



# CEPT



# CEPT

Conférence européenne des Administrations  
des postes et des télécommunications

**European Conference of Postal  
and Telecommunications Administrations**

Europäische Konferenz der Verwaltungen  
für Post und Telekommunikation

Conférence européenne des Administrations  
des postes et des télécommunications

**European Conference of Postal  
and Telecommunications Administrations**

Europäische Konferenz der Verwaltungen  
für Post und Telekommunikation



# CEPT

**Conférence européenne des Administrations  
des postes et des télécommunications**

**European Conference of Postal  
and Telecommunications Administrations**

**Europäische Konferenz der Verwaltungen  
für Post und Telekommunikation**

**CEPT is the European regional organisation dealing with postal and telecommunications issues and presently has 45 Members.**



## Mission of CEPT

The basic aim of CEPT is to strengthen the relations between Members, promote their cooperation and contribute to the creation of a dynamic market in the field of European posts and electronic communications.

Its functions comprise:

- Working out common views on the priorities and aims set in the field of posts and electronic communications;
- Examining, in a European context, public policy and appropriate regulatory issues regarding posts and electronic communications, including the use of radio spectrum;



The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations - CEPT - was established in 1959 by 19 countries, which expanded to 26 during its first ten years. Original members were incumbent monopoly-holding postal and telecommunications administrations.

CEPT's activities included co-operation on commercial, operational, regulatory and technical standardisation issues.

In 1988 CEPT decided to create ETSI, The European Telecommunications Standards Institute, into which all its

- Promoting further European harmonisation, inter alia of the radio spectrum, with an emphasis on practical cooperation between European countries to help realise Europe-wide regulatory harmonisation;
- Establishing necessary contacts and cooperation with the EC (European Commission), the Secretariat of the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and European organisations and associations (industry, operators, users, consumers, etc) dealing with postal and electronic communication matters;
- Providing a forum for developing, adopting and promoting European common proposals in ITU (International Telecommunication Union) and UPU (Universal Postal Union), including contacts with regional organisations, as appropriate;
- Contributing to the establishment of prospective views (scenarios) of the future regulatory environment, taking into account technology and market development.



telecommunication standardisation activities were transferred.

In 1992 the postal and telecommunications operators created their own organisations, PostEurop and ETNO (European Telecommunications Network Operator's

Association) respectively. In line with the European policy of separating postal and telecommunications operations from policy-making and regulatory functions, CEPT became a body of policy-makers and regulators. By that time, Central and Eastern

# Members



## Who are the CEPT Members?

Postal and Telecommunications Administrations from the following 45 countries are members of CEPT:

- Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Vatican.

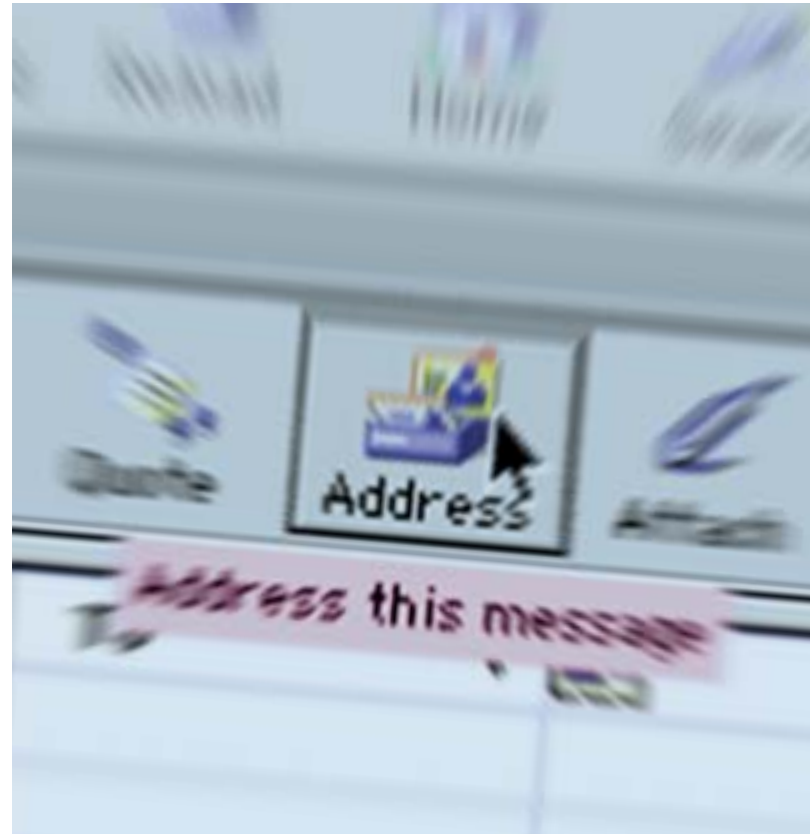


### Criteria for membership?

In CEPT there is only one kind of membership and in accordance with the CEPT Arrangement: "Postal and Telecommunications Administrations of the European countries, which are Members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) or Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), may be Members of CEPT".

### How to apply for membership?

When a state becomes a Member of the UPU or the ITU, then its administration can apply for membership, by sending an application to the Presidency of the CEPT.



European Countries became eligible for membership of CEPT. With its 45 members CEPT now covers almost the entire geographical area of Europe.

The role and purpose of CEPT was redefined at its Plenary Assembly (the

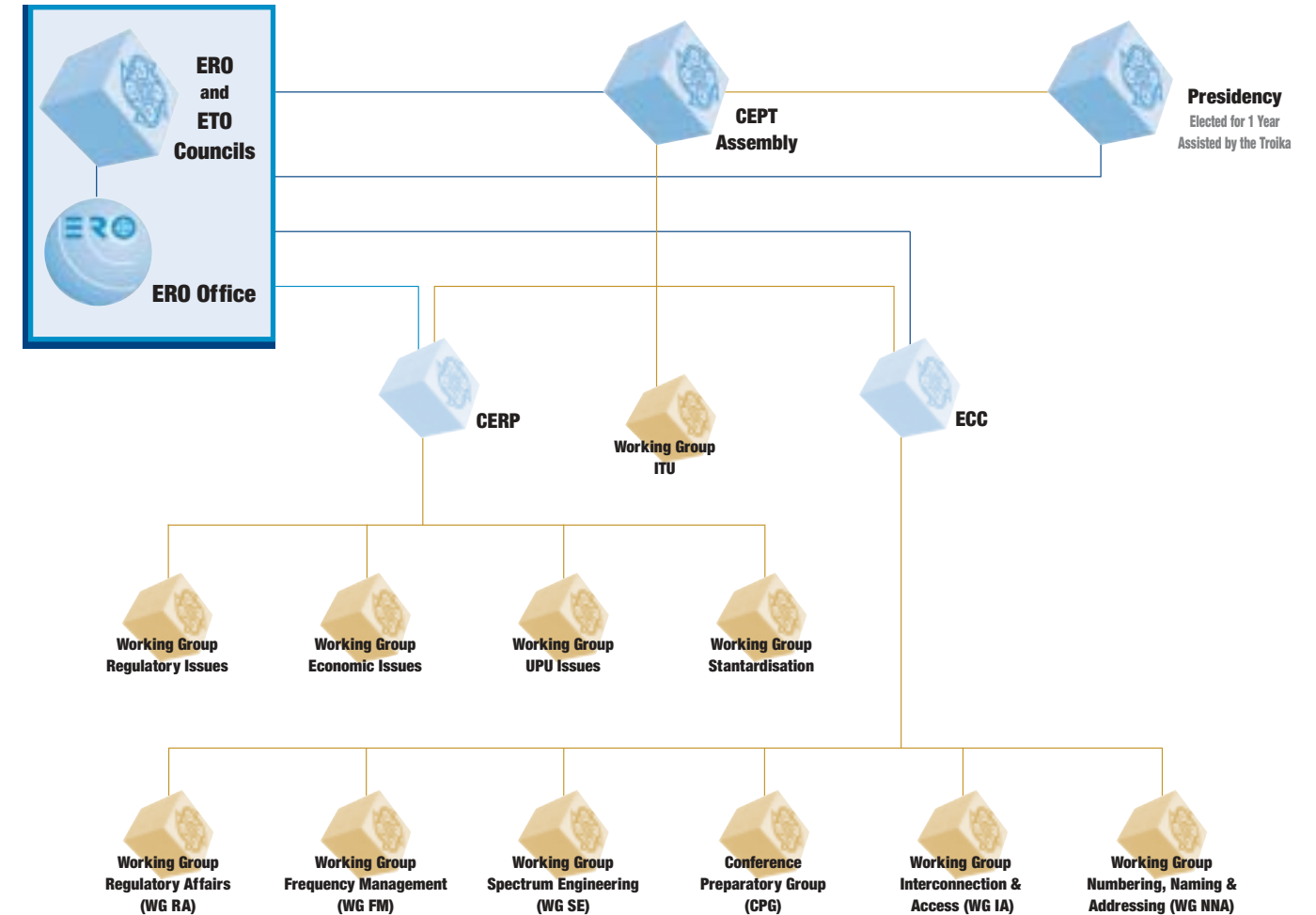
supreme organ of CEPT) on 5-6 September 1995 in Weimar. As of then, CEPT deals exclusively with policy and regulatory matters.

At that time, the organisation comprised three permanent Committees: one on postal

matters, CERP (European Committee on Postal Regulation) and two on telecommunications issues - ERC (European Radiocommunications Committee) and ECTRA (European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs).

# Organisation Chart

## The CEPT Organisation



Note: ERO is the permanent office established in Copenhagen to assist CEPT (see page 12)  
Updated: March 2003

Support from the ERO  
Possible support from ERO

# Who else can participate in the work of CEPT

In accordance with the CEPT Rules of Procedure:

## Observers at the Assembly

Representatives of the permanent Organs of the International Telecommunication Union and the Universal Postal Union shall normally be invited to participate at the meetings of the Assembly as observers. Other relevant intergovernmental organisations may be invited to participate in the meetings of the Assembly as observers when questions of interest to these organisations are being discussed. Observers may participate in the discussions but have no right to vote.

## Observers at the Committees

Representatives of organisations having agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a Letter of Understanding (LoU)

with either CEPT or the relevant committee are invited to participate to the meetings of Committees and their Working Groups according to the terms of MoUs and LoUs. Members of these organisations can also participate to project teams unless it is decided differently in the terms of reference of the PT. Further information can be found on the ERO web site.

## Counsellors

Moreover, the European Commission (EC) and the Secretariat of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) are invited to participate in the activities of the Assembly in an advisory capacity, with the right to speak but not to vote.

# Relations with International Organisations

CEPT is an independent organisation, which cooperates with the European Union, the European Free Trade Association and other relevant intergovernmental organisations as well as with other organisations concerned with posts and electronic communications.

CEPT is also a regional organisation and therefore has MoUs or agreements established with:

ATCM – Arab Telecommunication Council of Ministers (February 1999)

APT – Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (May 2000)

ATU – African Telecommunications Union (March 2002)

CITEL – Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (March 2002)

RCC - Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (October 2002)

# The Office

The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) was formally opened on 6 May 1991 and is located in Copenhagen, Denmark. ERO is the permanent office to assist CEPT and to support the ECC, the Committee that brings together the radio and telecommunications regulatory authorities of the 45 CEPT member countries.

ERO was established on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In 1996 this MoU was replaced by the “Convention for the establishment of the European Radiocommunications Office” concluded

by 29 European countries, which defines the terms of reference for ERO and the funding arrangement.

The management function for ERO is performed by the ERO Council, consisting of representatives of the signatories to the Convention.

ERO's sister office, the European Telecommunications Office (ETO), was merged with ERO on the 1st of January 2001, and ERO took over the functions previously carried out by ETO and now performs these tasks on behalf of the ETO Administrative Council.

The primary functions of the Office are:

- to provide a centre of expertise which shall act as a focal point, identifying problem areas and new possibilities in the postal and electronic communications field and to advise the CEPT Presidency and the CEPT Committees accordingly;
- to draft long-term plans for future use of scarce resources utilised by electronic communications on an European level;
- to liaise with the national authorities, as appropriate;
- to study regulatory issues in the postal and electronic communications field;
- to conduct consultations on specific topics;
- to maintain a record of important CEPT Committee actions and of the implementation of relevant CEPT Decisions and Recommendations;
- to provide the CEPT Committees with status reports at regular intervals;
- to liaise with the European Union and with the European Free Trade Association;



Meanwhile, on 6 May 1991, ERC had established a permanent office in Copenhagen, the European Radiocommunications Office - ERO - with the purpose of supporting the activities of the committee and conducting studies for it and for the European Commission.

On 1 September 1994, ECTRA also established a permanent office in Copenhagen for a similar purpose: the European Telecommunications Office - ETO.

