

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMPCS MOU-ARRANGEMENTS  
IN THE AMERICAS**

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee III: Radiocommunications,

**DECIDES:**

1. That the Executive Secretariat should send to all CITELE Member Administrations a letter advising them of the status of the implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements in the Americas;
2. That, in this regard, the letter should include PCC.III/doc.1317/99rev.1 which provides detailed information on the status of the implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements in the Americas and elsewhere;
3. That the letter should also encourage CITELE Member Administrations to implement the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements by: a) notifying the ITU Secretary-General of this intention and b) responding to the system specific implementation letters issued by the ITU for GMPCS systems that have fulfilled their obligations under the Arrangements; and
4. That, in accordance with PCC.III/Rec.49 (XII-99), that the CITELE Executive-Secretariat continue to monitor and report on the progress of the implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements in the Americas.

**DRAFT**

**Letterhead of the OAS CITELE Executive Secretary**

**Letter to CITELE Member Administrations**

Dear [CITELE Member Administration Contact];

In accordance with Decision PCC.III/DEC. 30 (XIII-99) of the Thirteenth Meeting of CITELE PCC.III (Radiocommunication), held in Mexico, D.F. from 6-10 September 1999, I am transmitting to each CITELE Member Administration information on the status of the implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements in the Americas. Administrations are asked to review this information and to provide responses, as appropriate, directly to the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union ("ITU") in Geneva.

The promise of service by Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite ("GMPCS") systems to the public, both to developed and developing countries, was noted by the first World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva 1996). CITELE, too, has recognized the tremendous potential benefits that GMPCS services can provide to this region in Recommendation 40 (X-98), "Timely

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference document PCC.III/doc 1421/99

Implementation of ITU GMPCS Arrangements” and Recommendation 49 (XII-99), “Facilitating Trans-Border Circulation of GMPCS Terminals in the Americas.” Implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements by the Administrations of the Americas makes possible the introduction of GMPCS service by facilitating the circulation of GMPCS terminals throughout the countries of this Hemisphere.

The attached document (PCC.III/doc.1317/99) provides updated information on the implementation of the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements in the Americas and the world. It identifies CITEI Administrations that have signed the MoU and notified the ITU of their intention to implement the Arrangements. It further provides information on the four system specific implementation letters that have been issued by the ITU so far for the two GMPCS systems that have met the requirements for approval of their terminals.

CITEI Administrations are encouraged to notify the ITU of their intention to implement the GMPCS Arrangements and to respond to each of the system specific implementation letters by filling out the short response form(s) attached to each letter and submitting it directly to the ITU Secretary-General. Further information is available from the ITU’s GMPCS website at: <http://dmsprod.itu/int/gmpcs>.

William Moran  
Acting Executive Secretary  
CITEI



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
**Inter-American Telecommunication Commission**

**XIII MEETING OF PERMANENT  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE III:  
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS**  
**September 6 to 10, 1999**  
**México, D.F., México**

**OEA/Ser.L/XVII.4.3**  
**PCC.III/inf. 1317/99**  
**22 August 1999**  
**Original: English**

**UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION  
OF GMPCS MoU & ARRANGEMENTS**

**(Item on the Agenda: 4.6 )**

**(Information Document submitted by the delegation of  
United States of America )**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This paper briefly surveys recent progress in implementing the Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite Memorandum of Understanding (“GMPCS MoU”) and Arrangements in CITELE and elsewhere. It encourages CITELE Member Administrations to continue to undertake activities to implement the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements, and, in particular to respond to the System Specific Implementation Letters that are being circulated by the ITU Secretary-General.

## **2.0 Recent GMPCS Activities in the Americas**

At its Natal meeting in June 1998, CITELE PCC.III reviewed the results of 1998 ITU Council and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Malta, 1998) and, in response, adopted Recommendation PCC.III/REC.40 (X-98) on the “Timely Implementation of ITU GMPCS Arrangements,” which recommends:

"That CITELE Administrations implement the GMPCS Arrangements, and, where necessary adopt national licensing procedures or regulations, to introduce GMPCS services and associated terminals as early as possible."

At its most recent meeting in San José, PCC.III adopted Recommendation PCC.III/REC.49 (XII-99) on “Facilitating the Trans-Border Circulation of GMPCS Terminals in the Americas.” Recommendation PCC.III/REC.49 (XII-99) notes that eleven CITELE Administrations (now twelve) have signed the GMPCS MoU and recognizes that CITELE members will benefit from the early implementation of GMPCS services in all countries and from the unhindered trans-border circulation of GMPCS Terminals.

Recommendation PCC.III/REC.49 (XII-99) further recommends that CITELE Member Administrations implement the GMPCS-MoU and Arrangements –including responding to the System Specific Implementation Letters sent by the ITU Secretary-General and coordinating with their Customs Authorities to facilitate circulation of GMPCS terminals through their borders. CITELE Member Administrations that have not signed the MoU were urged to nevertheless initiate procedures within their countries to permit the free circulation of GMPCS terminals and, in such cases, to inform the ITU of their efforts.

The San José meeting further instructed the CITELE Executive-Secretariat to develop and maintain a list of Region 2 participants in the GMPCS-MoU and Arrangements so that the continuing progress of GMPCS implementation in the Americas could be easily reviewed and analyzed on an ongoing basis. To this end, the Executive-Secretariat has prepared a link from the CITELE internet website to the GMPCS website of the ITU. This link can be found at: <http://www.citel.oas.org/PCC3/gmpcs.htm>.

A copy of this web page is provided in Annex A.

In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission acted last year to implement the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements on a provisional basis until such time as formal rules are adopted. The Commission began a rule making proceeding on March 5, 1999, proposing rules to permanently implement the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements in the United States, including free circulation of GMPCS terminals bearing the ITU Mark, blanket licensing for GMPCS terminals, and adoption of out-of-band emissions limits for MSS terminals (between 1-3 GHz) consistent

with the applicable ITU standard.<sup>2</sup> Interested parties filed comments on the FCC's proposals in June and July. The FCC is currently considering these comments before it will issue its final rules.

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, IB Docket No. 99-67, can be downloaded from the FCC's website at: <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/International/Notices/1999/fcc99037.txt>. Comments of the parties can also be viewed electronically from the FCC's website by using its Electronic Comment Filing System, see : <http://www.fcc.gov/searchtools.html>.

## **2.0 Other GMPCS Activities of Note**

The ITU Development Sector, together with members of the GMPCS MoU community, is organizing a series of workshops in cooperation with the five regions of the world to explore GMPCS implementation issues, including licensing and commercial issues. The first of these GMPCS Workshops was held 5-7 July, 1999 in Seoul, Korea, in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Telecommunity. The Workshop, which was attended by approximately 100 people from 25 countries, focussed on GMPCS implementation at an early date; prompt responses to the ITU's Secretary-General's request for information on cross border movement of terminals for systems that have implemented the MoU Arrangements; and cooperation between Operators and Administrations with regard to licensing.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants adopted a Final Declaration recognizing the benefits to the Asia Pacific region that can be realized through early implementation of the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements, and adopting eight recommendations on how to achieve these benefits. The APT Final Declaration and the recommendations contained therein serve as a useful model for CITEL and so are attached at Annex B.

Additional GMPCS Workshops will take place later this year in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. GMPCS Workshops for the Americas and Africa will be held in early 2000.

## **2.0 ITU-GMPCS Checklist**

The following CITEL Member Administrations have signed the GMPCS MoU:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

---

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation ITU-R M.1343, *Essential Technical Requirements of Mobile Earth Stations for Global Non-Geostationary Mobile-Satellite Service Systems in the Bands 1-3 GHz*.

Venezuela, Brazil and the United States have also informed the ITU Secretary-General of their intention to implement the GMPCS MoU-Arrangements.

In addition to the MoU, the following GMPCS implementation items have been circulated by the ITU Secretary-General and await responses from Administrations (or their Competent Authorities) with regard to systems that have met the GMPCS MoU requirements regarding approval of their terminals:

- 12 October 1998 (DM No. 1188) System Specific Implementation Letter regarding the Iridium system;
- 6 April 1999 (DM No. 1025) Second System Specific Implementation Letter regarding the Iridium system;
- 16 July 1999 (DM No. 1059) System Specific Implementation Letter regarding the Globalstar system.
- 2 August 1999 (DM No. 1065) Third System Specific Implementation Letter regarding the Iridium system

As noted in Recommendation 49, CITEL Member Administrations are encouraged to review each of these System Specific Implementation Letters and to respond promptly to the ITU Secretary-General with respect to each of them. Responses to System Specific Implementation Letters are a key component to the implementation of the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements.

The ITU is currently in the process of improving its GMPCS website so that these System Specific Implementation Letters and all of the underlying documentation are readily available for review at: <http://dmsprod.itu.int/gmpcs>. Further information is available from the ITU by contacting Max-Henri Cadet, Manager, GMPCS Project, phone: +41 22 730 6323; e-mail: [Max-Henri.Cadet@itu.int](mailto:Max-Henri.Cadet@itu.int).

## **2.0 Conclusion**

CITEL Member Administrations should continue to act, as guided by Recommendation 49, to expeditiously undertake activities to implement the GMPCS MoU and Arrangements, giving particular attention to responding to the ITU Secretary-General's System Specific Implementation Letters as they are issued.

## ANNEX A

### **Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS)**

GMPCS is a personal telephony system providing transnational, regional or global coverage from a constellation of satellites accessible with small and easily transportable terminals. Whether the GMPCS satellite systems are geostationary or non-geostationary, fixed or mobile, broadband or narrowband, global or regional, they are capable of providing telecommunication services directly to end users. GMPCS services include two-way voice, fax, messaging, data and even broadband multimedia.

The GMPCS-MoU is a cooperative framework signed by Member States, GMPCS System Operators, GMPCS Terminal Manufacturers and Service Providers to memorialize the non-contractual and non-legally binding terms of their cooperation. The objective of the cooperation is to allow GMPCS subscribers to take their terminals anywhere and, more importantly, to use them in countries where they are licensed. The final text of the GMPCS-MoU was adopted on 18 February 1997. It contains six (6) articles dealing with type approval of terminals, licensing of terminals, marking of terminals, customs arrangements, access to traffic data and review.

- Text of the MoU (english)
- Text of MoU (spanish)
- Text of MoU (french)
- List of Signatories of the MoU
- Resolutions/Recommendations/Decisions of CITEL
- Recommendation 40 (X-98)
- Recommendation 49 (XII-99)

Send mail to [citel@oas.org](mailto:citel@oas.org) with questions or comments about this web site.

Copyright © 1999 Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

Last modified: July 25, 1999

Organization of American States

Disclaimer

## ANNEX B



### GMPCS REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES FOR ASIA & PACIFIC REGION



SEOUL, 5-7 JULY 1999

---

#### Recommendation

The participants at the GMPCS Workshop,

#### RECOGNIZING

that the Administrations and peoples of the Asia Pacific region will benefit from the early implementation of GMPCS services in all countries of the region and from the unhindered trans-border circulation of GMPCS terminals,

#### RECOMMEND:

1. That Administrations of the Asia Pacific Region should take appropriate measures to facilitate introduction of GMPCS services in their jurisdiction, in conformity with applicable laws and regulations;
2. That GMPCS system operators and service providers co-operate with Administrations during the license process to ensure early and effective implementation of GMPCS services in individual countries in the Asia Pacific region;
3. That participating Administrations of the Asia Pacific Region, GMPCS system operators, service providers and manufacturers be strongly encouraged to sign the GMPCS-MoU, implement its Arrangements and so notify the Secretary-General of the ITU;
4. That Administrations of the Asia Pacific Region co-ordinate with their Customs Authorities to facilitate the movement of – and in case of licensed systems, support roaming across their borders of – GMPCS terminals, and take steps to effect mutual recognition of type approval for terminals bearing the ITU's GMPCS-MoU mark;
5. That Administrations of the Asia Pacific Region which have not taken the steps outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 consider the advisability of initiating procedures in their own countries to facilitate licensing procedures, and of permitting the free circulation of GMPCS terminals across their borders, and in such cases, inform the Secretary-General of the ITU of the adoption of such procedures;
6. That Administrations respond promptly to policy information requests from the ITU Secretary-General for systems that have implemented the GMPCS-MoU Arrangements;

7. That the ITU Regional office and the APT encourage Members of Region 3 to actively participate in the GMPCS-MoU and implement its Arrangements; and
8. That the ITU and the APT be encouraged to pursue studies, through the appropriate study group, of licensing procedures with respect to GMPCS systems, in order to provide Administrations with information which will assist them to effect timely introduction of GMPCS services in their respective jurisdictions.

Dated: 7 July 1999.