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European Telecommunications Standards Institute

**SPAN11 Interim**

**14 to 18 May 2001**

**Sophia-Antipolis**

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**Title: Liaison statement to ETSI EP M-COMM and 3GPP on Mobile and Electronic Commerce**

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**Document for: Action**

*Note: This liaison statement was initiated at the closing plenary of the SPAN11 interim meeting, 14 to 18 May 2001, but was revised following debate on the SPAN11\_NAR exploder after the meeting.*

Through this liaison, SPAN 11 kindly requests your assistance with providing information about the need of E.212 Mobile Networks Codes (MNCs) for the purpose of mobile commerce (m-commerce) and electronic commerce (e-commerce).

The information needed covers an explanation about the use of MNCs under national Mobile Country Codes (national MCCs), an explanation about the reason why the use of credit card devices is not enough to achieve m- and e-commerce from mobile terminals and the result of a possible discussion about the use of MNCs behind shared MCCs instead of national MNCs.

This need arises because SPAN 11 is contributing to work on the possible use of 3-digit E.212 Mobile Network Codes (MNCs) within Europe generated by possible future needs, specially those for m-commerce and e-commerce.

### **Background**

The format and use of MNCs is specified in ITU Recommendation E.212 (“The international identification plan for mobile terminals and mobile users”). Being the second field of the International Mobile Station Identity (IMSI), the MNC uniquely identifies the home network of a mobile terminal or a mobile user within a country or a group of Networks.

For countries, the number of digits of the MNC may be 2 to 3 digits: the choice of this length is a national matter.

Up to now, European countries have chose to use MNCs exclusively in 2-digit form.

Arising from work in the UMTS Forum on naming, addressing and identification issues associated with the commencement of third generation mobile services, there is concern in some circles, including the European Commission and some national regulatory authorities, that the quantity of MNCs available under a 2-digit scheme in a given country may, in the medium- to long-term, be exhausted for the following reasons mainly related to the arrival of new actors:

- Existing mobile networks which may need additional MNCs due to exhaustion of their stocks of International Mobile Station Identities;
  - Third generation mobile networks which will need new MNCs;
  - TETRA networks providing inter-system roaming capabilities;
  - MVNOs;
- And in the longer term –
- m- and e-commerce providers;
  - Fixed networks with mobility requirements.

Here, we focus on the m- and e-commerce issues that have been raised in SPAN 11. SPAN 11 needs to understand in what precise circumstances m- and e-commerce providers may require MNCs. SPAN 11 would also benefit from understanding whether credit card devices to be used in conjunction with mobile terminals for the purpose of these types of commerce might not be sufficient and whether MNCs would be needed further to their use.

This liaison seeks your assistance in improving this understanding.

### **Assistance Sought**

SPAN 11 seeks your advice on the following questions:

- From a technical and regulatory perspective, why MNCs may be necessary for m- and e-commerce? In what quantity are they needed?
- In the context of 3G networks, what is meant exactly by m- and e-commerce providers, and what would be their respective roles and relationship with mobile networks? Which type of entities could be allocated MNCs for this purpose?
- Will the current standardized technologies like SIM Tool Kit, that enables credit card devices to be used with mobile terminals, be insufficient to support all expected forms of m- and e-commerce?
- In case it is shown that MNCs are necessary or desirable for m- and e-commerce, would it be feasible to utilize MNCs in conjunction with a shared MCC instead of the present-day use of MNCs that are assigned from a national MCC? That is, would it be feasible for 3G networks to recognise an MCC that is not assigned to a single country but from which MNCs may be made available to eligible organisations anywhere in the world?

SPAN 11 proposes to use the information that you provide to:

- improve its own understanding of possible market structures m- and e-commerce providers, and the numbering, addressing and routing implications of these market structures;
- incorporate it into work being progressed about the possible use of 3-digit MNCs within European countries.

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