ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 3
7-bit and 8-bit codes and their extension
SECRETARIAT : ELOT

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1.   Opening of Meeting (14:00) Prof. Shibano (SC 2 Acting Chair)

Input documents:
1. ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 3 N 386 TITLE: Revised Draft Agenda for the 12th Meeting of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 3

2.   Roll call of delegates
Israel, Norway, Ireland, China, Korea, Turkey, Romania, Egypt, Unicode, US, Japan, Canada, UK, Greece, Netherlands, Poland, Vietnam, France (proxy), Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland

3.   Adoption of Agenda
Document: N 386 (Several agenda items were added)

4.   Appointment of Recording Secretary

Dr. Uma volunteered to take notes.

5.   Project: 02.20

5.1   Project 02.20.08   Mr. S. Fuchs
Disposition of comments on CD 8859-8, Latin/Hebrew
Document: N 370 (SC 2 N 2763), N 372 (SC 2 N 2860), N 373 (SC 2 N 2861)

5.2   Project: 02.20.12   Mr. M. Everson
Disposition of Comments on CD 8859-12, Latin alphabet No. 7 (Celtic)
Document: N 370(SC 2 N 2763), N 374 (SC 2 N 2842), N 375 (SC 2 N 2843)

5.3   Project: 02.20.11   Mr. J. van Wingen, Mr. S. Boonmatat
Disposition of Comments on CD 8859-11, Latin Thai
Document: N 370(SC 2 N 2763), N 376 (SC 2 N 2785), N 377 (SC 2 N 2838)

5.4   Project 02.20.01 to 6, 9, 10, and 13
Preliminary Disposition of Comments on DIS 8859-1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10,13

5.5   Project: 02.20.07   Mr. E. Melagrakis
Status of Revision of ISO/IEC 8859-7: 1987, Latin/Greek

5.6   Project: 02.20.xx
Status of 8859 Part xx, Latin/Devanagari character set

5.7   Project: 02.20.all
8859 Layout
Document: N 378 (SC 2 N 2827), N 379 (SC 2 N 2828), N 380 (SC 2 N 2829)

There was an editor's meeting concerning the progress of the various parts of project 02.20, ISO/IEC 8859 parts. Several resolutions were adopted as a result of this meeting, see document WG3 N401
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6.   Project: 02.26 Mr. KI Larsson
Disposition of Comments on CD 1073-2.3, OCR-B
Document: N 381 (SC 2 N 2836), N 383 (SC 2 N 2874)

KI Larsson: Most comments were resolved. Romania balloted negative because of 'comma below' versus 'cedilla below'. We could not accept it on the grounds that there are no 8-bit codes at the present time. There are no glyphs at present.
CD should be converted to a type 2 TR. Recommendation - N383 (N2874) -- caution: wrong attachment of WG3 document sent by SC 2 secretariat attached to N 2874.

Sweden - Would like to take away the informative TR recommendation. We wanted it in the IS document.

KI Larsson: Lot of effort has gone into designing and fonts of the previous edition. Unless further testing is done on the current proposed shapes of characters my recommendation is either process it as a TR or delay the publication till further testing is done.

Johan van Wingen: Afraid that if we publish it only as a TR no one may take up the testing. No testing means we cannot progress. A vicious circle?

B. Paterson:
I would support the proposal that this work become a TR. To address the concerns raised by Mr. van Wingen, we should highlight which characters have gone through testing and which ones are new.

Erkki Kolehmainen:If there is a marketing requirement, some one from the industry / user community would be interested in testing. Is it so that there is no market requirement?
Otherwise there should be competing interests.

KI Larsson: The original reqt came from extending the MRTD from current status to be able to read accented characters. SC 17 has now decided that it is sufficient to stay with current A to Z for passport etc. The current market reqt. has disappeared.

E. Melagrakis: At least in Europe there is a well known requirement for extending OCR-B characters etc. The current OCR-B readers do not read them -- because there are no current standards. It is a circular argument situation. We should promote it to a DIS stage and promote the standardization. It is our chance to see if we can break the cycle.

Uma: The so called marketing reqt seems to have disappeared. As to the testing reqt. we can easily promote the TR also as a basis of testing.

KI Larsson: We can easily transfer the document to an DIS or a DTR. However, there is no point in producing paper that is not being used.

