Rationale
Currently, within ETSI the activities on the radio access network for UTRAN are carried out mainly within SMG2, where the following subgroups have been defined:

- Layer 1 Expert Group – aiming to the definition of layer 1 specifications of UTRAN and to the evaluation of its radio performance
- Layer 2 & 3 Expert Group – aiming to the definition of layer 2 & 3 specifications and evaluation
- Architecture Expert Group – aiming to the definition of the radio dependent aspects of the UTRAN architecture
- ITU Expert Group – whose role is the co-ordination of the contributions towards ITU-R TG8/1.

This structure is covering the RAN TSG work areas (as indicated in the invitation letter).

Moreover, in the past, SMG2 also specified the radio performance for GSM base stations and terminals. Finally, when some particularly hot topic (such as Edge and CTM) had to be finalised, temporary working groups have been established in order to speed up the technical work.

The SMG2 organisation resulted in a success for the development of UTRAN up to now and for the definition of the GSM radio specifications. Therefore, this document proposes to maintain in the RAN TSG the same structure as it is currently defined in SMG2.

Proposal
It is proposed to split the RAN TSG in the following four subgroups:

- Layer 1 Group – with the mandate to:
  - Define the layer 1 specifications (Layer 1 on MT-RAN Interface)
  - Specify the radio performance
  - Specify the conformance tests for testing of radio aspects of base stations
  This subgroup should establish a strong liaison with the Terminal TSG in order to specify the radio conformance testing for the mobile terminals

- Layer 2 & 3 Group – with the mandate to:
  - Define the layer 2 specifications (Layer 2 on MT-RAN Interface)
  - Define the layer 3 (radio related) specifications (Layer 3 (RR) on MT-RAN Interface)
  - Specify the protocol performance
  - Specify the conformance tests for testing of protocol aspects of base stations and RNC
  This subgroup should establish a strong liaison with the Terminal TSG in order to specify the protocol conformance testing for the mobile terminals

- Architecture Group – with the mandate to:
  - Define the internal UTRAN architecture
  - Specify the Iu, Iur and Iub interfaces
  - Specify the protocol performance
  - Define the requirements for operation and management (O&M) of UTRAN nodes

- ITU Co-ordination Group – with the mandate to:
  - Co-ordinate and focalise the contributions which have to be submitted to ITU-R TG 8/1 by regional/national organisations

Moreover, it is proposed to allow the RAN chairman or the subgroup chairmen to establish temporary working groups to deal with specific topics.