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STANDARDS LIAISON RAPPORTEUR REPORT

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Agenda Item 8

STANDARDS LIAISON RAPPORTEUR REPORT

I - Introduction

Since my nomination during the last plenary meeting in March 2000, I have first been briefed by my predecessor, Klaus Dieter NAUJOK, and by the CSG chair, Ray WALKER, on my duties, priorities and tasks. According to their advice, my mission is mainly twofold :

- to liaise between the various CSG/WGs on standards matters and problems which may arise between them or with external standard bodies ;
- to ensure liaison and coordination between UN/CEFACT as a whole and standard bodies working on related topics, both within the framework of the MoU Management Group and outside it ;

Concerning WGs, since I attend, as far as I can, the CSG meetings, I had a brief discussion with all WG chairs during the Barcelona meeting. From their answers, there are no pressing matters for the time being. Of course, I will check regularly with them whether it is still the case.

Concerning liaison with standard bodies, it is important to work in close coordination with a certain number of ISO and IEC TCs, mainly JTC1/SC32, in charge of open EDI, ISO TC 154, in charge of two extremely important documents, ISO 7372 (UN/TDED) and ISO 9735 (EDIFACT syntax), and its WG1, responsible for the elaboration and maintenance of the BSR (Basic Semantic Register).

II - BSR and XML

The CSG had requested TMWG to study the current status of BSR. To give full information to all members of CSG, I arranged a detailed presentation of the project by its technical managers during the August meeting of CSG (cf. TRADE/CEFACT/2001/5, item 14). CSG members received afterwards an electronic copy of the presentation, amended according to remarks and requests made during the meeting. The UN/CEFACT secretariat has also a copy of the BSR presentation and can send it to all interested parties. CSG will be kept regularly informed of the progress of the BSR project and the efforts made to be, in the future, able to use UML syntax when describing BSR elements.

III - Possible A-liaison with JTC1

Coordination and contacts between UN/CEFACT and JTC1 already exist within the framework of the MoU Management Group, where JTC1 is represented by members of SC31 and SC32. But the scope of JTC1, especially with its new SCs 34, 35 and 36, largely exceeds the one of the MoU/MG, and more than a handful of SCs have, potentially, in their portfolio, work items whose outcome can interfere with UN/CEFACT domain or published documents.

Therefore, the request for a liaison-A status to be granted to JTC1 (which another United Nations agency, the ITU, already has) would be interesting since, according to JTC1 directives and procedures concerning **Category A** :

- ...such organizations are sent copies of all relevant documentation and are invited to meetings.
- Technical committees and subcommittees shall seek the full and, if possible, formal backing of the organizations having A-liaison status for each international Standard in which the latter are interested.

So, during the last JTC1 plenary, in November 2000, I had a preliminary discussion with Tom FROST, the JTC1 chair. He welcomes the idea and is now waiting for a formal request from UN/CEFACT, so it now belongs to this plenary meeting to discuss the opportunity of such a move, if possible to be made during the next JTC1 plenary in November 2001.

IV - Vocabulary

According to the action point arising from decision 00-4-22 (november 2000 CSG meeting), I have made enquiries with both AFNOR and IEC to get from them any available documentation on their glossaries and dictionaries. I have now in my possession :

- from AFNOR, electronic and paper copies of the latest known stage of the various parts of ISO 2382, prepared by the late JTC1/SC1 ; only some of the parts are of interest for UN/CEFACT, and the documentation I received is not always in an easily usable form !
- from IEC, their multilingual dictionary, in CDROM form, graciously "supplied on condition that it is used exclusively for standards-making".

We must now examine with the UN/CEFACT secretariat how to use this information to correct, amend and complet our "Glossary" to be installed on the UN/CEFACT site.