Thorvardur Ollafson: CEN TC304 has been supporting this project. Would like to see it become a standard.

KI Larsson: I am not able to find sufficient testing support in Sweden. We do not have commitment for testing from any group that we have contacted.

Michael Everson: Under the Vienna agreement CEN TC 304 would be willing to take up the standardization if SC 2 is unwilling to progress it for some reason or the other.

J. van Wingen: Suggest an ad hoc group to discuss this. If we have to choose between giving the work to CEN TC 304 for standardization or keep it under ISO and produce a TR. We can review the situation after a year or so.

KI Larsson: The report will have the same content as the present as the current CD. For testing one would require OCR-B fonts. Details on the technology being tested.

E. Melagrakis: Either we do no/inferior work or produce by cooperating with other committees and get asistance in testing. We could see if CEN TC304 can assist us.

Everson: I am not sure how enacting the Vienna agreement can help the situation. We could take the TR and make a work item towards progressing it to a standard.

KI Larsson: I have been working on this for about four countries --and have established the repertoire. It has been accepted by the Latin countries for OCR-B. The outlines have been accepted too. We do not have the repertoires of Greek etc.

Uma: Our past efforts towards finding additional sources for assisting us with testing. The best current route seems to be going in the direction of TR.

> *RESOLUTION :*
> **We accept the recommendation to convert CD to TR type 2.**
> **The drafting of the TR should contain the suggested text by Mr. Paterson.**
> **KI Larsson has provided as the rationale in WG 2 N383.**
> **Normal review period of TR in ISO will suffice.**
>
> **12 NBs for TR Type 2, 2 NBs for DIS and 4 no position**

> *RESOLUTION :*
> **Need to find the procedure to convert CD to TR Type 2. Need an explanatory text containing the rationale.**

7.   Project: 02.16Mr. J. W. van Wingen
Disposition of Comments on CD 7350, Registration of repertoires of graphic characters from ISO/IEC 10367, 384
Input Document: N 384 (SC 2 N 2880), N397

J. van Wingen: a. Remove the term 'from ISO/IEC 10367' in the title.
b.   Collections are not same as repertoire. -
Canada, US Negatives cannot be resolved.

E. Melagrakis: CD seems to be based entirely on 6429. The subrepertoires are identified using the ESCape sequences (IGS) control functions - for example. This control function cannot take any byte value other than 0 to 9.
I am not sure how we can use 6429 controls and sub repertoires of 10646. We feel that the subrepertoires of 10646 cannot be accessed.

B. Paterson: This is not correct -- one can have sequences of 0 to 9.
If we have any defects in 6429 we can fix this off line.

Shibano: Suggest - that we have a technical ad hoc group on this subject.

Johan van Wingen: I am prepared to remove references to 6429 from 7350.
Technical points were debated. Mr. Melagrakis explained that there are several problems in the current proposal.

Ekki Kolehmainen: A large number of NBs have accepted in WG 2 -- the identification of collections in Annex A of 10646. There were 20+ national bodies in WG 2 voting for that resolution. If FInland had the benefit of the discussion in the WG 2 and now in WG 3 we would have voted negative for 7350 revision.

Johan van Wingen: We should respect the wishes of the large number of NBs. We cannot go on the basis of two negative ballots.

Canada - The reasons given in the Disposition of Comments by the Editor is not accurate and does not reflect the facts.
I urge WG3 to reconsider the position on CD 7350 etc. against having multiple registration procedures in SC 2.

Everson: Whatever the procedures etc. we may respect the wishes of NB. I do not wish to loose too much time.

Norway: I would like to hear formal arguments in favour of CD 7350 going ahead. I listen only arguments against this.

M. Suignard: We have the same concern as Canada. Our concerns have NOT been adequately resolved.

Johan van Wingen: Do you want to continue with this or not? OR, do we believe that there is no future on this?

Uma: Suggest that we have an ad hoc and resolve the outstanding issues. If I have to make a suggestion we should request SC 2 for a policy decision on how many registration means or equivalents we should have in SC 2.

Shibano: There are currently two ISO registries -- 2375 an 7350 within the scope of SC 2 standards.

J. van WIngen: We stop this item of discussion at this time -- return to the agenda item for about 15 minutes before we take any decision.

