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European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

ECTRA - European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs

Comité européen des Affaires réglementaires des Télécommunications

CEPT / ECTRA Decision of 2 December 1999

On European Telephony Numbering Space (ETNS) conventions

(ECTRA/DEC (99)04)

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The following members of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom,

Assuming

- 1.

Considering

1. The ETO report on Management, Routing and Portability Aspects of the ETNS
2. The ETO report on the European Telephony Numbering Space (ETNS) Field Trial – Phase 1

Recalling

1. The Council Resolution 92/C 318/02 of 19 November 1992 and the Council Resolution 97/C 303/01 of 22 September 1997
2. The results of the ECTRA consultation on strategic options for numbering of telecommunications services in Europe (ECTRA/PT N Doc. No 277 rev.3), notably that:
 - Europe must take positive action to create a numbering environment that will facilitate harmonised user access and the development of a strong European telecommunication industry
 - Europe should implement a pan-European telephony numbering space for specific pan-European services as soon as possible if corresponding satisfactory global services are not available
3. Strong support from the European Numbering Forum (ENF) for the implementation of the ETNS
4. The First ECTRA Decision of 18 October 1995 Regarding a European Telephony Numbering Space (ETNS)
5. The Second ECTRA Decision of 7 November 1996 Regarding a European Telephony Numbering Space (ETNS)
6. The ITU decision to assign the shared Country Code 388 3 for the ETNS

Defining

Assignment: the granting of the rights of use of European Numbers (ENs) to service providers or users.

Assisted Network: a network that routes all the calls to ENs towards a Serving Network (SgN) it has agreement with in order to complete the call.

ESI Designations: the ESIs (European Service Identities), the specific structure of the associated ENs and the specific conditions attached to each of the ESIs.

ETNS Service: a service using ETNS resources.

ETNS Service Provider: an entity that provides one or more ETNS services to its ETNS subscribers on a contractual basis.

ETNS Subscriber: an entity that has subscribed to an ETNS service

ETNS Translation Database: a database that, in the call process, translates the EN into a Routing Number (RN).

European Number: a number from the ETNS.

Originating Network: a network, either assisted or serving, to which the calling party is connected.

Registration: the assignment of the ENs from designated ESIs, surveillance of the usage conditions and withdrawal of assigned ENs

Reservation: the reservation of the rights of use of ENs for individual Service Providers (SPs) or users. Reservation precedes possible assignment.

Routing Number: a number used to route to the Service Exchange. It can also identify the called party, or the ETNS SP or the originating network for routing purposes.

Service Exchange: an exchange of the Service Network (SN) that triggers the provision of the service on reception of the RN, and then forwards the call.

Service Network: a network that operates one or more Service Exchange(s).

Serving Exchange: an exchange, in the SN, that can interrogate directly or indirectly an ETNS translation database to get a number related to the EN, and then forward the call.

Serving Network: a network with one or several Serving Exchange(s). A SgN, contrary to an Assisted Network, can analyse the whole EN through a database dip.

Decide

That the following conventions will govern the management and use of the ETNS. In case ITU decides not to assign a global resource to the ETNS, the ETNS conventions are not applicable. This ECTRA Decision will enable ETO¹ to prepare for the commercial phase of ETNS management.

EUROPEAN TELEPHONY NUMBERING SPACE (ETNS) CONVENTIONS

1. General

¹ In this context ETO must be understood as the ETO Administrative Council and the ERO Director

Management of the ETNS shall follow the principles of transparency, objectivity, non-discrimination and proportionality, established for the 1998 EU telecommunication liberalisation. An important principle is the portability of ENs (European Numbers) between service providers.

2. Definition of the ETNS

In line with ETSI standards:

- The EN starts with ITU-T Recommendation E.164 Country Code (CC) 388 3.
- The EN has a maximum length of fifteen digits.
- The EN consists of an ESI (between four and seven digits) followed by the European Subscriber Number (ESN - between zero and eleven digits).
- The ESN may be subdivided into a Domain Identity (DI) followed by a Domain Specific Number (DSN).
- In public telephony networks, callers will dial the EN in the international format (+EN) only.

3. Organisations responsible for management of the ETNS

ETO² shall be the responsible organisation for management of the ETNS.

The three functions of management of the ETNS and their corresponding organisations shall be the following:

1. Administrator - the ETO Administrative Council will fulfil the administration function, that is the establishment, detailing and change of the ETNS conventions in conformance with this Decision.
2. Registrar - the ERO Director will fulfil the registration function, that is the assignment, withdrawal, and surveillance of ENs.
3. Advisory Body - the ENF will fulfil the advisory function for advice on ETNS convention issues.

Appeal to an independent body may be necessary for the ETNS. For the initial stages of ETNS implementation, ECTRA will be the Appeal Body. If necessary, based on early experience with the administration of the ETNS, ERO shall prepare proposals, to be approved as a Decision by ECTRA, for the establishment of an independent appeal body, backed up by an appropriate legal framework.

