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**Author:** Erik Esping

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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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# European Conference

for the examination of the Television and Broadcasting frequency bands  
between 41 and 216 Mc/s

(Stockholm, 28 May-30 June 1952)

by Erik Esping

When Study Group 11 (Television) of the CCIR held its first meeting in Zürich in July 1949, the question of over-all spectrum space necessary for television became one of the most important items under discussion. It was considered that the VHF bands for broadcasting allocated by the Atlantic City Radio Conference were rather narrow, especially as they were to be shared between television and sound broadcasting.

During the discussions reference was also made to the great interest in television as well as in VHF sound broadcasting in the different countries and to the great desire to start services of both kinds as soon as possible. A number of delegates—particularly, as might be expected, European delegates—urged the desirability of making frequency assignment plans for VHF sound broadcasting and television as soon as possible in order to avoid too great difficulties in the future. Development of broadcasting within the long and medium wave bands had certainly proved the necessity of planning the assignment of frequencies in good time.

When the Study Group met later in London in May, 1950, it was told that the Swedish Telegraph Administration intended to issue invitations for a conference to meet in Stockholm for assignment of frequencies within the Atlantic City bands for television in the European area. This information was received with the greatest satisfaction.

The Swedish Administration immediately studied choice of a suitable time for the conference, the scope of the agenda to be proposed, and the possibilities of obtaining adequate technical data to ensure a successful result for the conference.

The preparatory discussions showed that the most suitable time for the conference would be immediately after the Plenary Assembly of the CCIR in Geneva (5 June to 6 July, 1951). The study also showed that the scope of the conference would be greater than had been originally intended, both as regards the agenda and the number of participating countries.

In April 1951, the Swedish Telegraph Administration issued invitations for a European Broadcasting Conference to be held in Stockholm during September and October of the same year, with a duration of about five weeks. The following agenda was proposed:

—“Assignment of frequencies within the Atlantic City bands allocated to broadcasting between 41 Mc/s and 216 Mc/s for *a*) the television broadcasting services, *b*) the sound broadcasting services”.

Invitations were sent to 35 Members of the ITU, and 23 replied. Eight said that they were not in a position to participate in the conference, and a few others said that they would like to participate but thought that the time proposed was not suitable, considering that the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference was to be held in Geneva at the same time; it may be also because they did not think that they were prepared to present definite requirements at such an early date.

After some further preparatory discussions, the Swedish Administration was able to send out new invitations, this time for a European Broadcasting Conference to take place in Stockholm between 28 May and 30 June 1952. An invitation was sent to 36 Members, and before the expiry of the time allowed 20 countries had answered. Of them 14 accepted the invitation, and one stated that it would probably be able to do so.

At the first plenary meeting of the conference, which was held on the 29 of May, 26 Member countries were represented, and at the last plenary meeting on the 30th of June, 30 countries were represented.

The number of participants at the conference was considerably greater than had been expected, in view of the number of prior acceptances that had been received, and as a result the conference premises which had been procured by the Administration were rather crowded. However, it was possible to carry through the conference without too great difficulty and also to keep its costs within the financial limits which had been anticipated—a not unimportant matter.

Before the beginning of the CER conference, Study Groups 5, 6 and 11 of the CCIR had met in Stockholm during the period 15 May to 27 May.

## The organization of the conference

At the opening session of the conference on 28 May, Mr. Erik Esping (Sweden) was elected Chairman of the conference and Mr. J. D. H. van der Toorn (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman.



At the second meeting of the plenary assembly, the following subjects were discussed :

Appointment of secretariat,  
Rules of Procedure,  
Language arrangements,  
Admission of observers,  
Admission of international organizations,  
Organization of Committees.

The *Secretariat* was constituted as follows :

Secretary of the conference—Mr. Gerald C. Gross,  
Executive Officer—Mr. C. Stead,  
Head of Administrative Services—Mr. A. Auberson,  
Head of Document Services—Mr. A. A. Matthey,  
Head of Interpretation Services—Mr. Artzrouni.

*Rules of Procedure*, as given in Chapter 6 of the General Regulations annexed to the Convention, were adopted.

*Language arrangements*—A request was made at the meeting of the Heads of Delegations by the Delegate of the USSR, supported by the Delegates of Czechoslovakia, the Bielorussian SSR, the Roumanian SSR and the Hungarian PR for Russian to be used as a working language on the same basis as English, French and Spanish. The plenary assembly

decided that Russian could be used under the terms of Administrative Council Resolution No. 84.

As the Spanish delegation had not yet arrived in Stockholm, the use of Spanish as a working language was held in abeyance. Later on when the Spanish delegation arrived they generously agreed to renounce the use of Spanish as a working language, thereby effecting a saving of about 70,000 Swiss Francs.

#### Admission of Observers

The four zones of occupation in Germany, the United States of America, the International Broadcasting Organization and the European Broadcasting Union, were admitted to attend the conference as observers. The CCIR and the IFRB were represented at the conference in the same capacity.

#### Organization of Committees

The following Committees were proposed by the Chair :•

*Committee 1*—Steering Committee  
*Committee 2*—Credentials Committee  
*Committee 3*—Budget Control Committee  
*Committee 4*—Technical Committee  
*Committee 5*—Plan Committee  
*Committee 6*—Editorial Committee

The setting up of the Committees 1, 2, 3 and 6 was approved without discussion by the Plenary Assembly, but the setting up of Committees 4 and 5 gave rise to a rather long discussion.