B. Paterson: Two NBs - Canada and US have indicated that Annex on collection ids will suffice identification of subsets of 10646. I do not believe it is possible - I would like to see a documentation on this. We should invite a written proposal from US and Canada as to how the use Collection ID can be extended to meet all the requirements. We hold CD 7350 till that document is presented.

Mike Ksar: US intends to do with cooperation with Canada. I agree - we will take it as an action item.

Finland: I do not share the pessimism of Mr. Paterson, I think the proposal of Mr. Paterson is a good one.

Shibano: Sweden had a proposal in an earlier SC 2 plenary. In 1993 - 10646 was published. At that time we did not have a means to identify subrepertoires of 10646. We can agree to ask US and Canada to make some preparation. Would like to know the reaction of CEN TC 304, also from Japan on Japanese sub repertoires, and input to US and Canada.

Mr. Glover??: SC 31 - has a requiremet to identify sub repertoires in their work. They will be willing to identify our requirements.

Mr. Everson: We have a requirement from CEN TC 304 - on the minimum subrepertoire requirement.

Mike Ksar: We will welcome all requirements from everyone concerned.
Mr. Johan van WIngen: I can live with suspending the processing of CD 7350. As to the disposition of comments we can hold this also back. I can await the required report.

Uma: Canada will be more than pleased to cooperate with the US NB.
I would like to point out that the IGS in 6429 refers to 6429 only.
SC 31 -- the key issue is not having just a standard. There is also a registration mechanism and is maintained in a contiguous and a real time manner.

A. Winkler: Would like to know from Mr. van Wingen - the user requirements.

Resolution :
Suspend the processing of CD 7350. Invite NBs of US and Canada to prepare a document explaining how Annex A of 10646 will suffice. Invite other NBs and LOs to input to US and NBs.

8.   Project: 02.13Mr. W. F. Bohn
Status of Revision of ISO/IEC 6429: 1992, Control Functions for
coded character sets

Shibano:Identification sub repertoires of 10646 are another set.
There were also other outstanding requests.
If no progress is made on this standard - the project may be discontinued.

E. Melagrakis: There are several other changes that are needed, in order to use this standard with 10646. We have this reason for revising the standard.

Uma: We can look at the requirements that led to the Revision of the standard. If these are NOT valid any more it should be stopped. The 6429 be reconfirmed as is.

Sato: Suggest that we stop this project now. Await clear definition of the requirement, project definition, schedules and a project editor -- then we can open it up for revision.

Resolution:
WG3 will recommend to SC 2 to cancel the planned revision of 6429.

9.   Project: 02.14.01   Mr. K. Simonsen
Revision of ISO/IEC 6937, Code graphic character set for text communication

Simonsen: We have a requirement for revision of 6937. We would like to get the revisable soft copy of the document.

van Wingen: We can make technical corrections to existing standards - and we do not need a separate project. Due to resource restrictions I would suggest only a list of technical corrections. Mr. Guy Bernard (Unisys?) may have the original text.

K. Simonsen: We had decided to align 6937 with some of the things we did with 8859. I am quite prepared to do that.

E. Melagrakis: No revision to 6937 should be done without a clear dialog with ITU-T. This should be done with liaison / cooperation between ITU-T and SC 2. If it is minor corrections / revisions to be done we can do it.

A. Winkler: Mr. Guy Bernard has left Unisys - may not be able to contact him and get the source.
Uma: Do we need to maintain 6937 - ITU-T SG8 has withdrawn Telematic Services Teletex T.61. It is in T.51. There is also a move to use of 10646 in Telemeatic services.

S. Fuchs: Not sure as to what is exactly happening in ITU-T at this time. SG 8 is still active and the coding question is maintained. T.51 - is frozen. The tendency of ITU coding work is to rely more on 10646. Not sure if they will be interested in T.61.

K. Simonsen: The scope of the revision was only to take care of technical defects reported and to align 6937. If we have a liaison to ITU-T it will happen in due course.

B. Paterson: We should be very careful to limit the revision in scope to fix defects and to Harmonize 6937 only. We do not want to have a discussion similar to 8859 on 6937.

