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NINTH MEETING OF THE ISO IEC ITU UN/ECE MoU MANAGEMENT GROUP

Day report of the meeting

1 Welcome and administrative details

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:50, welcomed members and guests, and thanked France Telecom for hosting the meeting. She also informed the meeting of the planned timetable and logistics. M Dubuisson as the host covered one or two administrative details. Ms Fuller then asked participants to introduce themselves briefly.

2 Adoption of the Agenda MoU/MG/02 N0115

Mr Vuilleumier asked to add item 6.5, and Mr Mason an item 6.6 on UDEF; with these additions the draft agenda was adopted. Items 5.2, 5.3, 6.7 and 9.8 were added in the course of the meeting.

3 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting (MoU/MG/01 N0113)

Allowing for comments on the action items, to be dealt with under the next agenda point, the minutes were approved without comments.

4 Matters arising from the minutes and previous resolutions (MoU/MG/01 N0113)

4.1 Action 02/02: Members to include link to MoU site on their sites — *continuous action*

This was particularly relevant for any new user group (such as those potentially to be approved later in this meeting).

4.2 Action 02/23: Mr Mason to update Annex A of MoU by end September then circulate to members for review and comment — *open*

Mr Mason apologized for late delivery of this rather complex task, but progress was now being made after some administrative difficulties. It would be dealt with later in the agenda.

4.3 Action 02/24: Change tag line for PR statements (“competitive” to “competing”) — *completed*

4.4 Action 02/25: Circulate Rev 2 of N0086 for comment, then post to web site. The vision statement also needs to be updated in line with the presentation — *open*

On behalf of the signers of the MoU, Mr Mason presented the vision and mission statement of the MoU, for the benefit of those who were not familiar with it. Mr Haberman proposed addition of the important fact that all the four standards development signatories were committed to the use of *consensus* in the development of standards (as well as the MoU itself using consensus in developing its recommendations); participants agreed, Ms Clivio proposing use of the (ISO) definition of “consensus”, and the presentation would be updated in consequence. Mr Kubler added joint working groups to the “Key successes” slide. Ms Fuller felt that examples raised in today’s meeting were also relevant to be added, and thought the result would be a more readable way of communicating the MoU’s functioning and results than the meeting minutes. Mr Mason offered to use this current “Rev. 3” added to items raised during the current meeting to produce a “Rev. 4”, to which members would be invited to supply contributions (to Messrs Hill or Mason). Ms Fuller requested the web site to offer separate (and easy) access to a list of “Standing or Reference Documents”.

4.5 Action 02/26: Create a list of key standards relevant to the scope of the MoU, based on input from members — *continuous action*

This collection was under construction and could be viewed on the MoU web site; any further inputs should be provided to Mr Hill (ITU) and current contents should be checked.

4.6 Action 02/06: additional marketing materials — *open*

Mr Vuilleumier would follow up with the draft Frequently Asked Questions list and any other materials available.

4.7 Action 02/27: Mr Galinski to write problem statement regarding product classification issues — *completed*

A presentation and discussion was also held under point 6.2 of the agenda.

4.8 Action 02/20: IEC action on product modelling activities — *open*

Mr Barta described the situation with IEC TC 93, which had not been open to any significant degree to coordination requests over previous years. There might now be new officers, and if so Mr Barta would discuss the issues with them straight away.

4.9 Action 02/22: ISO and IEC copyright policy alignment for dictionaries — *open*

Mr Barta would enquire on the progress of the request to IEC to align its policy on vocabulary standards.

4.10 Action 02/28: Identify editors for specific discussion threads and supporting web pages that would convey appropriate coordination information — *open*

This would again be discussed later.

4.11 Action 02/29: ITU to propose dates for an event intended to promote the work of the MoU MG and its members — *open*

Mr Hill had not yet had time to cover this item.

4.12 Action 02/31: Messrs Bosak and Georget to initiate discussions and envisage solutions to resolve the issue of overlap between the UBL and UN/CEFACT objectives and deliverables — *open*

Mr Bosak and Mr Georget had had productive discussions just after the last MoU/MG meeting, and would be reporting further on them.

