

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ECC Decision
of 15 November 2001
on phasing out digital CT2 applications
in the 900 MHz band

(ECC/DEC/(01)02)



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 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 the CT1, CT1+ and CT2 applications.

Regarding the CT2 applications, also national studies and consultations in a number of CEPT countries have shown that there is a preference to use their frequency band for other purposes.

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 users and retailers. Therefore this ECC Decision sets out such common time frame for phasing out CT2 applications.

The CT applications subject to this Decision are digital CT2 applications in the band 864.1-868.1 MHz, equipment standard I-ETS 300 131.

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 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 CT2 applications in the 900 MHz.

In the subsequently agreed strategic plan for the future use of the 900 MHz band, the ECC established that the frequency band 862-870 MHz should be used for Short Range Devices (SRD) to the maximum extent possible. This would encompass its use for new innovative SRD applications, like home automation, etc. Possibilities of SRD sharing with military tactical radio relays in this band are also studied.

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 its 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 CT2 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.

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"The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that in order to introduce other radiocommunications services, such as innovative SRD applications in the frequency band 864.1-868.1 MHz, it is desirable to phase out gradually remaining CT2 applications from this band;
- b) that in order to give clear advice to industry, retailers and users throughout Europe, phasing out of CT2 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 CT2 equipment;
- e) that it is therefore important to take measures as soon as possible in order to reduce the use of CT2 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 the frequency band 864.1-868.1 MHz to CT2 applications shall take the necessary measures in accordance with their national regulations to withdraw this designation as soon as possible, but at least before the year 2005;
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.