# NSAI (Ireland's) Comments on FPDAM 1 to ISO/IEC 10646-1:2001

Ireland DISAPPROVES the FPDAM 1 to IS0/IEC 10646-1:2001 for the following technical reasons. Acceptance of these reasons and subsequent changes to the text will change our vote to approval.

1. For consistence with other character names in the standard, the following changes should be made to a number of the mathematical characters.

U+27FF LONG RIGHTWARDS SQUIGGLE ARROW
U+29D1 BOWTIE WITH LEFT HALF BLACK
U+29D2 BOWTIE WITH RIGHT HALF BLACK
U+29D4 TIMES WITH LEFT HALF BLACK
U+29D5 TIMES WITH RIGHT HALF BLACK
U+29FC LEFT-POINTING CURVED ANGLE BRACKET
U+29FD RIGHT-POINTING CURVED ANGLE BRACKET
U+2AF7 TRIPLE NESTED LESS-THAN
U+2AF8 TRIPLE NESTED GREATER-THAN

2. Item 8. Collections for MES
MES-3A and MES-3B

The development of these collections has a very long history. CEN/TC304 WG2 was working on this project at least by 1993. TC304 was unable to come to timely consensus on it, and in 1998 TC304 dissolved its WG2 and discontinued work on the project. The work was taken up by a CEN/ISSS Workshop, independent of TC304. Recognizing that there were different user requirements for subsetting, the Workshop agreed on three. The first two are more or less "legacy" subsets; the third, the MES-3, was seen by many as the most useful. The MES-3 is intended not to be selective of some letters for some languages, but it is intended to cover *all* of the letters belonging to the Latin, Greek, Cyrillic, Armenian, and Georgian scripts. Accordingly, it is, in principle, "self-updating", that is to say, if new characters belonging to those scripts are added to the Standard, it is assumed already that these shall belong to the MES-3. This is made clear in the CWA 13873, the CEN Workshop Agreement on Multilingual European Subsets of ISO/IEC 10646-1. Indeed, during the balloting on the CWA, additional characters were added to the draft because they had been

added to the UCS during the development of the CWA. The Workshop of course approved their addition because the MES-3 automatically includes all the characters used in these scripts.

The National bodies of Ireland and Finland proposed to add the MESes to the UCS; this was done because the MESes are considered useful. There was no mandate from CEN/ISSS or the MES Workshop because it's not the function of CEN/ISSS to "maintain" or otherwise shepherd CWAs and the MES Workshop is closed, having finished its work.

Some members of CEN/TC304 have, rightly, pointed out that there might be some confusion in the names used. The collections given in the actual CWA 13873 document are MES-1, MES-2, MES-3A, and MES-3B. The technical content of the collections proposed by Ireland and Finland for the MES-1 and MES-2 are identical to those in the CWA. The technical contents of the MES-3A and MES-3B, however, are supersets of those in the CWA -- which is something that their very definition anticipates. Ireland does not want to encode the MES-3A and MES-3B as they appear in the CWA, because the CWA's definition of those is obsolete: the UCS has grown and those collections need to be augmented with new Latin, Greek, Cyrillic, and Georgian characters which have since been added to the standard.

Ireland believes that the simplest solution, which will alleviate any confusion, is to rename the subsets to "MES-3A-R" and "MES-3B-R". Alternatively, another name such as "European Scripts Fixed Collection" and "European Scripts Open Collection" could be considered.

Ireland does NOT approve the idea of "removing the blocks because they are controversial". The technical content is just what we want to have in the UCS and we were co-sponsors of the collections in the first place. We do not wish to see delay on the approval of these collections, as a simple name change obviates any possible confusion.