4.13 Action 02/32: Ms Fuller to send liaison statements as appropriate with respect to health information system activities, in particular those related to ISO DIS 17113 — *completed*

Ms Fuller reported that she had had informal contacts. Ms Clivio recalled that ISO TC 215 had been invited to become an active member of the MoU/MG; a representative had now been nominated and Ms Clivio encouraged other members to examine the information provided.

4.14 Action 02/33: Mme Guillabert to report regarding proposals to extend the scope of ISO TC 171 — *open*

Mme Guillabert reported on the proposal to extend TC 171's scope in a way perceived as overlapping those of TC 46 (especially SC 11) and TC 184 in some respects. A meeting had been held in June 2002, and TC 171 had redrafted the title and scope of the committee, a redraft presented in September. The title and the start of the scope now no longer presented any problems for TC 184, but TC 184 had asked for some supplementary exclusions and for the use of the phrase "document management" instead of "workflow (process management)". However, TC 46 SC 11 at its Nov. 2002 meeting had raised serious objections, so far unresolved, and Ms Fuller wondered whether TC 68 would find the references to legal aspects and audit trail acceptable. Mr Vuilleumier also saw overlaps with TC 154, but would have preferred effective cooperation to be the rule, making exclusionary clauses in the scope superfluous. Mr Haberman agreed, and proposed to substitute a phrase such as "Taking into account the work done in TC xxx..." for each exclusionary clause. Ms Clivio proposed that the objections already raised should be allowed to be discussed and resolved among the ISO TCs concerned (with information being passed to IEC SC 3B, for completeness), before the MoU needed to examine any remaining detailed concerns.

Mr Mason identified a more general issue which seemed to be involved: the *long-term* retention of data, in a context of hardware, software and application lifetimes which were an order of magnitude shorter than the necessary lifetime of the data.

Resolution 02/11

The MoU/MG would like to draw the attention of the ISO TMB to potentially serious problems with a proposed scope for ISO TC 171, involving overlaps with a range of other TCs. It would propose that TC 171 could usefully replace *exclusions* of the projects of other committees in its scope with mention of specific work with which TC 171's efforts would be coordinated.

In this context, the MoU/MG notes ISO/TC 46's responsibilities in standards to support retention of information, and mention of it in ISO/TC 171's scope. The MoU/MG emphasizes the importance of a consistent approach to the retention of information for as long as it is needed, and invites the TMB to ensure that the scope of TC 171 is compatible with such a consistent approach.

4.15 Action 02/34: A summary paper on the topic of permanent marking of parts (barcoding) will be circulated for comment. HM will propose a recommendation to be adopted by the MoU MG — *open*

The paper had been circulated; a meeting was due to be held later the same week.

4.16 Action 02/36: The list of MoU MG participants, their e-mails, and their affiliation should be published on the web site — *completed*

4.17 Action 02/37: The specification (from an *ad hoc* committee including OASIS) for metadata for describing the work of standards bodies is nearing completion, and an appropriate hosting body is being sought. It was agreed that the document be submitted to the involved TCs for review and possible adoption — *nearing completion*

After one more round of comments a new work item would be submitted to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 by the Chair of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 7.

4.18 Action 02/38: Ms Fuller to write CEN ISSS to notify them of the approval of their request to join the MoU MG — *completed*

4.19 Action 02/39: ISO to nominate a replacement for Denis Epley as representative of SC 31 to the MoU/MG — *completed*

The new representative would be Mr Chris Cummins.