At its Plenary Assembly meeting in Bergen 20-21 September 2001 the CEPT made a

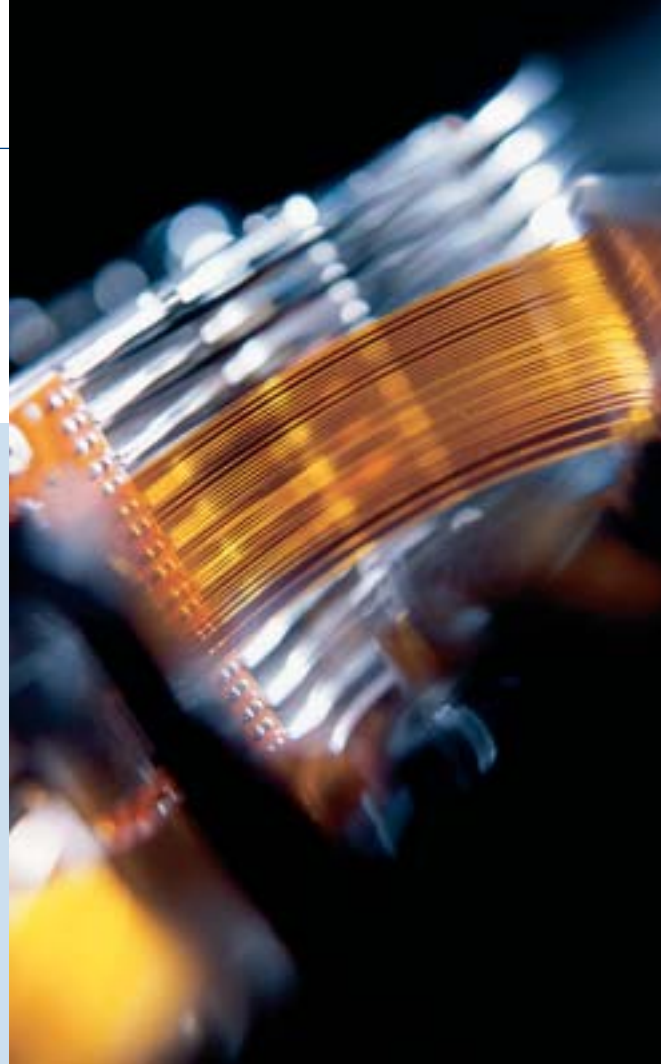
number of important steps to strengthen the organisation. As such the basic instruments, the CEPT Arrangement and Rules of Procedure, were amended, with an impact at all levels of the CEPT structure:

- A Presidency was created (replacing the

concept of Managing administration), and a Rolling Policy Agenda was adopted, to give CEPT a more active role as a forum for strategic planning, decision-making, and preparing for conferences of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Furthermore, the new CEPT Arrangement established a Troika in which the previous and the future Presidencies assist the current Presidency and at the same time hold the offices of Vice Presidencies. This provides a continuity of the functions and work





- to support the CEPT Presidency, inter alia in maintaining the Rolling Policy Agenda;
- to provide support and studies for the CEPT Committees, inter alia for proposing a work programme for CEPT on the basis of the Rolling Policy Agenda;
- to support CEPT Working Groups and Project Teams, in particular in the arrangement of specific consultation meetings;
- to be the custodian of the CEPT archives and to disseminate CEPT information as appropriate.

## Further information on the work of CEPT

The best way to become aware of the work that is being done within CEPT, including the Committees, Working Groups and Project Teams, is by visiting the website or contacting directly either the current Presidency or the Office.

Direct contacts to the Office and to the CEPT Presidency are the following:

### Contact Points

**CEPT Website:** <http://www.cept.org/>

Address of the current Presidency can be found at the website

**ERO Website:** <http://www.ero.dk/>

ERO  
 Peblingehus  
 Nansensgade 19  
 DK 1366 Copenhagen  
 Tel. +45 33896300  
 Fax +45 33896330

**E-mail:** [ero@ero.dk](mailto:ero@ero.dk)



of the Presidency and reflects the new CEPT approach.

- Moreover, as a response to convergence in the telecommunications sector, and the requirements of the information society, the new Electronic Communications

Committee – ECC – was created, replacing the two former Committees dealing separately with radiocommunications and telecommunications (ERC and ECTRA respectively). The committee dealing with postal services, CERP, was not affected by this change.

The field of responsibility for each committee is decided by the Assembly, while each committee establishes its own rules of procedure and elects its chairmanship. The committees handle harmonisation activities within their respective fields of responsibility, and adopt

Recommendations and Decisions. These Recommendations and Decisions are normally prepared by their Working Groups and Project Teams.

- Furthermore the Assembly endorsed the creation of a single permanent office,

by merging ERO and ETO. The single office will support the work of CEPT.

The languages used by CEPT are: English, French and German.



**CEPT Institutional Leaflet**

ISBN  
87-989533-0-3

Editor  
**CEPT**

Design and Production  
**Ideias Virtuais, Lda**  
ideiasvirtuais@mail.telepac.pt

Printing  
**Tecniforma**  
tecniforma@mail.net4b.pt

Legal Deposit  
194944/03

Print Run  
5000 copies

**Issued April 2003**