J. van WIngen: I agree with Mr. Paterson -- if we are not precise enough -- to take names from 6937; as to affecting the repertoire of 6937 we may do other stuff also. We may be undermining the dependency of repertoires from other standards as well. We may entertain 'Technical Corrections'. For example, we have 'MUSIC NOTE' versus 'QUARTER NOTE', 'HALF NOTE' etc.

K. Simonsen: I would think we should be able to add some corrections for example to add Romanian characters to the standard. Welsh is another European character set. It is an official EU language. Revision may include these also.

Shibano: We need a document containing the scope of the revision of the standard in writing for us to take a look at it. It seems to be beyond the expectations of other WG 3 members. We have to get feedback from ITU-T also and must have a clear understanding of the revision of the standard. The scope is to harmonize and to eliminate defect reports, and not to expand the repertoire.

K. Simonsen: I do need directions from this WG to enable me to proceed.

KI. Larsson: Sweden is willing to provide a harmonized table if there is input needed.

E. Melagrakis: I think we should not go beyond alignment of 6937 with 10646 and deal with Technical Defects. This should be done in conjuction with ITU-T. It is not merely a SC 2 standard, it is a standard prepared in cooperation with ITU-T.

Uma: 6937 -- is it used only by ITU-T? We need their input.

K. Simonsen: It is used by several ISO standards also.

Denmark: We may want to extend the repertoire also.

B. Paterson: We can talk about any Denmark requirement to extend the standard's repertoire.

J. van Wingen: There are several implementations using the repertoire of 6937. We should be careful in extending this.

Resolution :
Scope of revision of 6937 is to deal with Technical Reports and to restrict to alignment with 10646 names only. Invite the project editor to prepare a scope document.

10.   Project: 02.22Mr. J. W. Van Wingen
Status of Revision of ISO/IEC 10367:1991, Standardized coded graphic character sets for use in 8 bits codes

Mr. Johan van Wingen: The intent is to revise 10367 - is alignment of the standard with 10646. It is not used in practice. The scope will be limited to Technical Corrigendum on 10367.

Resolution :
WG 3 resolves to change the title of project from Revision to Technical Corrigendum. Scope is to correct technical errors only.

11.   Review of Programme of Work

11.1   New Projects, Subdivision/Minor enhancement
11.1.1 New Part of 8859   National Body of Romania
Input Document: N 385 (SC 2 N 2882)

Romania: Their four characters are in 10646. It contains Romanian quotation marks and French and Italian used in Romania. There is no conflict between Turkey and Romania.

M. Everson - CEN TC304 WG 3 - we had a straw poll. We are in support of this Romanian request. This the only way to migrate the existing data to the future.   Also, alignment with Italian and French -- may be the Euro sign will be included also, is considered useful. We would propose to change the Euro sign in place of Plus/Minus sign. This will be the last time change - what would be the reaction?

B. Paterson: At the CEN TC304 meeting - there was a negative vote from UK. The reason for this was the code table has not been registered. Are there any plans to implement them? The answer was NO. Would like to see a registration - and would like to see evidence of sufficient community first.

Mike Ksar: In SC 2 WG 2 we have guidelines and criterion to look at each character that is proposed in 10646. Till we hear a valid requirement statement we should not even entertain such a request. We have not had a chance to discuss this in the NBs. We cannot take a position at this time.

Alain LaBonté: On behalf of Francophonie countries - I would support Romanian request. Would like to see an alignment with Latin-0 proposal.

Mr. Fuchs: Part-2 is not satisfying their requirement, and there seems to be a requirement of another part of 8859 to satisfy their requirement. As to the code table, we can make a decision later.

Mike Ksar: We have decided in 10646 to add characters in WG 2. I would suggest that in the light of 10646 addition, we need to consider another part of 8859 for Romanian. US would object to proceeding on this part till we had a discussion in NB.

Shibano: The proposal is itself uncertain. You may change the proposal with Euro sign.

Alain LaBonté: We are not at the position of CD draft etc. We are at the NP only. There is a requirment based on combined on Romanian, French and Italian. There is a justification for such a part. We should not delay the progression of the New Work Item proposal. The proposed draft may not be stable - we can certainly agree that it is not stable.

Simonsen: We should go for a combined NP, registration of the CD and CD ballot. I am still suggesting a revised document to be submitted to SC 2 for a letter ballot.

Shibano: We cannot process this document in its current form as a combined document.