4.20 Action 02/10: Presentation by ITU-T Special Study Group (SSG) on mobile e-business activities (MoU/MG 01/N108) — *completed*

Mr Piquemal made a presentation on SSG. Mr Battu mentioned focus groups in ITU-T (SG16, Multimedia) on services including security, to be offered in a coordinated way at the applications layer. Mr Piquemal's recommendations to the MoU/MG, on behalf of ITU-T SSG, were: that e-business and "m-commerce" (mobile e-business) should be similar for an end-user, including security facilities transparent for a user; and that the MoU/MG should look into the work of—and cooperate with—3GPP, 3GPP2 and OMA (see presentation for explanation of acronyms). Ms Fuller asked Mr Piquemal to propose a person (probably from SSG or 3GPP) who could be requested to participate in the MoU/MG, as a more realistic option than the existing MoU/MG members actively "looking into" 3GPP etc. activities. Mr Piquemal undertook to transmit this message to the SSG Chairman, Mr Visser, and SSG would communicate with the MoU/MG on the next step, possibly proposing a name.

Mr Haberman suggested that a small standing group within the MoU/MG (consisting of one expert from each TC/SC/SG whose work was concerned) could act as a reference and discussion point with SSG (in this case), but Ms Fuller thought the proposal was probably not relevant in that the MoU/MG was not supposed to be concerning itself actively with the work taking place *inside* a member. Even as a reference group, Ms Clivio thought it was premature; if SSG, as representing all the 3GPP-related work including OMA, later felt the need for a reference group from MoU/MG, it would presumably say so. On the issue of security facilities, the MoU/MG expected SSG to be more explicit in its expectations for coordination and possible action on MoU/MG members.

On the following day Mme Barnole on behalf of SSG conveyed advice from its Chairman, Mr Visser, that the MoU/MG should contact 3GPP, 3GPP2 and OMA directly, and invite them to present their work to the MoU/MG; she would give some contact details to the secretariat. M Battu similarly advised direct contact with ITU-T/SG16.

- Actions:**
- 02/40 MoU/MG requests ITU-T/SSG to name a representative to the MoU/MG**
 - 02/41 MoU/MG recognizes the future possibility that a standing reference group will be created of MoU TCs/SCs/SGs concerned with work in 3GPP/3GPP2/OMA, to constitute a discussion partner for ITU-T/SSG**
 - 02/42 Security expectations of SSG: clarification needed from ITU-T/SSG**

5 Co-ordination of existing actions

5.1 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Issues (see MoU/MG/02 N0109)

The CEFAC Steering Group had recently approved an IPR policy granting royalty-free licences; he offered to send it to Mr Hill for posting to the web site. Mr Galinski stressed how important it was to include not just copyright but neighbouring rights. Mr Bosak welcomed the UN/CEFACT decision as contributing to distinguishing loyal from less loyal players in the intellectual property arena. For Mr Vuilleumier there were difficulties in the differing policies of the signatories with respect to granting permission to copy with a mention of the source.

5.2 Core components

A general study of the "core components" landscape seemed to Mr Vuilleumier to be essential, in particular a snapshot on what stage of progress each MoU participant organization

had reached in this vital area, where many were active. Such a study would (among many other things) make clear the relevance or otherwise of UDEF (see 6.6 below). A partial answer to this for UBL was provided by Mr Bosak: the technical specification was practically complete, but the actual components themselves were not. A large, inherited collection of components could soon be processed for insertion into the UBL core components library, so in about six months UBL could show a result. Mr Mason saw that the lack of available core components would give rise to other initiatives such as UDEF, but since core components were going to become available during 2003 this kind of confusion could then be avoided. Mr Vuilleumier proposed that the MoU/MG should declare the central nature of core components, what organization was responsible for their initial standardization, and how the continuing management problem would be solved; Messrs Kubler, Walker and Bosak agreed. In Mr Kubler's view the players were present in this meeting to decide these matters. Mr Walker did not agree that all the elements were known, and saw such a decision as being premature. He saw the first stage as being the publication of the UBL Technical Specification; then some guidance was needed for a single reference point for ongoing management, and he would then propose CEFACT since this was a function it was already fulfilling. Ms Clivio suggested a small group to follow developments, and propose a decision when the situation was ripe, possibly at the next meeting.

