



european
communications
office

To: ECC List A and WGFM List

Date: 27 June 2011

Eliminating illegal broadcasting on maritime distress frequencies

ECO Circular Letter

Dear Colleagues,

FM PT 46 at its 10th meeting in Istanbul (March 29 – 31, 2011) considered the results of a monitoring campaign provided by FM PT 22. The subject of this monitoring campaign was to investigate the present use of the maritime band 6 200 – 6 525 kHz, focusing in particular on the distress frequencies 6 215 kHz and 6 312 kHz. WG FM at its 72nd meeting in Miesbach considered this information and requested ECO to send out this Circular Letter.

Both mentioned frequencies are included in Appendix 15 of the Radio Regulations to which the following condition applies: “any emission capable of causing harmful interference to distress, alarm, urgency or safety communications on the frequencies denoted by an asterisk (*) is prohibited.”

As illustrated in the Annex, large occupancy of the distress frequencies by illegal broadcasting stations has been observed. Furthermore, every weekend the frequency 6 215 kHz was not available for distress or other maritime communications.

Taking this situation into account it is observed that there is a clear need to close down illegal radio stations on maritime distress frequencies and hence,

- ⤴ all CEPT administrations are invited to send the form “Report of an irregularity or infringement”, as given in Appendix 9 to the Radio Regulations, to those administrations which are responsible over the offending stations (according to the provisions contained in Section V of Article 15 of the Radio Regulations);
- ⤴ administrations which are responsible over the offending stations are invited to take all necessary steps to close down illegal radio stations.

It should be emphasised that these frequencies are used to initiate distress communication and the use of these frequencies with an intention other than to flag a distress situation is not acceptable.

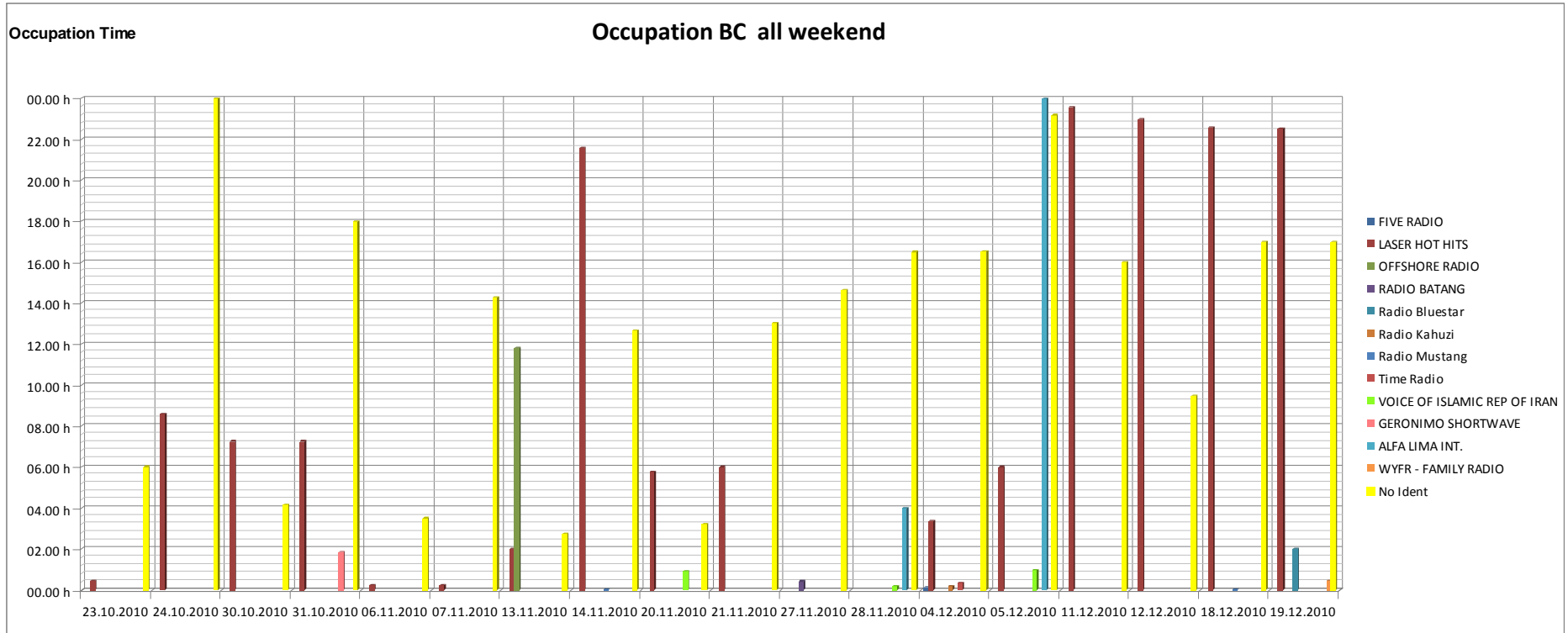
Mr. Jaap Steenge, chairman of project team FM46, remains at the disposal of administrations for any further information and clarification that may be required in respect of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Thomas
Director ECO
E-mail: mark.thomas@eco.cept.org

Annex



Occupation of the distress frequency 6 215 kHz by illegal radio stations during weekends in the period 23 October to 19 December 2010

Source: Results of FM PT 22 measuring campaign
 PT46(11)011 Annex_FM22(11)07 Annex 6MHz campaign manual results.xlsx