Fig. 1. — The Conference was held in the three upper stories of the House of the Association of Architects and Engineers.



The *USSR Delegation* considered that it was important to start the work of the conference with a general discussion regarding its aims, and therefore considered that it was too early to set up these two Committees. The USSR Delegation also considered the problems confronting the conference to be extremely difficult and complicated and that there were no sufficiently comprehensive data available regarding the propagation of ultra-short waves. The delegation was of the opinion that "the conference should be confined to the establishment of general principles to be used in the preparation of VHF allocation plans or to general principles to be employed in drawing up a Regional Agreement for VHF broadcasting and television".

As regards the problems of the preparation of the VHF allocation plan for broadcasting and television itself, the USSR Delegation considered that "a special committee, consisting of representatives of 8 or 9 countries should be entrusted with this task. The problem should then be solved on the basis of the general principles established by the present conference, the committee submitting draft plans or a draft regional agreement for the allocation of frequencies for VHF broadcasting and television to a future conference to be convened in 1953 or 1954." At the present stage the USSR Delegation therefore found it preferable to set up a Committee to deal with the general principles, which were to provide a basis for the preparation of the plan.

The *Delegation of the United Kingdom* felt some doubts "as to the advisability of going, at this conference, beyond the preparation of a technical basis for future planning, by embarking on the preparation of actual assignment plans". They therefore suggested that the relatively short time available in Stockholm should be devoted to a very full examination of technical principles, and defer consideration of individual frequency assignments to a later occasion.

The *Netherlands Delegation* felt that the conference should do something more than examine technical principles. Television was just beginning to expand and a conference at this early stage should prove to be an advantage as it was essential to lay sound foundations for future growth of television by international agreement. In some parts of Europe (e.g. France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands) it was essential to make a European plan, as, within the next few years, there would probably be some crowding of the bands concerned. The solutions adopted by these countries would also effect their neighbours.

These points of view were supported by a number of other delegations. The Delegation of the United Kingdom proposed as a compromise that the wording of the terms of reference of the Plan Committee proposed by the Chair should be amended in such a way that a plan prepared by the conference should "serve as a guide to the development of European sound and television broadcasting during the period before the next broadcasting conference".

The Netherlands Delegation proposed a further amendment to the effect that it should be possible for the administrations that could accept the plans to sign an agreement.

The USSR proposal was rejected by the conference and the setting up of a Technical Committee and a Planning Committee was decided, with the terms of reference of the Planning Committee in accordance with the compromise proposal above mentioned.

During the discussions the opinion was expressed by several delegations that Band I (41-68 Mc/s) and Band III (174-216 Mc/s) should be used for television and that Band II (87.5-100 Mc/s) should be used for sound broadcasting.

\* \* \*

The following Committee structure was then approved by the conference.

*Committee 1* — Steering Committee — composed of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Conference and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the other Committees.

*Terms of reference :*

Problems connected with the time-table of the conference and with coordination of work in the different Committees.

*Committee 2* — Credentials Committee — *Chairman :* Mr. O. Moe (Norway), *Vice-Chairman :* Mr. A. Nicolaenko (Ukraine).

*Terms of reference :*

To examine the validity of credentials.

*Committee 3* — Budget Control Committee — *Chairman :* Mr. F. Nicotera (Italy), *Vice-Chairman :* Mr. N. Tanay (Turkey).

*Terms of reference :*

To determine the organization and the facilities available to the delegates and the expenditures of the conference (cf. Administrative Council Resolution No. 83).

*Committee 4* — Technical Committee — *Chairman :* Mr. W. Gerber (Switzerland), *Vice-Chairman :* Mr. K. S. Sainio (Finland).

*Terms of reference :*

To define the technical basis for the preparation of plans for sound broadcasting and television, taking into consideration mainly the following points :

- a) Protection ratios required ;
- b) Propagation data to be used ;
- c) Determine the field strength limits to be protected ;
- d) Channel separation for sound broadcasting ;
- e) Minimum distance between stations for sound broadcasting and television under the following conditions :
  - i) Co-channel operation,
  - ii) Adjacent-channel operation,
  - iii) Overlapping-channel operation.



- f) Characteristics of television and sound broadcasting receivers.

*Committee 5 — Plan Committee — Chairman:* Mr. G. Pedersen (Denmark), *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. M. Joachim (Czechoslovakia).

*Terms of reference:*

- a) To collect requirements for channels for sound broadcasting and for television ;
- b) Using as a basis administrations' estimates of their probable future requirements, to prepare, for each of the three broadcasting bands with which the conference was concerned, tentative assignment plans which would :
  - 1) serve to illustrate the practical application of the technical principles recommended by the Technical Committee and
  - 2) serve as a guide to the development of European sound and television broadcasting

during the period before the next VFH broadcasting conference ;

- c) To discuss the entry into force, partly or completely, of these definite assignment plans among those administrations which could accept such plans, either partly or completely, as a definite basis for their VHF sound broadcasting and television systems, and to prepare a draft agreement ;
- d) "Effective radiated power" limitation.

*Committee 6 — Editorial Committee — Chairman:* Mr. L. Daumard (France), *Vice-Chairman:* Mr. P. W. F. Fryer (United Kingdom).

*Terms of reference:*

Preparation of texts for submission to the Plenary Assembly.

(To be continued.)

E. Esping.



Fig. 2. — Room A — Plenary Assembly.