At the current meeting, an *ad hoc* group proposed the following resolution:

Resolution 02/12

The MoU/MG confirms the will of the MoU signatory agencies to examine thoroughly the issues around an international standard core component registry, and to that purpose establishes an *ad hoc* group consisting of Jon Bosak (or OASIS UBL TC rep.), Sophie Clivio (or ISO/C.S. rep.), Pierre Georget (or UN/CEFACT rep.), Alan Haberman (or ISO/IEC JTC 1 rep.), Jean Kubler (or UN/ECE rep.), Howard Mason (or ISO/TC 184 rep.), Mike Rowell (OAGI), François Vuilleumier (or ISO/TC 154 rep.) and Richard Hill (facilitator, subject to confirmation).

The task of this group is to brief the April 2003 MoU/MG meeting on progress, possible goals and proposed actions. At that meeting, the MoU/MG will modify the group's goals as relevant. Issues to be considered (including tentative timescales for each) include availability of specification, initial population, alignment, publication and maintenance of a core component registry.

It was also decided that the "Core components" agenda item would become standard for future meetings.

5.3 "Annex A"

Attendees recognized the importance, and the out-of-date current state, of "Annex A" to the MoU, which described areas of work and groups responsible for them. A discussion took place on the format (tabular or text), the level of detail and the possibilities for keeping it up to date. It was decided that the rather mixed amended-Annex-A-and-table-and-list format Mr Mason had just produced would be sent to all groups represented in the MoU, for revisions of the words in Annex A, and additions (as well as corrections) to the activities listed, all by the end of January 2003, so that Mr Mason could produce a new draft before the next meeting (i.e. by early March at the latest). Doc. N0006 (the "matrix") would now no longer be updated, as not adding any more value beyond the next revision of Annex A.

6 Identification of new coordination issues

6.1 Service sector representation

Ms Clivio recommended UN/CEFACT to look at doc. N 118, on ISO/TC 215's work in rules for message definition.

6.2 Terminology (see MoU/MG/02 N0112)

Mr Galinski summarized his contribution. ISO allowed large parts of vocabularies to be freely copied (unless it was for profit), whereas IEC did not; Mr Barta would follow up (see Action 02/22). He also described IEC's plans to create a full database of terms (searchable according to a database schema, not simply as text), to include two levels of definitions, the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary on the one hand and all definitions extracted from Clause 3 of all product standards on the other, which would go a long way to satisfying the generally accepted desiderata in Mr Galinski's paper.

The ISO/TC 184 Secretariat had asked a liaison question on whether ISO/TC 37's and the new CEN/ISSS workshop on multilingual catalogues were potentially overlapping with each other or with terminology or product catalogue work in product committees. Mr Galinski would be presenting the workshop on the next day, but explained that TC 37 was concerned with general language resources and the approach to multilingualism, which did not overlap with product committees generating the *contents* of definitions or catalogues. It was true of course that they should all use the common, standardized approaches to making their contents multilingual.

6.3 Permanent marking of parts (barcoding) and liaison with EAN (see MoU/MG/02 N 106)

Mr Mason made a presentation (contained in doc. N 106) on the business need and on the current, multiple competing strategies for fulfilling it; he pleaded for help. Ms Fuller asked if the identification issue had anything fundamental to do with barcodes, since other ways of representing the identifier and marking it on an object existed. Mr Barthel pointed out that the usability and consistency of identification at different levels depended on a model of the total industrial process, and not on how it was represented; the unique identification (ID) which stayed with an individual object during its life (concatenated from the manufacturer code and a unique serial number generated by the manufacturer) was compatible with another piece of information which could also be shown on the object and could change with time, the "part number" which referred to its type, function etc. Mr Haberman pointed out that a single method for unique item identification (UPC) had been used successfully for 25 years by 1,400,000 companies for billions of objects; the military and aerospace industries needed to adopt it, and thereby overcome their resistance to full databases, needed to track—and for retrieving required information on the basis of—the unique ID. ISO/TC 184/SC 4 and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 needed to work together on product coding, including radio-frequency identification (RFID) which did not require line-of-sight, and the Electronic Product Code (EPC). Thanks to a TC 184 resolution (320, drafted by Mr Mason) this would now happen. This was a source of satisfaction to SC 31 and Mr Haberman, who wished to be responsive to product marking needs.