4. Rules for management of the ETNS

The rules for designation of ESIs imply two basic principles:

² In this context ETO must be understood as the ETO Administrative Council and the ERO Director

1. An ETNS telecommunication service should meet the requirement that callers can access it from at least two CEPT countries.
2. The fees for assignment of ENs from the ESIs should only seek to cover the management costs and be proportionate to the work involved. Where scarce resources are involved, the fees may reflect the need to ensure optimal use of these resources.

The designation of ESIs shall be preceded by the development of an initial numbering plan for the ETNS. The plan shall indicate the families of ETNS telecommunications services and the lengths of the ESIs for each first digit behind CC 3883 as far as is considered feasible. The Administrator shall ask advice on the plan from the Advisory Body before deciding on it.

The designation of ESIs to a specific family of ETNS telecommunications services shall include the following:

1. *Proposal* - Any interested party can propose to the Administrator the designation of ESIs to a specific new or existing type of ETNS telecommunication service. The Administrator can also take the initiative. The proposal shall include its rationale. On receiving a proposal, the Administrator shall acknowledge receipt and inform the proposing party about the time scale of the decision-making process as soon as possible. The Administrator may request more information from the proposing party, if required for taking a decision.
2. *Objection and advice* - The Administrator shall publish the proposal and invite interested parties to support or to object to the proposal. It shall forward the proposal to the Advisory Body and to the Registrar for advice. The advice will not be binding. The Administrator shall observe confidentiality concerning commercially sensitive information where requested by the proposing party.
3. *Decision* - The Administrator shall decide on the designation of specific ESIs. This will include the structures of the ESNs behind these ESIs, the definition of the type of ETNS telecommunications service concerned, and the fees for application and assignment of ENs from the ESIs. If default procedures or conditions for assignment of ENs shall not apply to the ENs concerned, the Administrator shall define specific procedures or conditions instead in the ESI designation. The Administrator shall notify the proposing party and the advising parties of the decision, the reasons for it and information about procedures for appeal. The time scale from the receipt of the proposal to the notification shall not cause unnecessary delay in the introduction or development of the type of ETNS telecommunications service concerned.
4. *Appeal* - If a party appeals against the decision, it should do so within two months after notification of the decision. After appropriate hearing of the party that appeals and the Administrator, the Appeal Body shall notify both parties of its decision within three months after receipt of the appeal. The Administrator shall immediately notify the proposing party and the Registrar about the decision.
5. *Publication and recording* - The Administrator shall ensure that the decisions are immediately and appropriately published and recorded by the Registrar.

The rules for the assignment and withdrawal of ENs imply two basic principles:

1. The ETNS shall be a public resource. This implies that the Administrator can only grant rights of use of ENs, and those with rights of use can neither own ENs nor transfer ENs to third parties.
2. A Service Provider (SP) should qualify for offering a particular type of ETNS telecommunications service. This implies that the SP acts as an intermediary between its subscribers and the Registrar, makes applications for ENs on behalf of its subscribers and cannot apply for ENs that are not requested by its subscribers.

An objection against a decision on ENs by the Registrar shall be directed to the Registrar first. If the Registrar's decision does not satisfy the objecting party, the party shall direct its second objection to the Administrator. If the objecting party is not satisfied by the Administrator's decision on the objection either, it shall, as a last resort, direct its appeal to the Appeal Body. The appeal procedures, including the time scales, are as for appeal against the Administrator's decisions on ESI designations (see items 3 and 4 above).

The principles set out above are without prejudice to transitional arrangements that the Administrator might develop for the initial stages of implementation of the ETNS, where it considers these necessary for technical reasons. Any such transitional arrangements shall be strictly time-limited and shall include provisions to facilitate migration to a number assignment system that fully respects the above principles.

5. Technical framework of the ETNS

The NRAs shall allocate Routing Numbers (RNs) to the Service Networks.

The structure and the assignment procedures of RNs shall be the responsibility of NRAs.

As long as the situation is simple, the distributed approach will be the most suitable mechanism for the distribution of RNs. In the future, the Administrator will, if requested, consider the introduction of a centralised approach based on the use of a third party (other than the Registrar).

The entities involved shall make their own commercial agreements regarding the location of ETNS translation databases.

The network operators and SPs shall make their own commercial agreements regarding the offering of ETNS translation services.

6. Number portability for ETNS services

Number portability between SPs shall exist for ENs; that is, it shall be possible for a subscriber of an ETNS service to change SP for this specific service retaining the same EN. All ENs shall be portable except those that contain an explicit indication of the SP.

In the short term, the distribution of RNs due to the provision of number portability shall use a distributed approach. In the end, if requested, the Administrator will consider a migration toward a centralised approach based on the use of a third party.