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SOME DECISIONS OF THE WRC-12 RELATED TO ‘PAPER SATELLITES’ AND EQUITABLE
ACCESS TO RADIO FREQUENCIES AND GEOSTATIONARY ORBITAL POSITIONS

Abstract

ABSTRACT: Appropriate radio frequencies and geostationary orbital positions are indispensable for satellite communications. They are limited natural international resources that must be used rationally, efficiently and economically so that all countries may have equitable access to them. Due to extensive increase in their demand, a wide-spread abuse of the currently applicable international regulatory regime has been occurring. The World Radiocommunication Conference of the International Telecommunication Union which took place in February 2012 (WRC-12) has adopted several decisions amending the International Radio Regulations in order to address some aspects of such an abuse. This paper examines some of these decisions related to the so-called ‘paper satellites’ and equitable access to radio frequencies and geostationary orbital positions. Specifically, it considers the deficiencies and improvements in the advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures of the Radio Regulations for frequency assignments, in order to (a) control the influxes of ‘paper satellites’, (b) facilitate the rational, efficient, and economical use of radio frequencies and associated orbits, and (c) achieve simplification and cost savings for the ITU in the processing of satellite registrations.