6.4 Printed circuit assemblies, related to action item 02/20: possible overlap between IEC and ISO work

This item was (briefly) dealt with under point 4.8 above.

6.5 MoU among ISO/TC 204 & other committees on freight movement within the supply chain

Mr Vuilleumier raised this MoU (ref.: ISO/TC 204 N 836, latest revision), which did not contain much concrete information being intended only to be an agreement on cooperation. The committees involved were ISO TCs 104, 154, 204, 211; ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31; and CEN TC 278. Mr Haberman briefly described the real-world and standardization problem at the origin of the agreement. Mr Vuilleumier also introduced the problem of the U.S. CSI (Container Security Initiative) which would impose very severe information requirements on ship-

pers *not* based on international standards. In answer to Mr Haberman's question whether the MoU/MG considered such another MoU a good idea, it was pointed out that it was a promising vehicle for cooperation for the specific TCs (of which only two were MoU/MG members) and concerned a specific industrial area, but had many points in common with the e-Business MoU. The item should be kept on MoU/MG agendas. Mr Kubler agreed and added the current focus of trade facilitation on TIR transport; he felt that these concerns should be brought together, but had no concrete proposals for how and so proposed to keep the issue open. Mr Walker agreed that this item should be kept on the MoU/MG agenda for coordination, stressing CEFACT's involvement with worldwide transport. Mr Ketchell of CEN also approved of a continuing watch, given the undesirability of development of new messages where standards existed already. Ms Fuller pointed to the techniques in ISO 8xxx

This topic would be introduced into "Annex A" of the Memorandum, and Messrs Vuilleumier and Haberman would be requested to provide continuing liaison.

Action: 02/43 Messrs Vuilleumier & Haberman to provide liaison with the "Freight MoU"

6.6 UDEF

This item had been added late, given that it mentioned very many of the MoU participants, to see whether it presented overlaps or other problems. On the basis of the presentation Mr Mason had received, many errors and unwarranted assumptions about MoU participants and projects were noted. In general, the support UDEF suggested in the presentation from the organizations present was not justified. Mr Haberman thought it important that only robust solutions should be considered; UDEF did not seem to be one. Mr Walker proposed simply studying the material for the moment, and deciding at the next meeting whether any response at all was warranted (and if so what response); participants agreed.

6.7 Spatial location of objects (e.g. in transport/logistics): processing & standards

Mr Haberman wondered whether this area needed a "coordination" action, and/or whether it already implicitly concerned existing activities. A Special Working Group (Spatial standardization) existed, involving ISO/TC 211 and ISO/IEC JTC 1; SEDRIS was also mentioned.

7 Secretariat issues

None were raised.

8 Items for information

8.1 Reports from Organizations

8.1.1 Records Management

Mr Hofman of ISO/TC 46/SC 11 made a presentation on this subject. In answer to Mr Vuilleumier, he classified moon trip data as not "records" in this sense, but an X-ray image in a person's medical file as (part of) a record; the words "business activities and transactions" used in the presentation had to be interpreted in this sense. Mr Mason asked whether joint work of IEC SC 3B and ISO/TC 10 (ISO/IEC 82045) on document management had been taken into account, and similarly Mr Barta wished to know whether SC 11's work was compatible with ISO/IEC 11179, a basic specification to be used in such efforts. Mr Hofman would check the latter point, and assured Mr Mason that discussions would have to take place with ISO/TC 10 and IEC SC 3B because there was an overlap. As concerned ISO/IEC 11179, Ms Clivio strongly recommended a liaison between TC 46/SC 11 and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32.

Ms Fuller wondered whether sufficient legal and auditing expertise involving records authenticity and maintenance was present in TC 46/SC 11; she also felt that TC 46 should have permanent representation in the MoU/MG. Mr Battu established a link with Storage Area Networks (SANs), designed to keep networked records of all transactions in a company using Fibre Channel. How the SC 11 standards would be implemented in the field therefore also involved ITU (and perhaps IEEE). Mr Vuilleumier stressed that archiving and records management was not an application, but a horizontal requirement which *all* applications needed to be able to implement smoothly.

