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GSM Europe

The European interest group of the GSM Association

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AGREED POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF 3 DIGIT MOBILE NETWORK CODE

GSME organised a workshop in order to bring together all players involved during the last year and a half in the discussions on 3 digit MNCs. The scope of the workshop was to clarify the outstanding questions surrounding the need for the introduction of 3 digit MNCs and come to a common conclusion on the subject.

The workshop was attended by GSM Europe operators, 3GPP delegates, UMTS Forum, ETSI, ENF, ITU-T, ECO/ERO and the European Commission.

As an outcome of discussions, all parties around the table agreed on the following set of conclusions:

- ?? The level of demand at present and in the foreseeable future for allocation of MNC will not produce a shortage of this resource. There is therefore no commercial or technical drivers for expansion of the existing 2 digit MNC structure to 3 digit.
- ?? Two trends can be identified in the mobile industry:
 - o New architecture concepts and technical enablers (e.g. migration towards IP networks)
 - o New business models, increasingly open to new players

In this new 3G environment, E.212 (IMSI) will play a less important role, technically, for functions such as routing to and identification of engaged parties. Using the IMSI code could potentially be risky as it would introduce a barrier to entry for the IP conversant application community which is not familiar with IMSI principles.

- ?? The design of new architecture concepts such as the IP multimedia subsystem and OSA (open services architecture) will enable new business models which permit various partnership arrangements involving all market actors.

In accordance with the above conclusions, the workshop agreed that no further work was needed on the question of 3 digit Mobile Network Code.

London, 27 February 2002