

Minutes of LPRA Council Meeting

Date: Thursday 12th September 2013

Venue : The Innovation Farm UK

Please note: All text highlighted in blue are hyperlinked

1: Welcome and Registration

John Falck Chair (JF)

John Hallatt (JH)

Brian Back (BB)

Deryck Hannaford (DH)

John Greaves (Via Skype) (JG)

Philippe Magneron (Via Skype) (PM)

Phil Bremner Representing the Secretariat (PB)

Mege Krauneviciute taking Minutes

Apologies for absence from Saad Mezzour (SM)

2: Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was approved, however, changes were made to the running order to accommodate **JG** and **PM** who were participating by Skype and wanted to contribute on certain subjects under discussion (the following running order was adhered to).

3: Minutes of last Council Meeting

The previous minutes were approved, the only question that arose was to get confirmation from **SM** that he attended the TCAM Meeting in June 2013.

4: Finances

DH reported that Gilberts were now handling the LPRA's accounts and would be responsible in future for chasing members payments and issuing invoices etc. Gilberts require comprehensive updates from Bruno at FEE of the members who have still not paid their annual subscription fee, they also require statement of current assets and liabilities. Amanda and Ken at Gilberts also need to know if any members pay directly to FEE by bank transfer. The Council voted to request that Gilberts re-issue invoices to those members who have not paid their subscriptions detailing the new Lloyds Bank details (the invoice dates should be the same as the original requests from FEE so as not to cause problems with members' accounting periods).

DH agreed to liaise with FEE and Gilberts to ensure this was done. The Council voted to transfer all funds from FEE into the LPRA's new Gilbert's run bank account, the only proviso was that **DH** would discuss what outstanding bank charges current/future there might be in order that a small balance may be left to cover these costs.

To facilitate the smooth running of the LPRA's accounts, there were discussions about adding **JH** and **BB** as bank account signatories, but **JH** declined to be added, currently only **DH** is authorised to sign cheques.

5: Secretariat Considerations

The Council voted to transfer all remaining Secretariat responsibilities from FEE to Business Synergies (BS) (apart from accounting functions which will be handled by Gilberts). The Council approved that BS could raise an invoice for £1,000.00 for the extra responsibilities to cover the remainder of 2013 and increase the overall annual charge by £2,000.00 starting in 2014. **DH** will liaise with FEE to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities. Once this is completed the LPRA website etc. will use the Innovation Farm (IF) address instead of FEE's Brussels office. Although at one point having a European address was thought to be of benefit, the Council felt that moving to a % The Innovation Farm UK address would have limited impact on our European credentials and hadn't been a hurdle when communicating with MEPs etc. The Council decided that it was not necessary to have new headed stationary printed, although of course Gilberts would ensure that IF's address was used on member invoices etc. The Council felt that it was important to continue to have a cordial relationship with FEE in order that the LPRA could use FEE's office facilities for meetings etc. (FEE would make a charge for this). FEE are in the process of appointing a new Manager so there may be some changes to the proposed future arraignments, **DH** agreed to monitor this while

conducting the transition of duties from FEE. The Council estimated that the LPRA would save approx. £2,000.00 PA from the transfer of Secretariat responsibilities based on the current level of charges. **PB** agreed to raise a revised annual contract invoice to reflect the increase in responsibilities in line with the above. There was further discussion that FEE's office was not easy to get to and that travel costs were expensive. **DH** will advise **PB** when the website address for the Secretariat could be changed. At present FEE's address is still displayed, however, the following text also appears "***For all general membership enquiries please contact our Membership Secretary Phil Bremner Tel: +44 (0) 01279 600 440 or E-mail phil@business-synergies.co.uk***"

6: RED Update

PB obtained an update from Stephane Reynolds (Parliamentary Advisor to Malcolm Harbour MEP (MH) Chairman of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee European Parliament on RED - (please see below). Although it appears that the suggested amendments are in line with those requested by the LPRA in our meetings in London and Brussels, **PB** agreed to gain clarification on the "UK's proposed text on a Recital to cover concerns surrounding attendance at expert group meetings." **JH** aired industry concerns that there was a worrying move towards edging out expert industry involvement in future consultations, it was hoped that the UK's proposed text would address these concerns. **JH** and other members of the Council felt that the inclusion of TV's in RED would be a very positive move because their lobbying strength would be a powerful ally in negotiations regarding interference issues. **PB** had been in contact with Barbara Weiler MEP (BW) who had provided her mobile telephone number with the offer to discuss the progress of the RED since **SM**'s meeting with her in Brussels. It was felt that the update from MH's office had given us sufficient information and that we were close enough to the EC's discussion and voting that there would be more benefit to speaking with BW after the 26th September vote. **PB** agreed to thank BW for her offer and ask if we could discuss things after the vote, **PB** also agreed to obtain details of the vote as soon as the result was known after the 26th September 2013. The Council noted that the level of contact and cooperation we had now achieved with senior MEPs and their respective offices was something that would be a great asset to the LPRA as the RED progressed and on future areas of concern for our members. **PB** agreed to maintain regular contact with MH and BW. **JH** also agreed to review the implications of the withdrawal of amendment AM120 and the potential withdrawal of amendment AM118 on the overall wording of the RED. Annex 1 of the RED as proposed by the Commission does NOT exclude "Receive only radio equipment, intended to be used solely for the reception of sound and TV broadcasting services". The effect of amendments AM118 and

AM120 would be to exempt this equipment from the requirements of the RED. The removal of these amendments would therefore make this equipment subject to the RED legislation, which I believe suits our position.

On the Radio Equipment Directive (RED) file:

We will consider compromise Amendments in Committee on 25th September. We have not yet seen the Rapporteur's (Mrs Weiler) initial proposals for compromises yet, but we believe, following a meeting of the shadow Rapporteurs last week, that there may not be that many of them as an overwhelming majority of groups in our Committee agree on the general direction of the Draft Report as complemented by the Amendments tabled. I attach for reference both documents.

Three points from this shadows meeting are worthy of note:

1. There is still an issue around AMs 118 and 120, where Mrs Weiler has withdrawn her AM 120, following advice from the European Commission, and Malcolm may well withdraw his AM 118, which is identical to 120, as this will fail at the vote anyway. I think this issue has to do with 4G interference with HD TVs. It was apparent at the shadows meeting that everyone supported the Commission stance on this. A proposed compromise solution was presented to us informally by the organisation Orgalime representing RE manufacturers, and I forwarded that back to HMG experts working on the file to see if there was any interest/margin for taking up the idea and proposing that via Council. I have no news yet.
2. Toine Manders MEP (Liberal, from the Netherlands) put forward proposals for a universal charger, which we are well aware, is technically difficult, but these proposal have met with broad approval from the political groups, so we will have to bat out the detail of what is adopted (and whether these proposals are feasible) with Council in final negotiations.
3. Comitology issues will be handled the same was as for the Alignment Package I think, where we are waiting for the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council to finish sorting out support (hopefully) for a UK proposed text on a Recital to cover concerns surrounding attendance at expert group meetings.

We will be voting in Committee on 26th September. I expect the Rapporteur will then seek a mandate from the Committee to enter into negotiations in 1st reading with the Council, in view of achieving a 1st reading agreement on the file, and voting in Plenary in November or December. Depending on how these final

negotiations between the European Parliament and the Committee go, this date for final adoption in Plenary may slip to early next year.

Kind regards,

Stephane Reynolds

Parliamentary Adviser to Malcolm Harbour

Chairman of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee

European Parliament

**** Subsequent to the meeting PB received clarification of the UK's proposed recital - it reads as follows:**

"When matters relating to this Directive, other than its implementation or infringements, are being examined, i.e. in a Commission expert group, the European Parliament should in line with existing practice receive full information and documentation, and where appropriate, an invitation to attend such meetings"

The vote on the 26th September will indeed be web streamed live on the IMCO Committee website. Here is the link. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/imco/home.html.html> and then, on the day, click on the today's broadcast section.

The results of the vote are only made available a few days after the vote, via the publication of the consolidated text adopted. Sometimes, this text isn't available for up to two weeks after the vote owing to lawyer linguistic verification and translations and other administrative hold ups. But sometimes I have the working language version (which is English) ready 48 hours after the vote.

7: Ofcom: Consultation on White Space

The main discussion centred around whether the LPRA should respond to the White Paper. **PM** expressed particular interest especially with regard to TG28. **JH** believes that the UK is being used as a pilot programme for this and that it would then be adopted throughout Europe based on the findings. **BB** felt that it was workable only with internet related applications and was not practical for device to device operations. **BB** agreed to respond to Ofcom on behalf of the LPRA.

8: EC Letter on Impact of Digital Dividend

The Council felt that Item 42 covered all issues that were relevant to LPRA members. **PM** and **JF** had been invited to be leaders on their respective areas of expertise. **JF** had made preliminary tests at Ofcom with and without an LTE simulator. **PM** and **JF** agreed that they were basically doing the same things and expressing the same concerns in their respective sectors, they agreed to keep in close communication with each other to ensure a coordinated response. Brian Copsey (Secretary of the JWG) had agreed to present the views of **PM** and **JF** as they were unable to attend this month's meeting in person. **PM** had insisted on the action outlined in the letter regarding out of band emissions, and wanted to draw the Council's attention to Part B of the EC letter as being particularly important. **JG** said that the Council had his full support on this issue and that it was "important that this had a big LPRA footprint all over it". **PM** expected that the WiFi Alliance etc. would be very vocal in support of our concerns based on how this issue would effect their equipment. **JF** said that there was still lots of work to be done. **PM** wanted to ensure that our members were kept fully informed on the subject, **PB** agreed to ensure that the LPRA members' section of the website had up-to-date information and that the LPRA eNews would also highlight the issue and it's progress, **PM** and **JF** agreed to keep **PB** advised of all developments. Further information available [HERE](#)

9: Date of Next Meeting

BB and **JH** were both unable to make the proposed 20th November 2013 Council Meeting. **JG** proposed that the next meeting should be held in Dubai in December 2013 (further details below in Item 10: RadioSolutions). It was agreed that the next meeting (with **JG** and **SM**'s approval) would be held at IF on Thursday 5th December 2013. **BB JH PM DH PB** were all available, **JF** needs to check but thinks that he will be able to attend.

10: RadioSolutions 2015 + Members' Survey

PB gave a summary of the Member's Survey, although the overall response was disappointing it was felt that it had given the Council some clear insights into what Members thought about previous RS events and what they wanted from future events. **JG** said that he thought that the "survey was fantastic".

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONDED

“A good conference program with helpful technical presentations would be appreciated.”

“Travel time and cost from/to airport matters and should allow a one day event. Smart at lunch time and end just after lunch the following day might accommodate many European travel needs. A single day without anything else usually did not justify the travel. Cambridge is nice by Ryanair, however, you might suffer under connections not suitable for business.”

“I did speak at the previous two conferences, and would be willing to do so again.”

“Location is not of importance to me, but travel cost is always easier to justify if an event is more than one day.

In the past we had events at ETSI in Sophia Antipolis; this seems to make much sense if we combine with some ETSI event. I would hope for attendance and maybe panel discussions with relevant ETSI people in this case.”

“If possible you may invite FCC speakers such as Julian Knapp. Please schedule well in advance since I have a tight agenda.”

“No point in exhibiting to fellow LPRA members, without punters no reason for sales to attend.”

“Years ago I had an exhibition stand at Radio Solutions, this time I am not sure that we would have suitable products to exhibit.”

“We exhibited at the last exhibition held in Cambridge and were disappointed with the visitor numbers. Any future event really needs to raise its profile significantly in order to attract significant visitors.”

“A single long day is the most economic way to hold such an event - focus on regulators and updates etc.”

	SUMMARY OF REPLIES
Have you attended a previous Radio Solutions Event	14 OF THE 17 FIRMS WHO RESPONDED HAVE ATTENDED BEFORE
Would you be likely to attend Radio Solutions	14 YES 1 NO 2 MAYBES
How many people from your company do you think would attend?	BETWEEN 20 AND 22 PEOPLE WOULD ATTEND FROM 17 FIRMS
I would like to speak at the event	4 LPRA MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK
I would like to have space to exhibit products at the event	4 OUT OF 16 WOULD LIKE TO EXHIBIT THEIR PRODUCTS
I would be interested in hearing presentations by industry regulators	13 OUT OF 17 SAID YES
I would be interested in hearing presentations by other LPRA members	4 SAID NO ONE MAYBE 12 SAID YES
I would be interested in attending a networking event	7 SAID NO 9 SAID YES
I would be interested in participating in panel discussions	9 SAID NO 7 SAID YES
I would prefer Radio Solutions to be combined with an ETSI event	6 SAID NO 10 SAID YES
I would prefer it to be integrated into a larger European related event	7 SAID NO 8 SAID YES ONE MAYBE
I would attend if the event was to be held in London	4 SAID NO 13 SAID YES
I would attend if the event was to be held in Birmingham	9 SAID YES 8 SAID NO
I would attend if the event was to be held in Cambridge / Oxford	6 SAID NO 11 SAID YES
I would be prepared to travel to another European City	6 SAID NO 10 SAID YES 1 MAYBE
I would prefer the entire event to be held on a single day	8 SAID NO 8 SAID YES 1 MAYBE
I would prefer the entire event to be held over two or three days	7 SAID NO 9 SAID YES 1 MAYBE