Action: 02/44 Mr Barta to gather information about SAN (as relevant)

8.1.2 Report from CEFACT

Mr Walker reported that the first “forum” meeting had been held in September, with a new structure; the next was in San Diego in March 2003. He was still seeing large EDI implementations being started, and thought EDI would remain relevant for 10-15 years. In 2001 agreement had been reached between OASIS and UN/CEFACT on what in ebXML would be developed by each, and how the results would be presented jointly to UN/CEFACT and ISO for international standardization. (Mr Walker would provide a web address: www...)

Mr Bosak had earlier mentioned the protest by UBL at endorsement by UN/CEFACT of various payload standards; this had not included RosettaNet, CBL and CMXL. Mr Walker explained the background: UN/CEFACT had been approached by users on how to deal with the intermediate period, where the structure (eb XML framework) was available, but not yet the core components themselves. The interim advice given as a consequence was that, if an organization was willing to submit its work as “candidate core components”, it could have its own formats recognized as interim “payloads” in the ebXML framework. The organizations EAN, SWIFT as regards the ISO 15022 data dictionary (whose registration authority was SWIFT), OAGI, OTA and Bolero had applied for this. Mr Connelly believed that RosettaNet was technically unable to use the ebXML framework; this might have been the reason they had not applied. Mr Bosak now explained the objection as being against an endorsement which would concretely affect buying decisions, but Mr Walker protested that products had not been mentioned. The items endorsed were a number of development directions rather than products, since they were open and good examples in their own areas. For Mr Bosak, the implication that these “payloads” were suitable for transmission using ebXML in a way that others (such as RosettaNet) were not, was the difficulty; this had not been intended and the difficulty was recognized.

8.2 UBL Initiative Update

Mr Bosak made a presentation on some aspects of business-to-business transactions, and the current status of the Universal Business Language (UBL) initiative. In response to Ms Stack, he clarified that there was no implication that OAGIS (see 9.2 below) was a vertical automobile-industry framework, but simply that a goal of UBL was to link OAGIS-based systems to other systems based e.g on RosettaNet or CIDX: this was the hub format idea. Mr Larmouth felt that the ITU - ISO - IEC agreement for producing common-text standards between ITU-T and ISO/IEC JTC 1 was a method which worked well, and recommended that new work item proposals should be introduced soon to prepare for the transition to international-standard status for the UBL work.

The UBL bottom-up approach was not totally satisfactory for Ms Fuger, who missed a top-down approach necessary for powerful solutions in the future. For her and for Mr Georget, “top-down” implied starting with business process analysis, which was essential for e-business implementable by smaller companies without enormous sums of money to throw at a solution. However, Mr Bosak pointed to the “B2B in a box” idea aimed at by UBL as a solution that definitely *could* be used by very many small companies. Mr Vuilleumier found the UBL approach similar to the “extended enterprise” rather than the “open e-business”

UBL approach similar to the “extended enterprise” rather than the “open e-business” model, whereas the MoU was based on the latter; however, actually achieving deliverable results was also very important. Parallel development (rather than being exclusive about “the right solution” at any one state of the art) was essential, in Mr Walker’s view, and he found this an excellent example; it did not, and should not, exclude top-down approaches. Ms Stack wished to see more involvement (especially in reviewing) by manufacturing industry than the list of liaisons shown by Mr Boask, who agreed with this wish—he would again ask AIAG and AIA/ATA (Mr Mason suggested wider than North American involvement, and undertook to help through ISO/TC 184/SC 4). In summary, Mr Bosak found a characterization of UBM as interim (not a long-term solution) perfectly acceptable.

8.3 Presentation by CEN/ISSS (see also MoU/MG/02 N 104)

Messrs Dickerson and Ketchell presented the CEN Information Society Standardization System (ISSS). It was remarked that the matter of e-invoicing could benefit from MoU attention, given an early stage in development but many groups already involved. Two web site addresses were retained in addition to the main CEN/ISSS web site, those of a report on consortia and concerning e-commerce: www.cenorm.be/ISSS/Consortia/Surveysshort.htm and www.europe-standards.org. The popularity and attractiveness of Diffuse gave rise to a wish that it should become world-wide and permanent, e.g. by being jointly funded by the European Commission, NIST and Japanese Standards.

