

Dear Sirs,

as I have been informed, there has been established a web site at <http://www.aussiewinlink.org/support.shtml> which is used for automated email creation supporting the efforts of the so called "WinLink 2000" group, who wants to legalise their system for use in Australia. Please beware! This seems not to be the majority of Radio Amateurs, nor the majority of System Operators of Amateur Radio Mailbox systems at all.

As this question is not a question of majority I would like to comment the mass mails You surely received by WinLink 2000 supporters.

The use of WinLink 2000 in the way I could see on the Amateur Radio bands is violating international laws and treaties, especially the ITU Radio Regulations Article S25 defining Amateur Radio Service. This is done by

- using a so called "compression" which I would call "encryption", which makes it practically impossible to monitor the traffic between WinLink 2000 mailboxes and their users, who must use "AirMail" as client software. The sysops or users could easily switch to "clear text" to follow the ITU rules, but they do not want to! It looks that they want to hide their traffic.

- transmitting and receiving third party email messages, even of professional and commercial content. (examples available)

- thus playing the role of a commercial information carrier, far exceeding the role of amateur radio as defined in ITU RR S25, even if the WinLink group is operating as a non-profit organisation.

The Australian Government should not even think of "legalising" WinLink 2000, because this would violate an international treaty, especially if a radio amateur of a third country uses WinLink 2000 system within Australia! Please stay at Your opinion that WinLink 2000 is illegal, which You published before and which is respectfully recognized within big parts of the Amateur Radio Service community.

Even the U.S. enforces the Sysops of Internet to/from Amateur radio forwarding mailboxes to control every single message transmitted! Unfortunately the U.S. FCC forgets their own rules sometimes, and they likely tolerate the violation of ITU RR S25. This is because of the "persons" running the U.S. WinLink 2000 systems, especially the CMBO (Central Mail Box), who seem to have good contacts to the FCC itself. This does not legalise anything, however.

My efforts are NOT against emergency traffic! But this traffic has to be in

open language (monitorable for any pactor equipped listener) and it has to be non commercial.

There will be more efforts against WinLink 2000 compressed traffic in future on an international basis.

Ask for details if needed!

Regards,

Michael Meyer

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PS: here the automated email text of the WinLink 2000 supporters.....

To: radiocomms@pc.gov.au Bcc: support@aussiewinlink.org Subject: Submission to Australia's Productivity Commission

Review of Australia's Radio Communication Act. Body:

To Commissioners David Robertson and Neil Byron:

I urgently ask you to help protect local and foreign recreational cruisers in Australian waters and nearby high seas by recommending the reform of the Radio Communications Act and related Determination issued by the Australian Communications Authority to allow digital ship-to-shore amateur radio communication via WinLink 2000.

Reforming this law and regulation will provide cruisers with more communications options and more efficient search-and-rescue support if ever they need help in an emergency.

Also, the ability to send and receive email via the Internet allows travelers to stay in touch with family and friends, increasing the comfort level of all. In these uncertain times, this is important.

We understand that all what is needed is to change the ACA Determination to allow interconnection between amateur radio and the Internet. Your Review provides a unique opportunity to liberalize amateur radio operations in Australia. It would allow them to participate in our international cooperative effort and support advances in Information and Communications Technology.

We ask you to recommend that the ACA Determination be suitably amended.