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BACKGROUND:

For several years and increasingly DXCC or IOTA's QSL managers and some operators are systematically asking for the exchange of QSL "via direct mail" in spite of the presence of QSL bureau in their country. This practice becomes unacceptable, because it's more looking like a business and more the requirement to include 2 IRC or 2 US \$ minimum in a self addressed envelope to hope for an answer.

The chapter 10.5 of HF Handbook "Codes of practice for QSL very precise management" on the procedures of answering QSL, but remains insufficient on the business which can be made of it. In addition, most of the countries have a very efficient QSL bureau what cannot justify the request for QSL "Only via direct". Consequently this chapter should be amended.

CONSIDERING:

For all new radio hams and since the opening of the HF bands to the OM and YL of the second class licence, a large number of radio hams have now access to these bands. They all wish to take part in the different challenges and programs such as DXCC or the IOTA. For the majority of them all QSOs have to be made and confirmed. The cost of this QSLing can quickly become exorbitant, but produces a nice profit for some stations or QSL managers.

Let us remember that there are now 337 DXCC countries and more than 1000 islands referred in the IOTA program.

It is completely unacceptable to be obliged "to pay" for QSLs whereas QSL bureau of each country ensure under very good conditions this service without additional expenses.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the QSL managers of DX expedition, DXCC, IOTA or other stations respect the "code of practice for QSL management" as described in the IARU HF Handbook, ref Chapter 7.5. It is encouraged that DXpeditions should respond to bureau QSLs in addition to direct requests. When this is difficult to arrange, then the DXpedition organisers are recommended to appoint a QSL Manager in a country where this would be possible.