

EUROPEAN RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ERC Decision
of 23 November 1998
on the harmonised frequency band
to be designated for PMR 446

(ERC/DEC/(98)25)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

PMR 446 provides a new concept for short range voice communications. PMR 446 is intended to operate under relaxed licensing conditions on collective frequencies shared by many users on an uncoordinated basis.

The equipment uses integral antennas only in order to maximise sharing and minimise interference. PMR 446 is intended for voice communications.

Individual CEPT administrations were faced with the request from industry and manufacturers to open up spectrum for such an application. Due to the requirement for free circulation and cross border operation it became indispensable to identify a harmonised band for PMR 446.

In order to introduce this category of equipment within CEPT, the ERC decided that harmonised conditions should be developed, as far as possible.

2 BACKGROUND

In the course of the DSI phase II process the need for a future home for the above-mentioned short range communications was extensively discussed. This application may not be confused with applications which are classified under the Short Range Devices for which a separate ERC-Recommendation ERC 70-03 has been developed.

The original DSI phase II proposal identified parts of the band 430-432/438-440 MHz for deregulated PMR. However, this proposal could not be accepted by CEPT administrations.

Furthermore the bands 888-890/933-935 MHz which had been designated to DSRR were identified as essential bands necessary for the extension of GSM.

As a result of the discussions in the FM WG and a survey carried out by ERO it was concluded that the band 446.000-446.100 MHz would offer the best possibilities for the introduction of PMR 446 throughout Europe. It was recognised that during a transition period a number of countries would continue to allow a national frequency band for PMR 446 "like" services whereas some countries indicated their need for some time to reform the frequency band 446.000-446.100 MHz.

It is generally believed that the introduction of PMR 446 will considerably alleviate the work of administrations (temporary licensing, frequency co-ordination....) and also will provide for a deregulated environment for short range voice communications.

The degree of deregulation will largely depend on the national legislation of individual CEPT countries.

The designation of a harmonised band will form the basis for the free circulation of PMR 446 within Europe and will furthermore facilitate the mutual recognition of conformity assessment.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ERC DECISION

The allocation or designation of a frequency band for its use by a service or system under specified conditions in CEPT member countries is laid down by law, regulation or administrative action. The ERC recognises that for PMR 446 to be introduced successfully throughout Europe, manufacturers and users must be given the confidence to make the necessary investments in this radiocommunication system. To this end the ERC has adopted harmonised band for this type of system.

A commitment by CEPT administration will provide a clear indication that the required frequency bands will be available on time and on a European-wide basis.

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The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering:

- a) that the band 446.000-446.100 MHz has been identified as the future home for PMR 446;
- b) that there is a need for a European-wide harmonised frequency band for such an application;
- c) that European harmonisation will reduce difficulties in border areas;
- d) that administrations should consider as a matter of priority all technical and regulatory measures which are necessary for the introduction of PMR 446;
- e) the need for a deregulated alternative for short range voice communications;

noting:

that process of refarming of the band 446.000-446.100 MHz for the use by PMR 446 may take some time in certain CEPT countries;

DECIDES

1. that for the purpose of this Decision PMR 446 shall comply with the European Telecommunications Standard ETS 300 296;
2. to designate the band 446.000-446.100 MHz for the use of PMR 446 with a channel plan based on 12.5 kHz spacing where the lowest carrier frequency is 446.00625 MHz;
3. that the equipment shall use only integral antenna and an effective radiated power not exceeding 500 mW;
4. that this Decision shall enter into force by 1 December 1998;
5. that administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ERC Chairman and the ERO when the Decision is nationally implemented.

Note:

Please check the ERO web site (www.ero.dk) under "Documentation / Implementation" for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ERC Decisions.