regulations. This means reviewing all related old publications, using the new technical criteria, in order to determine any new coordination that may be required under the Plans as modified by WRC-97.

We have to prepare to apply the administrative due diligence procedures to filings for a satellite network or satellite system of the fixed-satellite service, mobile-satellite service or broadcasting-satellite service. Some procedures were adopted by the Conference to start addressing the problem of reservation of orbit and spectrum capacity without actual use.



*Robert Jones*

We have to implement the new seasonal planning procedure for high-frequency broadcasting.

Other equally important, but less demanding tasks, include the provision and maintenance of databases with information on telecommunication equipment to support disaster mitigation and relief operations. WRC-97 passed a resolution recognizing the plans under way to hold the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications from 16 to 18 June 1998 in Tampere (Finland). As the Tampere Conference prepares to adopt an international convention on telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations, we will continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radio-communications that are relevant to these operations.

We also have to improve the ITU maritime services database to facilitate search and rescue operations, publish notified data on CD-ROM fortnightly, and adopt transitional arrangements for the handling of advance publication information.

Following the instructions of WRC-97, we have reviewed carefully all new or modified provisions which this Conference adopted and have identified and estimated the additional workload for the Radiocommunication Bureau. How this work will be funded will very much depend on the willingness of Member States to find ways of supporting it.

What is more, the draft score for the next orchestra scheduled for 1999 (WRC-99) was decided by the Conference in a long list of items, many of which require considerable preparations in the Study Groups of the Radiocommunication Sector. The participation and support of Sector Members in this work will be crucial.

Thus, the draft scores for WRC-99 have been distributed and while certain parts of the orchestra have already commenced rehearsals, others are still waiting for their instruments. Let us hope that they will get them in time and in tune. We can then look forward to yet another successful concert!

**Robert Jones**

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau