ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 3
7-bit and 8-bit codes and their extension
SECRETARIAT : ELOT

DOC TYPE :	Summary of Voting/Table of Replies
TITLE :	Summary of Voting on SC 2 N 2910, Proposal for Project Subdivision of project JTC 1.02.20: a new part of ISO/IEC 8859 for Latin Zero covering the EURO Symbol and Full Support for the French and Finnish Language
SOURCE :	Secretariat, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2
PROJECT:	JTC 1.02.20
STATUS :	Although the voting results show that the majority of SC 2 members approved this proposal and more than five P-member NBs expressed their willingness to participle actively in the development, major comments have been submitted by some NBs. Therefore, WG 3 is requested to review the comments received together with the ballot results on SC 2 N 2946 to be closed on 97-12-15 at its meeting scheduled for March 1998 in Seattle, USA and to prepare a disposition of comments report and recommendation to SC 2 on further processing.
ACTION ID :	ACT
DUE DATE :	--
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Summary of Voting on SC 2 N 2910, Proposal for Project Subdivision of project JTC 1.02.20: a new part of ISO/IEC 8859 for Latin Zero covering the EURO Symbol and Full Support for the French and Finnish Language

P-Members	Q1	Q2	Q3	Comments
ARMENIA				
AUSTRIA				
BELGIUM	YES	YES	NO	
BRAZIL	YES	YES	YES	
CANADA	YES	YES	YES	
CHINA				
DENMARK	YES	YES	YES	
EGYPT				
FINLAND	YES	YES	YES	*Attachment 1*
FRANCE	YES	YES	YES	
GERMANY	NO	NO	NO	*Attachment 2*
GREECE	NO	NO	NO	*Attachment 3*
INDIA				
IRAN				
IRELAND	YES	YES	YES	
ISRAEL	YES	YES	YES	
ITALY				
JAPAN	YES	NO	NO	*Attachment 4*
KOREA				
MOROCCO				
NETHERLANDS	NO	NO	NO	*Attachment 5*
NORWAY	YES	YES	NO	
POLAND				
ROMANIA	YES	YES	NO	
RUSSIAN FEDERATION				
SINGAPORE				
SLOVENIA				
SWEDEN	YES	YES	YES	*Attachment 6*
THAILAND				
TUNISIA				
TURKEY	YES	YES	NO	*Attachment 7*
UK	YES	YES	YES	
USA	YES	NO	NO	*Attachment 8*
VIET NAM				
YUGOSLAVIA				
O-Member (if responding)				
CZECH REPUBLIC	YES	YES	NO	

Attachment 1 - Finland

We approve with comments the document: SC 2 N 2910 Proposal for Project Subdivision on Project JTC 1.20.20 for a new part of ISO/IEC 8859: 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 15: Latin Alphabet No. 0

"We are prepared to accept the move of the EURO symbol from the currently proposed position to e.g. the one occupied in Latin-1 by the international currency symbol, if such a move is found acceptable also by other NBs."

Attachment 2 - Germany

We have voted the proposal for a new part of ISO/IEC 8859-15 under the number N 2946. This is also for the document N 2910.

Comments on ISO/IEC FCD 8859-15

(1) Germany considers it not necessary to standardise a Latin 0 due to the fact that Latin 1, 4, 5 and 6 cover sufficiently the Finnish and French language.

(2) The EURO symbol is not available on any keyboard and is actually not being considered by the software at all.

(3) Actually the introduction of such a sign is economically not possible to realise before the introduction of the EURO.

(4) It has been laid down in ISO/IEC 646 not to standardise currency signs as several misleading interpretations cannot be excluded. Due to this, letters are being assigned to currencies e.g. DEN.

(5) Should this currency sign be requested for electronic business as a standardised sign the introduction date of the EURO cannot be guaranteed.

Attachment 3 - Greece

The Hellenic Standards Body and the National Committee ELOT TE 74 are going to propose an alternative way to satisfy the same, as in Latin part, requirement.

Attachment 4 - Japan

The N2910 proposal contains many incompatible changes as well as the new EURO character adding. The usage of the proposed Latin-0 character set will cause many incompatible changes in systems based on 8859-1. The EURO character will be used in wider area and should be available in other character sets in 8859 series. Systems based on other Parts of 8859 (than the proposed 8859-15 and 8859-1) have to handle Latin-0 character set to represent the EURO character and they will be required much incompatible change. JAPAN considers the general currency sign should be used for the EURO character.

