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TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

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Inclusion of the contemporary Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and the UNICODE

The Joint-Stock Company „Fotonija“ wants to emphasize that there are some problems due to absence of Lithuanian accented letters in the international standard ISO/IEC 10646 and the UNICODE:

1. The JSC “Fotonija” produces computer-based dictionaries for Windows, Mac OS X and iOS platforms. Because some of Lithuanian accented letters are absent in the Unicode, it is necessary to use the composed sequences or custom-built fonts. The usage of composed sequences reduces the quality and acceptability of displayed information very much, and the custom-built fonts worsen the properties of the cross-platform software (e. g. there is no possibility to use the custom-built fonts in the smart phones). This aggravates and raises cost of our production (up to approx. 30 %) and worsens its quality and competitive ability. General losses estimated during creation of the computer dictionaries containing Lithuanian accented letters can be estimated to be about 20 % of the project costs.
2. The JSC “Fotonija” produces Lithuanian spell checkers as well as specialized keyboard drivers which are suitable for typing the texts with Lithuanian accented letters. All these products become more expensive by 15 % and are of restricted functionality (e.g. it is impossible to hyphenate a text with composed sequences in any area of MS Office - because some accented letters are absent in the Unicode).
3. The JSC “Fotonija” develops the document search systems for Lithuanian. The situation is nearly catastrophic in this field. Due to the absence of Lithuanian accented letters in the Unicode, a considerable part of information in Lithuanian texts (administrative laws, textbooks, manuals) is inaccessible. A partial solution of this problem by ad hoc means raises the cost of such projects up to 25 % and more.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the Initiative of the Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE.

Director General
of JSC “Fotonija”

Arūnas Samuilis