Resolution 02/13

The MoU requests research and standardization organizations and administrations, for whom full information dissemination is important in order to produce coherent standards and eliminate contradictions and waste, to establish and maintain a full and friendly information source on all e-business standards, specifications and consortia. All major industrial and trading areas in the world should be covered. An existence proof that such a source is feasible and effective exists in the European Diffuse project.

Action: 02/45 All relevant MoU/MG members to coordinate in order to communicate the above Resolution 02/13 to the relevant organizations and administrations.

9 Any other business

9.1 Presentation by EAN (MoU/MG/02 N0114)

Mr Barthel, attending for the first time but known to a number of MoU/MG participants, presented EAN International. Mr Bosak asked what the concrete implications were of UCC’s (and the Canadian ECCC’s) having very recently joined EAN International, with particular reference to EAN-level decisions affecting operations within the members. (The context was the recent acquisition by UCC of RosettaNet.) Mr Barthel had no specific answer, since members’ behaviour was regulated by a code of practice but EAN was fundamentally a voluntary organization. Mr Walker felt that EAN was an obvious candidate for an international user organization member of the MoU; other members agreed. Mr Barthel added web site references to his presentation: www.ean-int.org and www.ean-ucc.org (which will be merged) (there is also www.uc-council.org for UCC). Ms Snack asked what level of compatibility or interoperability existed for a current user of “EDI” with the future XML-based developments of EAN (or of CEFACT for that matter). Mr Barthel thought that the business process determined how much effort was required for interconnection of legacy and future solutions.

Resolution 02/14

The MoU/MG decides to invite EAN International to become an international user group member of the MoU, and following Mr Barthel’s acceptance welcomes EAN International into the MoU/MG.

9.2 Presentation of OAGI (MoU/MG/02 N0116)

Mr Connelly of OAGI and Ms Snack of AIAG presented the Open Applications Group (OAGI). Mr Walker asked about OAGI's international *membership* (as opposed to activities), and Mr Connolly responded that many members were from Europe and one major member from Japan. In response to the question of why OAGI wished to join the MoU and its expectations, he answered that OAGI's membership—major multinationals, among others—had expressed the need to join, being already involved in other ways. Mr Galinski asked how OAGI coped with the multiple classification schemes it met in its multi-sector work, to which Mr Connelly responded that guidelines were developed which were not specific to any one scheme. He also explained that XML tags were normally not translated (except in Québec), and that OAGI depended on Unicode's ability to tag languages in the data, and its own tags for currency and other localization parameters.

Resolution 02/15

The MoU/MG decides to invite the Open Applications Group (OAGI) to become an international user group member of the MoU, and following Mr Connelly's acceptance welcomes OAGI into the MoU/MG.

9.3 e-Catalogues

Messrs Galinski, Romary and Eibl made a presentation on e-catalogues, and the roles of content management and language resources in reducing costs. Mr Howard recalled a resolution from the Sept. 2001 MoU/MG meeting recommending TC 37 to review ISO 13584, which in the meanwhile had been published and was the basis for ongoing conversion of many ISO standards. Mr Eibl responded that TC 37's work was based on the assumption that all future standards efforts for classification schemes and e-catalogues should be based on ISO 13584. However, added Mr Galinski, classification schemes present in the real world had lives of their own, and their many different uses made conversion to single standards slow. TC 37's approach was that the interfaces making joint operation possible should be standardized as the first priority. Ms Fuller asked if her impression was correct that the ambition went beyond the interfaces, to standardizing the bases of a single method for classification. Since this was a utopic goal, were there intermediate steps? In response, Mr Eibl described some of the steps planned in TC 37.

