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Members of 3GPP will be aware Working Party 1/2, of the International Telecommunication Union – Standardization Sector (ITU-T) held a meeting of its collaborators in Berlin, Germany, 19-26 October 2000. At this meeting there was a. discussion on a request from Switzerland to the ITU-TSB for the assignment of an additional E.212 Mobile Country Code (MCC) for 3rd Generation Mobile Networks.

It was realised that technical limitations and the potential demand for such resources related to 3rd Generation Mobile and other network developments needed to be fully understood prior to making any assignments. Any technical limitations which would prohibits mixed 2- and 3-digit MNCs being introduced within the same MCC also needed to be fully understood, including any potential short-term solutions.

ITU-T SG2 requested the urgent assistance of ETSI in resolving the above issues in order to provide advice to the ITU-TSB.

ETSI SPAN 11 was given the task of ensuring the required information was supplied to ITU-T SG2 at their next meeting to be held in Geneva, September 4th to 14th.

Following discussions within the European Numbering Forum (ENF) SPAN 11 is aware that a significant part of the work is being undertaken within 3GPP in conjunction with the GSM Association and it is believed that 3GPP will shortly be announcing the results of their studies.

SPAN 11 consider that the results of this study is a crucial part of the answer to be given to ITU SG2 and would very much appreciate that 3GPP liaise them the results of their MNCs study as soon as it is available.

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