EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Information Society and Media Directorate-General

Communication Services: Policy and Regulatory Framework
Policy development and regulatory framework

Brussels, 10 March 2005

INITIAL CRITERIA FOR REVISING THE LIST OF STANDARDS

In the light of the discussion in the Cocom Expert Group on Standards, and consultation with stakeholders on the draft criteria, the following guidance is provided to ETSI for revising the List of Standards.

The basis is the current interim list of standards published on 31 December 2002. No new mandated standardisation work is being called for at present.

Standards agreed under the R&TTE Directive (1999/5/EC) and published in the Official Journal of the European Union are outside the scope of this exercise.

The list should be short, recognising that Article 17(2) of the Framework Directive already requires Member States to encourage the use of standards or specifications adopted by the ESOs other than those published in the List of Standards. Standards in the list that address functional requirements should be, as far as possible, technology neutral.

The criteria that should be used for revising the list can be grouped into three main categories as follows:

1) The revised List should include standards[1]:

> ➢ for interconnection of, or access to, electronic communications networks and/or interoperability of electronic communications services, to the extent strictly necessary to ensure end-to-end user interoperability and freedom of choice for users

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[1] Standards may include ESO deliverables and standards or recommendations adopted by ITU, ISO or IEC.

➢ and whose implementation does not represent an undue expense as compared with the expected benefits (i.e. proportionality)

and that fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

➢ standards for key interfaces representing the boundaries between systems owned and operated by different parties, including cross-border aspects, in particular standards solving severe and likely cases on non-interoperability or a lack of freedom of choice.

➢ standards that are relevant in today's marketplace, that are still evolving and have some future life span.

2) The revised List should not include:

➢ standards for well established networks and services that are no longer subject to evolution.

➢ standards for networks and services that are currently in an early phase of their development.

➢ by implication of paragraph 1) 3rd indent, standards where achieving interoperability and freedom of choice can be left to the market because it will be secured through consumer demand or industry interest.

3) Notwithstanding the criteria in 1) and 2) above, special attention should be given to:

➢ standards currently in use for regulation at national or European level, where the impact of their elimination should be first assessed;

➢ standards that are needed to provide specific public interest obligations, according to national or Community law, that operators do not have a commercial incentive to implement.

If doubt exists (e.g. standards covered by criteria that may be contradictory), the standard should be included in the revised List submitted by ETSI. In all cases, the reasoning for inclusion in the revised List or withdrawal from the List should be given.