Attachment 5 - Netherlands

Project subdivision: N 2910 ISO/IEC 8859-15 IT - 8-bit single byte coded graphic character sets Part 15: Latin alphabet No. 0 97-11-14,

DISAPPROVAL WITH COMMENT
(Q1 NO, Q2 NO, Q3 NO)

The NNI votes negative on the Subdivision of Project JTC 1.2.20 for a new part of ISO/IEC 8859, Part 15 (SC2 N 2910).

Comments:

The NNI is aware of the imperfections of ISO 8859-1, and supports inclusion of the French LIGATURE O E in a part of 8859, but does not agree to the solution proposed.

1. Numbering in ISO standards starts with 1, not with 0, thus the proposed part should be called Latin Alphabet No. 9.

2. The code position chosen for the EURO is not acceptable.

3. The NNI doubts whether extra characters for Finnish are really required. In the report "Nordic Cultural Requirements on Information Technology" (1992) it is stated in Table 7 (p. 24) that the extra characters are in class 3, which means: "Letters used in names according to common practice, but not part of the language". Furthermore it is stated in Table 10 (p. 25,26) that 8859-1 satisfies the national requirements of Finland.
The NNI is fully prepared to consider better solutions for the French OE than presented in the proposal, in particular a part of 8859 that also satisfies requirements for Turkish. The lack of provision for a language spoken in Western Europe by two million people in Germany alone is a far bigger problem than that which is attempted to be solved by the proposal in SC2 N 2910.

Attachment 6 - Sweden

Swedish vote and comments on Proposal for Project Subdivision on Project JTC 1.2.20 for a new part of ISO/IEC 8859: 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets - Part 15: Latin Alphabet No. 0

A. Vote

Q.1 Do you accept the proposal in document SC 2 N 2910 as a sufficient definition of the project subdivision? (If you have responded "NO" to the above questions, you are required to comment.)

Sweden votes YES

Q.2 Do you support the subdivision?

Sweden votes YES with the following comments:

Sweden also sees the need for the Euro character to be covered in other 8859-parts in a similar way. Sweden therefore proposes that the possibility to include the Euro in some other 8859-parts is studied and that the result of this study may be allowed to influence the chosen code position. A Swedish internal document prepared during the NB´s processing of the matter may be of interest in this connection, and is therefore appended as part of the comments. Please find pages 2 - 6 in the enclosed file ag2.pdf.

Attachment 7- Turkey

Q 3 We would not directly participate in the Project, but we are always ready to contribute this project with our comments.

Attachment 8 - USA

Ballot results for the subdivision of project JTC1.2.20
for the new part ISO/IEC 8859-15

October 31, 1997

The U.S. does NOT support the subdivision of project JTC1.2.20 for the new part of ISO/IEC 8859-15.

Q1.

The U.S. believes the project is sufficiently specified.

Q2.

The U.S. votes to disapprove the subdivision of project JTC1.2.20 for 8859-15.

Q3.

The U.S. will not participate in the development of this new standard.

Major comments:

The US disapproves a project subdivision for ISO/IEC 8859-15 for the following reasons:

> 1) It is the US long stated position that additional parts of 8859 should not be created, except to capture existing 8-bit practice (viz Part 11). Rather than addressing problems with particular solutions, which are extremely costly to implement, industry efforts should be focused on implementing a comprehensive solutions via the support of ISO/IEC 10646.

> 2) From document L2/175 (WG3 N 388) it is clear that the intent is to replace ISO 8859-1, for the same user community. Because of the prominent role that 8859-1 has gained as the default character set in many internet protocols, introducing a near equivalent standard will have disastrous effects. Due to their large intersection part 1 and part 15 would appear to inter-operate without proper adherence to announcing mechanisms. Were part 15 accepted and widely implemented, the result would be that no-one could be sure that ANY character from the non-intersecting part of each set can be used reliably. In many ways, this situation is reminiscent of the problems that plagued the 7-bit sets of ISO 646.

> 3) The adoption of ISO/IEC 10646 by the vendor community is making rapid progress, therefore it cannot be argued that a flawed solution must be accepted for lack of practical alternatives.

> 4) We do believe that an "EURO SIGN" solution is required in Europe and that the US would have enough expertise to lead this project in the right direction and to contribute technically.