Action: 02/46 Mr Barta to establish contact between ISO/TC 37/SC 3 and IEC's plans to create a terminology database, if not already done

9.4 ebXML

Mr Langlois (Chief Executive Officer of EDIFRANCE) presented ebXML, also referring to Mr pogliani's web services presentation (9.5 below) which had been given just before and had made extensive mention of ebXML. A discussion took place on the place of, and ways of handling, different natural languages. Ms Fuller then drew attention to the issue of intellectual property in business processes, which ebXML had not yet attacked, even though business processes were at the heart of its efforts. This was different from, and linked to, situations where the business process had to remain confidential rather than become public (e.g. in public administrations whose processes had to remain secret by law for protection of the public interest). The possibilities for negotiation in Collaboration Protocol Profiles (CPP) and Collaboration Protocol Agreements (CPA) were also discussed. Mr Mason pointed out that standards existed already for how to represent different physical and other characteristics of products in catalogues and the catalogues themselves, and insofar as the ebXML repository linked to such information it should do so in standard fashion.

9.5 Web services

Mr Pogliani made a presentation on web services, stressing that in his view ebXML was a more advanced and more promising tool (than other tools available) for automating business-to-business, application-to-application exchanges. Ms Fuller asked about the state of security-related tools, to which Mr Pogliani responded that some were already in place, but for automated free negotiation of the security parameters desired by each partner future versions of the tools concerned (e.g. WSDL and ebXML CPP/A) must be awaited. Mr Vuilleumier was interested in the progress of tools for the registration function and its management; in this connection, Mr Pogliani thought the lack of such management and control had been an obstacle to UDDI's success.

9.6 EAN International's Global Product Classification

Mr Georget presented this topic, and answered a number of modelling and technical questions, including clarifying that the word "attribute" was not being used in its XML-specific technical meaning.

9.7 Global Commerce Initiative (GCI)

Mr Georget for EAN made a presentation on this initiative, which referred to retail commerce and involved large international retailers and the producers of fast-moving goods. The web site was www.globalcommerceinitiative.com. In answer to Ms Fuller, he explained that petrol (gas) or petroleum was not part of the retail supply chain involved. The GCI (and EAN*UCC standards which GCI used or stimulated) used ebXML and ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31. Part, but not all, of the results of the description of business processes which was at the root of the GCI could be expressed in the ebXML BPSS (business process component). Mr Georget promised to keep the MoU/MG informed on the GCI in the future.

9.8 Miscellaneous items

Mr Haberman made a comment on the MoU's overall effectiveness: at the start, he had expected it to become proactive quickly, to issue targeted recommendations and requests for action to standards committees. He noted that this was only now starting slowly to happen, which he found disappointing. Mr Kubler thought a more open approach to the use of a central web site (with different groups being responsible for their own pages and able to update them independently) might help effectiveness.

Mr Larmouth drew the attention of new international user group members of the MoU to the possibilities of ASN.1 as an XML schema definition method, contained in a report he had submitted before the previous MoU/MG meeting. Ms Clivio requested ITU-T to give a presentation in a future meeting on object identification (OID); Mr Larmouth expressed his willingness to do so, and brought out links to the material of the "barcoding" (permanent marking of parts) presentation (item 6.x above). Ms Fuller asked that that presentation should contain some practical examples of applications (Mr Larmouth agreed). She also thought the MoU/MG discussions and agreements on ASN.1 (point 6.4 of the last meeting's report, last three paragraphs) represented a key achievement of the MoU.

Mr Bosak at one stage mentioned free and open-source software for (among other things) on-line presentations called OpenOffice, and suggested that in the future the MoU/MG might consider such software in preference to proprietary (and costly) tools for its month-to-month operations.

10 Date, time, place and agenda of the next meeting(s)

The next meeting was decided to be held on 7-8 April 2003 in Geneva, hosted by ITU.

An item on security (data and transaction security, not physical security) would be added to the next meeting's agenda; SCs 2 (by Ms Fuller) and 27 (by Mr Haberman) would be asked if they could provide a presentation. The domain was firmly applications-level needs for security rather than the specialized techniques for achieving security. CEN was also working on a response to a very broad recommendation from the European Commission, and ITU had just entrusted the lead role in security to ITU-T/SG17.