

Council Expert Group on Decision 482

ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Remarks

22 January 2024

Mario Maniewicz

Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mme. Chair,
Dear colleagues,

I am very glad to welcome you all to this meeting of the Council expert group on Decision 482.

As you have surely noticed during WRC-23, space has taken a prominent stage in ITU! This is not surprising since some expert industry analysts argue that we are entering a new era of space communications and exploration.

Undoubtedly this is an exciting time – and it is also a challenging one!

Technological advances have generated a wealth of applications that rely on space technology and allowed more players and more countries to join the space club.

In parallel, procedures for registering radio frequencies for satellite systems have undergone significant modifications during successive WRCs to keep pace with the rapid advancements in space services.

The emergence of non-GSO systems with thousands, if not tens of thousands, of satellites, has made regulatory provisions and the processing of frequency assignment fillings more intricate.

Consequentially, the workload of the BR has increased, requiring additional human and software resources for processing satellite fillings.

As many of you are already aware, the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) has previously highlighted the lack of adequate resources to update and modernize the BR software applications used for satellite filings.

This situation becomes even more pronounced after the numerous WRC-23 decisions requiring BR additional work and software development. The Report of the Budget Control Committee¹ estimates the financial implications of WRC-23 at around 10 million CHF in the following 4 years for space services. Nearly 3 million Swiss francs are related to one-time costs required to implement urgent software changes before the revised Radio Regulations come into force.

In this context, this Council expert group is tasked with providing recommendations for the possible revision of Decision 482, first in an interim report to be submitted to the 2024 session of the ITU Council and second in a final report for the 2025 session of the Council.

Dear friends,

This is a crucial moment to consider the cost recovery for satellite network filings. A timely revision of Council Decision 482 will enable the ITU to more appropriately recover the costs associated with satellite regulatory procedures and address Member States' demands without backlogs.

Throughout the group's work, BR experts will be available to answer any questions regarding Council Document 19, which contains the initial study prepared for Council 2023 and provide additional information needed for your group to reach conclusions on the 10 items listed in the Annex of Council Decision 632 giving the terms of reference of your group.

We rely on you to accurately reflect the costs incurred by the BR in the processing of satellite network filings within the cost recovery mechanisms of Decision 482.

Thank you and have a fruitful meeting!

¹ Document WRC19/460 rev1