

EARN Document

Title: Revised CEPT policy versus EARN
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Note- The letter referred to is not available in electronic form and application should be made to the EARN secretary for a copy.

In a letter of 11 Nov 1989 to EARN from the chairman of the CEPT CAC it is stated that:

- the principles for authorization of EARN (evolution towards OSI, volume charging and use of public networks as far as possible) are no longer jointly applied.
- the future relation between EARN and PTTs will be bilateral with individual administrations.
- it is likely that almost all restrictions on use of leased circuits will be dropped and that access charges will be limited to cost justified charges.

Furthermore the draft CEPT Recommendation PGT 10 say that surcharges on international leased lines routing third party traffic or giving access to public networks may either be:

- a surcharge on the rental of 30% or
- an access charge for access to the public network. This charge may be based on a supplementary rental or can be a function of the traffic carried.

The understanding on a meeting with members of the permanent nucleus of the CAC was that traffic communicated within the EARN community would not be regarded as third party traffic, and that eg. transit traffic for EUNET users might or might not be seen as third party traffic.

On the other hand, if a gateway connects EARN to eg. public X.400 service, then there is a case for the PTT in the country having the gateway to apply an access charge. But again, according to the letter, it seems likely that such a charge will only be applied if justified by extra cost.

Therefore it is proposed that EARN country directors in the countries still applying volume charges approach their PTT to get those charges abrogated. Also, country directors with gateways to public networks, or plans for such gateways, should negotiate the terms with their PTTs.