The Council agreed that the next RS should be held in 2015 to coincide with the LPRA's 25th Anniversary. This would give us time to plan an event that would incorporate our members wishes and afford us the added advantage of getting publicity from being an Association that had been around for 25 years. **PB** made the Council aware of his concerns that we could only secure high profile speakers if we could guarantee a significant audience and prestigious event but that it was not possible to elicit members commitments without the lure of high profile speakers. **JG**'s passionate pitch that Dubai was a thriving market growing at an exponential rate was viewed by the Council as a plausible exciting venue for RS 2015 that had the potential to attract new members and gain the LPRA some very prestigious media coverage. **JG** said that holding a meeting / RS event there would have 'colossal publicity impact' and through his contacts he could assure us coverage in Gulf News, he felt that this was an unmissable opportunity to "capitalise on the dynamic LPRA marketing changes made in 2013 that were unrecognisable from the past". **JG** was also confident that he could secure meetings at the most senior levels with those involved in a new rail project, who had already expressed concerns about device regulations and LTE issues. **JG** also had contacts who were on the planning committee for Expo 2020 which is being held in Dubai, he felt certain that speaking opportunities could be scheduled for Council members to present to students at Dubai University. **BB** and **PM** were both in favour of the proposal and there was no initial negative dismissal of the idea. In principle the Council agreed that if "demonstrable value" and a series of meetings with senior officials could be pre-scheduled, that a 3 day fact finding mission could be approved for Council members to undertake in mid January 2014 (the cost of flights for the period between the 18th December and 10th January would be prohibitive). There is an [INTERSEC](#) Event being held in Dubai between the 19th - 21st January 2014, it was thought that this could be an added incentive for a visit at this time. Based on the findings of this business trip the Council would vote on whether sufficient local sponsorship, free venue space and potential business opportunities existed for our members to make Dubai the venue for RS 2015. **JG** said that his Dubai based PA (Amanda) would be able to assist with arrangements for the proposed fact-finding trip and RS 2015. The Council agreed to discuss the matter further at the December 5th Meeting when **SM** would have the opportunity to participate.

11. [EU Proposed Autocall System in Vehicles](#)

JG dismissed the proposal as "preposterous and unworkable". **JF** said that "ETSI's changed regulations would mean that all must comply with EMC limits making the whole thing nonsense". Despite this the Council felt that it was important to monitor the issue, especially as there has been little

coverage of the proposal in the media and that our members need to be kept informed of any developments.

12. AOB

The subject of insurance cover arose - **BB** agreed to let **DH** have details of a different insurance company he had recently switched his businesses to in the hope that the LPRA could reduce costs.

It was agreed that a concerted effort should be made to recruit new members to the Council and that this should be done via direct contact rather than a general call for volunteers which had not proved fruitful in the past.

JF reported very good progress with SRD's RFID ahead of the WGFM in October.

JH reported that we had successfully lobbied for increased bandwidth now that 10.687 GHz band had been grandfathered, **JH** agreed to give **PB** further details to report to members via the LPRA eNews.

DH asked for a decision on whether the LPRA required protection cover in the event of HMRC inspection as our Accountants Gilberts had recommended it. The Council voted to decline this as it was felt that it wasn't applicable to us.

JF had spoken to Nick Long from Great Circle Design regarding outstanding payment of membership fee and was informed that they no longer wished to be a member of the LPRA.

The meeting was concluded at 16:05 Local time.

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday 5th December 2013** at IF subject to confirmation from **SM JG** and **JF**.