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**Committee on the Peaceful
  Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-eighth session
Vienna, 12-23 February 2001
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
**Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geo-
stationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter
alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions
relating to developments in space communications, taking particular
account of the needs and interests of developing countries**

Status of work on electromagnetic interference and radio astronomy

Information submitted by the secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

At their meeting in June 1999, the ministers of science of the member
States of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
recognized that the future of radio astronomy would be strongly affected by
electromagnetic emissions from low-orbiting telecommunications satellites.
They agreed on the need for innovative measures to protect that fascinating field
of scientific research while allowing for the vigorous growth of the
communications industry. They endorsed a plan to bring together leaders in the
domains of industry, science and regulation, in order to engage in constructive,
informal discussions that could produce new guidelines, principles and proposals
that, in turn, could be followed up by the appropriate technical, legal and
regulatory bodies. Following the ministerial meeting, the OECD secretariat
began working with the delegations of member States to establish a task force on
radio astronomy and the radio spectrum. That work is essentially complete, and
OECD will soon announce the creation of the task force, which is to hold its first
meeting during the first quarter of 2001. The task force will define the scope of
its work and develop a time line and work plan based on the types of outcome
that it will try to achieve.

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