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Information Technology

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To JTC 1

Swedish contribution to:

Resolution 32 - National Body Input on Strategic Planning

JTC 1 requests its National Bodies and Subcommittees to provide contributions as early as possible during the next Plenary cycle regarding future strategic orientation for JTC 1.

JTC 1 AND ITS FUTURE

JTC 1 has decided to open a new discussion period. Topics may include any changes to working methods however radical or provocative.

Before JTC 1 starts a restructuring of its system, there is a need to understand if the market players will "return" to a restructured JTC 1. **Or is it too late**, independent of what JTC 1 and its interest parties do? Questions are found in section 2.

This document asks a number of important questions, which must be answered before any wider actions should be taken. The document has also an analyses of the changing environments, including outside and inhouse the formal standardisation system.

1 JTC 1 STANDARDISATION OF TODAY

The participation in JTC1 is declining. This statement is not valid for all SC, but a more general observation. For a more in depth analyses, see section 3 and 4.

2 QUESTIONS

Statement: **The ICT-industry and its customers is fast losing its trust in the formal standardisation system.** True or not?

If the formal standardisation bodies change completely or partly their working methods, adoption processes and availability of documents:

- Will the ICT-industry come back and use the system and its results?
- Will the ICT-governmental agencies come back and use the system and its results?
- Will the ICT-procurer (private and governmental) come back and use the system and its results?
- Will the ICT-end users use the results?
- Will the involved parties be willing to finance the system?

Which changes are needed to ensure YES on the five questions above:

- All deliverables, including ISes, shall be available free of charge over the Internet, even if this means that the NBs need extra funding.
- All drafts, including DISes, shall be available free of charge over the Internet, even if this means that the NBs need extra funding.
- A vote should not take place unless at least two independent applications show conformance and interoperability.
- The voting system shall be devoted to the interested parties who have participated in the development and taken their economic responsibility for the system.
- A voting system should be in place during the working processes within the SCs and WGs.
- Voting rights shall only be given to "committed" resources.
- Weighted voting shall be introduced. The system should give more power to the contributors to the system. Ranging from 1 to 5 related to contributions or 1 per company expert and 1 for editorship and
- The start up phase should be given more attention, to ensure the "committed" resources.
- The standardisation system should concentrate the standardisation work on different modules used by the ICT industry, and not on product standardisation.
- The system should be more cost effective for the interested parties who finance and participate in it, as the use of more electronic document development.
- The NB should concentrate on information dissemination.
- Direct participation shall be used at all levels of JTC 1, its SCs and its WGs.
- All secretariats of JTC 1 and its SCs shall be financed directly by the interested parties. This should include all parties, as user and industry associations.
- ???
- ??
- ?

3

THE OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT

A number of drastic changes have been seen in the technical and the market development, they have influenced and will continue to influence the standardisation world.

3.1

The technical development

The technical development gives more intelligence in smaller and lighter-weighted products. As the power of the computers and memories increases the number of applications and what they can do to improve market opportunities, product planning, product development, maintenance and so on will increase.

3.2 The market development

During the seventies and eighties, the market had many more companies involved in IT business, than today. The prices of all products have gone down considerably, due to competition from new companies, and the technical development. The IT evolution and its use within companies, organisations and governments was in its infant period. Today we still have only got a basic understanding of the opportunities and challenges the new information technology techniques can give us.

The globalisation of the market is a fact in the ICT field. (ICT = Information and Communications Technologies)

3.3 The governments

Even if the governments have common intentions to use formal standards for their "public procurement", they very seldom follow their own recommendations. We can see that they do not follow global political agreements such as:

D.1 ECE Governments should in legislation whenever possible use reference to national standards, to regional standards or preferably to international standards when they exist, and should promote the wider application of the method of "reference to standards" by drawing the attention of their competent authorities to the advantages of the method and to the alternative techniques of using it. (Text from UN/ECE/STAND 17/Rev 3)

This recommendation is adopted by the UN/ECE Governments (some 60 of the countries in developed world).

3.4 Efficient use of resources

Private and official organisations have, during the last 5 - 10 years, restructured their management systems and working methods. They evaluate in more detail, which resources they shall use in standardisation. They demand added value out of the participation.

Forums and consortia have recently gained better recognition than the formal standardisation system. These bodies attract the market players for reasons of: better visibility, concentration in a narrower technical field, focus on interested parties in that specific field.

4 THE INHOUSE STANDARDISATION ENVIRONMENT

It is noted that the real and great advantage with the formal standardisation system is its openness, consensus methods and transparency.

4.1 Working methods

The computerised society has influenced the working methods within JTC 1, its SCs and WGs. The paper distribution system has largely disappeared, as has the diskette distribution.

Close to hundred percent of the work is done by electronic means. There are some changes still to be completed, such as electronic voting and electronic draft distribution from ITTF.

The new working methods make it more easy to have more direct information distribution to interested parties.

4.2 Free electronic distribution of drafts and adopted standards

There are a large number of interested parties, who are requesting that the drafts and adopted standards shall be available free of charge when distributed by electronic means.

For your information: ETSI has decided to go this way. This approach was fully implemented by 1998-11-01.

4.3 Work items

A large number of work items have been deleted from the JTC 1/SC work programmes. A large number of standards are entering 5 year maintenance phases.

The number of new work items are very low. It should be noted that standards which are going to be up dated do not create new work items. This fact is a problem for the planning of resources needed within JTC 1 and its SCs.

4.4 Participation

The number of participating experts have decreased substantially in some SCs. However, other SCs are still attracting experts, and even increasing in size. The total sum of involved experts has decreased by at least some 30 (?) %.

4.5 Funding

The work in JTC 1 and its SCs are funded at a variety of levels.

To ensure that the current systems can run, bodies such as:

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need to be funded by the interested parties. The founders have started to ask the question: Do we invest in a system that gives us a corresponding added value?

We, including ITS, are funded by a limited number of the industry, governmental bodies, regulators, and so on. Some national bodies have a substantial part of their income from sales of the documents, while others have a neglectable part of the income coming from refund of the sales.

Note: The ITTF staff is funded by ISO and IEC. IEC funds all editing and printing for DISs and ISs coming from JTC 1/SC 25 and SC 26. The other JTC 1 DISs and ISs are funded by ISO members.

The interested parties are also funding all the experts, who contribute to the work done in the WGs, SCs and at the top level of JTC 1. This is also valid for the work done at the national level.

In some countries the interested parties are contributing the major part of all costs including their own experts, while in other countries there are other ways of finding finance support of the standardisation bodies.

4.6

National Bodies

The major number of the JTC 1 members have seen changes in the financing of them, but also a decreased number of experts in the work. However, some areas are not changing interest. There are even some which have seen increase interest.

5

EXPECTATIONS

Sweden wants to receive feed back on these questions in Section 2 in the beginning of the document.