Sweden: We are reluctant to any new parts of 8859.

US: Our objective is not to increase the number of 8859 parts.

Alain LaBonté: It should be possible to agree in principle that there is a requirement. We should be able to at least agree on a direction to Romania in principle.

Mike Ksar: This is not a mature document and we should not discuss this in SC2.

Shibano: This matter - there are explicit objections to new parts.

E. Melagrakis: The matter of registration is in the hands of Romania. They can propose a new work item proposal. The result of ballot can give us some direction.

Norway: The weaknesses have been noted in the proposal document. It should be clear from the repertoire. The instability of Euro is forced upon the whole set of 8859 series and not just Romanian. There are positions taken by US - no more parts of 8859, is a Principle Discussion and not just for Romanian.
I would like to agree with the problems not solved by parts of 8859.

S. Fuchs: We have discussed some of these problems in WG2. Even if these characters are in 10646 - it is not enough for the 8-bit code environment. In an earlier meeting we had concluded that the only solution to Romanian problem was to have a new part. Romania could be invited to improve the contribution - if the current document is not clear enough. As to new parts of 8859, we had discussion a few years ago and we do have several new parts for 8859 since then. We cannot subscribe to the argument that we do not need new parts of 8859. The situation in Romania - the industry seems to be imposing solutions to Romania. The local providers are not geared up yet.

K. Simonsen: At this point we think that there is sufficient rationale for an NP. It does not have to have a final or stable text. We are supporting new national body requirements as the requirements change - we believe there is sufficient merit. We need business justification - Romania having a 10 million people to justify it; the economic condition of the country is also improving to demand more IT equipement etc. using our standards. We do subscribe to business justification needs - and in this case we believe it is there.

M. Everson: In WG 3, the characters were to be requested of 10646. 8859-2 was meant to be for use by Romania - there is a reluctance to change the contents of 8859-2 and this part cannot support Romania. The appropriate thing to do was to support a new part of 8859 without any delay and progress it.

S. Fuchs: Romania has almost 25 million and not 10 million.

E. Melagrakis: We have an application for a new work item. Why are we waiting and discussing this. These are facts.

Canada: I propose we progress the contribution from Romania - to request Romania to prepare a new sub division proposal and SC 2 to send the document for letter ballot for new work item proposal discussion.

Resolution :
Accept the Canadian proposal.

11.1.2 A new series of 8 bit code standards containing non-spacing characters
Input Document: N 382 (SC 2 N 2862)   National Body of Canada

Canada is satisfied that the document is taken as an input into SC2 discussion. We can probably produce an analysis report.

B. Paterson: There are short recommendations in N 382. Can we accept this in WG 3 or not. I would prefer that these be examined.

J. van Wingen: The email discussions can produce a report to SC 2.

US: Not enough NBs have had the chance to study this.
We need to take a decision at the SC 2 plenary.

11.1.3 N 387, N 388 changed to N 388R - Latin 0

Discussion: Sponsored by several countries, it was also supported by CEN TC304 WG 3.
Typo corrections to document N 388 were noted by Alain La Bonté
There were at least 11 countries supporting this proposal.
The resolution requested is to go for concurrent NP, registration and FCD.

When France / Canada originally proposed the solution Euro and the missing characters for French were proposed, other languages were missing characters.

US: We have NOT discussed this by the national bodies

B. Paterson: We should treat this the same way as Romanian.

Alain La Bonte: The difference is that NP proposal, simultaneous registration and proposed FCD ballot.

Shibano: SC 2 can decide how to progress it further.
Straw vote:
Do you support the three NP, combined registration proposal?

Resolution :
Go for progressing N388R: NP proposal, simultaneous registration and proposed FCD ballot.
Approve: 12
Against: UK, Netherlands, Japan
Abstain: 4 China, UK, Egypt, Poland

11.1.4 Latin-Sami
Input document N394

Norway: Based on several Nordic countries, we decided to make it national standards first. Request to remove the item from the agenda.

11.1.5 Vietnamese
Input documents: N317, N351, N391

J. van Wingen: This document presents a clear scheme for Vietnamese. Glad to see this in the document.
Unfortunately we are blocked by the problem of combining characters in 8859 series. We may have to wait.

