

**WORKING GROUP ON SATELLITE NETWORK
COST RECOVERY**

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document provides the US response for notification of the benefits of meteorological satellites in seeking an exemption from costing recovery for satellite network filings of these systems.

ACTION PROPOSED: NONE

Introduction

Spacecraft operating in the meteorological satellite service provide weather data available at no cost to anyone with the proper receiving equipment. These data are used worldwide by every administration. In addition, all U.S. meteorological satellite systems provide safety of life protected internationally by footnotes in the Radio Regulations. It would be impossible to assess a value to the information provided by these satellite systems.

Background

The Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) in Resolution 39 endorsed the examination of options for strengthening the financial base of the Union, including reducing costs, more effective allocation of resources, ranking of activities according to the objectives of the strategic plan, wider participation of non-Member entities and, where appropriate, charging fees for ITU services. The Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) in Resolution Plen/4 recognized that cost recovery can be a means of promoting efficiency by discouraging unnecessary or wasteful use of products and services.

Considerations

- a. Resolution 49 (WRC-97) exempts the space science services from administrative due diligence (meteorological satellite service is a subservice of Earth exploration satellite service.)
- b. Resolution Com 5/21 (PP-98) resolves that cost recovery for satellite network filings shall be implemented as soon as possible consistent with the general principles for cost recovery adopted in Resolution Plen
- c. Resolution Plen 4 (PP-98) in resolves 4, that cost recovery should be implemented by the Council in a way that v) allows all Member States an adequate level of the product or service free of charge, where appropriate.
- d. Space science services ITU-R filings constitute a small (5-10%) amount of the total within the Radiocommunication Bureau, and meteorological satellite service systems are a small part of that percentage.
- e. Meteorological satellite systems provide a strictly non-profit, non-commercial service beneficial to all users in addition to providing safety of life services (SARSAT).

Exempt Meteorological Satellite Systems

Favorable consideration should be given to exempt meteorological satellite service from cost recovery for satellite network filings for the reasons given above, and to exempt satellites in the Mobile Satellite Services used for the sole purpose of safety of life covered under footnotes in the Radio Regulations.