

To: **ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 and its WG 2 and WG 3**

Title: **Liaison Report from CEN TC 304**

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from CEN TC 304 to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2

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CEN TC 304, ICT - European Localization Requirements, held its 19th Plenary at CEN/CENELEC in Brussels, Belgium, on 3rd December 2001. In addition to the acting Chair and the Secretary, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the following CEN members: Finland, Germany, Ireland (by proxy to Finland), The Netherlands, Norway, Poland (affiliated CEN member) and Sweden, plus ETSI Human Factors and CEN/ISSS (Information Society Standardization System).

This liaison report is a short summary of the items of particular relevance to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2 and the current overall status of CEN TC 304.

The most relevant item to SC 2 is the following resolution:

Resolution # 9 MES-3 in 10646

CEN/TC304 resolves to suggest to SC2/WG2 that MES-3A and MES-3B not be incorporated in the Annex of 10646 as such. Instead if incorporated they should be replaced by just one open collection, the "Modern European Scripts" (MES-Open), that reflects the scope of the CEN WS MES that produced MES-3A and MES-3B as part of the CEN Workshop Agreement 13873:2000.

The resolution was adopted with a majority voting for it; Norway and Netherlands abstained.

Most of the meeting concentrated on tidying up current projects, as the future of TC 304 is yet to be determined as a result of the report to be prepared by the CEN/ISSS Cultural Diversity Steering Group. Consequently, only one new work item - on Sami - was approved.

On the more general issues:

Iceland (IST, formerly STRÍ) had announced in May 2001 (with an 1-year notice period) that they wish to relinquish the secretariat of CEN TC 304. In the uncertain situation, no other CEN member has responded to the call for new secretariat. Þorgeir Sigurðsson, although no longer employed by Icelandic Standards, had still been contracted to be the secretary of CEN TC 304.

In the June 2001 Plenary, Wolf Arfvidson (from Statskontoret, Sweden) had announced that he could no longer (after 9 years) continue as the chair of CEN TC 304. While the secretariat issue has been unresolved, Wolf has continued as the acting chair.

Cultural Diversity Steering Group

The Cultural Diversity Steering Group has held two physical meetings in Brussels: on 16th November 2001 and 12th April 2002. The meetings have been attended by the representatives of:

- CEN/ISSS, including the Director and the Strategy Manager
- CEN/ISSS Forum
- CEN/TC 304 - European Localization requirements (3 representatives)
- CEN/WS EC - Electronic Commerce (2 representatives)
- ETSI (European Telecommunications Standard Institute) Human Factors
- ISO/IEC JTC1 CLAU1 (Cultural and Linguistic Adaptability and User Interfaces) Technical Direction
- The Unicode Consortium
- The European Commission (DG Enterprise) as an *observer*.

The work of the steering group is also followed by:

- ANEC (European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardization)
- CEN/WS LT - Learning Technologies
- CEN/WS MMI/DC - Metadata for Multimedia Information - Dublin Core
- LISA (Localisation Industry Standards Association)
- EFTA (European Free Trade Association) has also named an *observer*.

CDSG has set up a funded project team to produce the draft for the report. The April meeting was also attended by the selected project team members: John Clews (Keytempo Ltd., U.K.), project leader, and Håvard Hjulstad (Rådet for teknisk terminologi, Norway).

The current plan is to hold a physical meeting on 31st May and to produce the report for further processing by the end of June 2002. The current mandate for CDSG runs out at the end of 2002.

As TC 304 is about to enter a dormant state, it has been proposed that CDSG should carry out some of its current work. Since this would essentially require CDSG to do technical work, which it was not set up to do, other interim solutions are also being worked on.

Sincerely, Erkki

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