



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Information Society and Media Directorate-General

The Director-General

Brussels, **20 VI 2005**  
INFSO-B1/LK/sh D(2005)621900

Dr Karl-Heinz Rosenbrock  
Director-General ETSI  
650, Route des Lucioles  
F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex  
France

Dear Dr Rosenbrock,

**Subject: The harmonised implementation of Cell Broadcast for public security alert**

The tsunami in South East Asia of December last year has renewed the attention of public authorities to systems for alerting the public in the case of an imminent threat or to mitigate the consequences of a major disaster. GSM Cell Broadcast (CB) is a possible candidate for enhancing current systems for public alert.

Various countries are planning to install CB for public security alert, both in Europe and in Asia. However, as the implementation is insufficiently standardised, there is a risk of different and incompatible implementations.

As the maintenance and further development of the GSM technical specifications is currently carried out by 3GPP, I would be grateful if you could request 3GPP as soon as possible to launch the necessary actions to develop a technical specification for CB on existing GSM networks for public safety purposes. The Annex provides the main issues that need further standardisation work.

I understand that the next opportunity to launch this work is the 3GPP TSG-SA1 Meeting #29 in Povoá de Varzim, Portugal, from 11-15 July 2005 and that a Work Item Description is already under preparation by industry for approval by the SA1 meeting in July and the SA Plenary meeting in September.

This work requested is specific to the use of the CB service for public alert purposes over existing GSM networks. This request does not address the further development of CB service features as part of more integrated concepts for use of evolved GSM network by public safety and security authorities. Such work would require an extension of the GSM/UMTS protocol and would inevitably take more time to implement.

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: BU24 3/43. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2968637. Fax: (32-2) 2968391.

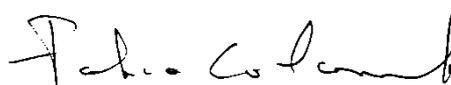
E-mail: Leo.Koolen@cec.eu.int

This request does not address either issue related to the integrity of the end-to-end alert system and/or the chain of command. The necessary procedures and technical measures for authentication and validation of alert messages as well as preventing false messages being sent through intrusion into the GSM network and other related issues will need to be discussed and agreed by separate course of action involving the relevant authorities and industry.

Once a technical specification for CB has been agreed, it is anticipated that operators will implement the specification on a voluntary basis.

I would appreciate it if you could keep me informed about progress made.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabio Colasanti', written in a cursive style.

Fabio Colasanti

cc: Michele Zarri  
Chairman of 3GPP SA1  
T-Mobile Business Park  
Hatfield AL10 9BW  
United Kingdom

3GPP SA1 Secretary  
Michael Clayton  
ETSI  
650, Route des Lucioles  
F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex  
France