

EUROPEAN RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ERC Decision
of 1 June 1999
on the Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification
System (AIS) channels
in the maritime VHF band

(ERC/DEC/(99)17)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

The Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS) has been developed by IMO to improve the safety of navigation and to assist the operation of Vessel Traffic Services (VTS).

The ITU-R has adopted the Recommendation ITU-R M. 1371 on the technical characteristics for a Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System using the Time Division Multiple Access in the VHF Maritime Mobile Band. There are currently ongoing activities related to AIS within other standardisation organisations.

2 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ERC DECISION

The World Radiocommunications Conference 1997 designated two frequencies for AIS for worldwide operation on high seas while other frequencies can be used on a regional basis. Therefore an ERC Decision is required to facilitate the European use of frequencies designated by World Radiocommunications Conference 1997 and to ensure that AIS can operate without interference.

**ERC Decision
of 1 June 1999**

**on the Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS)
channels in the maritime VHF band**

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The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that WRC-97 designated the simplex frequencies 161.975 and 162.025 MHz (channels AIS1 and AIS2) for use by a Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System (AIS) on high seas;
- b) that other channels can be designated for AIS on a regional basis;
- c) that it is desirable to have common AIS frequencies throughout Europe;
- d) that before the entry into force of the decisions of WRC-97 the frequencies 161,975 and 162,025 MHz were the shore-to-ship frequencies of maritime VHF duplex channels 87 and 88;
- e) that efficient operation of AIS will require that duplex operation on channels 87 and 88 shall be discontinued;
- f) that ITU-R has adopted Recommendation ITU-R M.1371 on the technical characteristics for a Universal Shipborne Automatic Identification System using Time Division Multiple Access in the VHF Maritime Mobile Band;
- g) that AIS can be used for ship-to-shore, shore-to-ship and ship-to-ship communications;
- h) that in some parts of Europe AIS will be used on these channels by ships sailing in harbor areas and on inland waterways;

DECIDES

- 1. to designate the frequencies 161.975 MHz and 162.025 MHz (25 kHz channel spacing) for the use of AIS from 1st January 2000;
- 2. that if administrations, using their normal co-channel interference criteria, can ensure that no interference is caused to AIS, they may continue to use these frequencies for other purposes in areas where AIS is not used for ship-to-shore, shore-to-ship or ship-to-ship communications;
- 3. that this Decision shall enter into force on 4 June 1999;
- 4. that the CEPT Member Administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to 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.