

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ECC Decision
of 15 November 2001
on phasing out analogue CT1 and CT1+
applications in the 900 MHz band

(ECC/DEC/(01)01)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

Various Cordless Telephony (CT) technologies are currently in use within the CEPT in a number of different frequency bands. Based on market studies and consultation with industry through the DSI III process, ECC has come to the conclusion that frequencies currently assigned for CT1, CT1+ and CT2 applications in the 900 MHz band should be used for other purposes in the future. In some cases the CT applications have not been a success and therefore the bands are not fully used. In other cases although they were initially successful they have now been overtaken by other technologies operating in different frequency bands, such as DECT, which uses fully harmonised frequency band with pan-European availability in contrast to CT1, CT1+ and CT2 applications.

Regarding the CT1 and CT1+ applications, which are currently operational in the bands designated for GSM, it was already foreseen in ERC Decision (94)01 and ERC Decision (97)02 that these should be phased out at some time in the future, depending on the growth of the GSM customer base.

It was recognised that when decisions are taken to phase out certain CT systems, the phasing out should take place throughout the CEPT along a harmonised time scale in order to give clear advice to industry as well as to users and retailers. Therefore this ECC Decision lists CT applications subject to phasing out and sets a common time frame for this action.

The CT applications subject to this Decision are:

- CT1 in the bands 914-915/959-960 MHz;
- CT1+ in the bands 885-887/930-932 MHz.

The CT1 equipment is understood to comply with the ETSI standard I-ETS 300 235.

CEPT Administrations that have implemented the EU Directive 1999/5/EC (the R&TTE Directive), will have to take due account of the provisions of this Directive in implementing this ERC Decision.

2 BACKGROUND

The WARC 79 allocated the band 862-960 MHz to the mobile service. In 1982, CEPT agreed Recommendation T/R 75-02, which identified parts of this band for mobile systems. This Recommendation was revised in 1988 and 1990 and these revisions included redefining the 890-915 MHz and 935-960 MHz bands for GSM.

Further to that, an ERC Decision ERC/DEC/(94)01 from 24 October 1994 was adopted in CEPT, reinforcing identification of the frequency bands 890-915/935-960 MHz for the co-ordinated introduction of the GSM digital pan-European communications system. A later Decision CEPT/ERC/DEC(97)02 of 21 March 1997 on the extended frequency bands to be used for the GSM Digital Pan-European Communication System, extended the frequency bands designated for GSM to the bands, 880 - 915 MHz and 925 - 960 MHz.

The final report on the DSI phase III, 862 – 3400 MHz of March 2000, proposed, based on contributions and comments received, that CEPT agree on common dates for the phasing out of CT1 and CT1+ applications in the 900 MHz. Because of the residential character and widespread licence exemption of the use of CT equipment, Administrations may not be able to prevent subsequent continuation of the use for a number of years. In order to reduce the use of CT applications to the necessary minimum before the end of 2008 and in order to safeguard consumer interests and transparency for industry as well as retailers, the necessary measures should be taken and detailed information should be given as soon as possible.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

The ECC recognises that phasing out CT1 and CT1+ applications is a common goal of CEPT Administrations. The ECC also recognises that it is beneficial for industry and retailers as well as users to have clear and detailed information about the intentions of the Administrations well in advance. It is recognised that in order to reach these goals actions should be harmonised particularly with regard to the timeframes for phasing out. Actions should be taken in consultation with industry and industry and users should be informed as soon as possible. The most appropriate way of reaching these goals is via the adoption and implementation of an ECC Decision that would set out details of the frequency bands and the CT applications to be phased out and would indicate a common time frame for phasing out. This would then be complemented by an ERC Report, which gives detailed guidance on how such actions could be carried out at a national level.

**ECC Decision
of 15 November 2001**

on phasing out analogue CT1 and CT1+ applications in the 900 MHz band

(ECC/DEC/(01)01)

"The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

a) that in order to introduce other radiocommunications services, such as GSM/E-GSM, in the following frequency bands:

- 914-915/959-960 MHz, widely used for CT1 applications;
- 885-887/930-932 MHz, widely used for CT1+ applications,

it is desirable to phase out gradually CT1 and CT1+ applications from these bands;

b) that in order to give clear advice to industry, retailers and users throughout Europe, phasing out of CT applications should take place in Europe within a common timeframe;

c) that those administrations that are bound by EU Directive 1999/5/EC, the R&TTE Directive, as well as those countries that have implemented this Directive voluntarily, need to take account of the provisions of that Directive;

d) that new services should be introduced with due awareness of the probable continued use of the bands by existing CT equipment;

e) that it is therefore important to take measures as soon as possible in order to reduce the use of CT1 and CT1+ equipment in the 900 MHz band to the necessary minimum before the end of 2008;

f) that when implementing this Decision nationally, Administrations should take due account of the principles contained in the ERC Report 111;

DECIDES

1. that CEPT administrations that have designated one or more of the following frequency bands:

- 914-915/959-960 MHz to CT1 applications ,
- 885-887/930-932 MHz to CT1+ applications,

shall take the necessary measures in accordance with their national regulations to withdraw these designations as soon as possible, but at the latest before the end of 2002;

2. that this Decision shall enter into force on 16 November 2001;

3. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when the Decision is nationally implemented."

Note:

Please check the CEPT web site (<http://www.CEPT.org>) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.