Mr. Viet: In Helsinki meeting we had input our requirement on Vietnamese. At that time we had the problem of IT
industry was not ready. These problems have been addressed in cooperation with international companies. We have
spent almost 10 years on fully composed characters. We have more than 20 code tables. In 1996 - using the combining
characters CP 1252 in cooperation with MS, was developed. We worked with IBM and they have CP 1129 in their
scheme. MS have Office 97 and Windows 95 with this encoding method implemented. It is time that we should have
an IS as soon as possible In N 391 we have our proposal. We would like to get a part of 8859, including the combining
characters. - it is important for us to go ahead as soon as possible.

J. van Wingen: A restricted set of sequences may be allowed in the standard. In Thai we have a similar situation. If we
could write the standard based on similar principles for other similar standards also, then we can produce valid
standards.

Uma: The Vietnamese NB has done quite a bit of work based on the feedback given them from WG 3 meetings in
Quebec city and the comments included on discussion paper on the table. In order to avoid any further delays we could
give the NB an instruction to prepare the FCD etc.

Mr. Paterson: We do not have NP today. Should we go ahead?

Mr. van Wingen: Would suggest - you can make this a national standard first.
SC 31: From the member groups, there is a certainly a market requirement, and there is a need for the standard.

Shibano: We have the problem of not having a decision on the combining characters.
We welcome the Vietnamese proposal.

Resolution :
WG3 invites Vietnam to prepare a new work item proposal and submit to SC2 / JTC 1/SC2

11.1.6 Character Glyph Model   N392, N393
N 395 - Character Set Model - proposal for a TR

E. Melagrakis: It is a combined WG 2 and WG 3 work item.

Shibano: There has not been enough detail behind this - we could discuss this in SC 2.

Sato: This has not been discussed in SC 22. Also I would like to get a clearer view of the subject matter before we can
make a decision.

Uma: I also had a suggestion that the author was taken it to address in the workshop between SC2, SC22 and SC 18.

K. Simonsen: The need for this topic came from Denmark. I can discuss and submit on the details of the intent of the
TR. I also agree that this is not WG 3 matter alone. It was my idea that WG 3 may have a more input on this.
I welcome all inputs on this topic. This is a follow up to a disposition of comments on SC 2.

11.2   Renumbering

Discussion: The renumbering sequence is required. We would like to realign the numbers. There were some e-mail
discussions on this topic.

Would secretariat tell us what the numbers are now?

Parts 1 through Part 10 - are fixed.
Part 11 - Latin / Thai
Part 12 - Latin / Devanagari
Part 13 - Latin - 7 (Baltic)
      Part 13 - is approved and is a DIS. Preferable to keep the number.
Part 14 - Latin - 8 (Celtic)

Everson: Since there is a hole for Devanagari - we will have a discontinuity. We can either make Part 12 Latin-7 and Part 13 - Latin-8 or Part 12 - Latin-8 and Part 13- Latin-7.
Uma: Propose that Part 12 is reserved. So that we can move on.

Everson: A possible future Latin-9 should not be assigned part 12. It will look odd.
There was some confusion in the letter ballot assignment.

Agreed: To above list.

11.3　Target Dates and priorities

12.　Nomination/Confirmation of Project Editor

Combined Ballot for Latin-0 : Alain Labonté

Discussion: Planned revision of 6429 has been cancelled. We need an appreciation of resolution to Mr. Willy Bohn.

13.　Recommendation for the new Convener

The new convener is Mr. Melagrakis. Before the WG 3 meeting we had two nominees.
Mr. van Wingen: I withdraw the nomination. I had certain ideas about WG 3 when I was originally under the impression of some work load for WG 3. This meeting discussion has shown that the scope is bigger than thought. He read from a quotation of what an ideal convener should be - congratulated Mr. Melagrakis.

Resolution :
WG 3 welcomes Mr. Melagrakis as our new convener and look forward to his future leadership and direction in the work of WG.

Mr. Melagrakis - I hope I can serve the needs of the WG 3 NBs well. Thank you.,

14.　Subsequent meetings

It was agreed to discuss the subsequent meeting schedule in SC2

15.　Approval of resolutions

Resolutions were approved as in document WG3 N 401

16.　Any other business

17.　Closure of meeting

Meeting closed at 18:50h.