CRAF comments to the Draft RSPG Opinion on the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference 2023

The Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies (CRAF) welcomes the opportunity to provide its comments on the Draft RSPG Opinion on the ITU-R World Radiocommunication Conference 2023. CRAF, On behalf of European radio astronomers, coordinates activities to keep the frequency bands used by radio astronomy and space sciences free from interference.

For the following Agenda items, which have been included in the interim Opinion, CRAF would like to highlight the RAS positions to be taken into consideration in the final recommendation:

4.1 WRC-23 Agenda Item 1.2 (IMT mid-band identifications)

The science services operate in the frequency band under consideration 6 425-7 125 MHz through footnotes, without primary allocations. The methanol spectral line in the 6650–6675.2 MHz band is one of the most important lines that is actively observed by the European observatories. Compatibility studies at ITU-WP7D showed that coexistence with IMT in this band require large separation distances that may extend beyond the borders of individual member states. Similar to the footnote RR 5.458 which is noted for the passive microwave sensors, RR 5.149 urges administrations to take all practicable steps to protect RAS in this frequency range. Therefore, it would be natural that an additional condition be added under Option 1 – IMT identification:

- Appropriate measures to ensure the continuity of passive scientific services in the band.