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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SGFS
Title: ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Group on Functional
Standardization

Secretariat: NNI (Netherlands)

Title : Correspondence on Parallel approval in JTC1 and CEN
Source : SGFS-chair
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FAX MESSAGE

To: Mr. M.A. Smith - ISO Central Secretariat
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From: L.M.J. Visser

Ref : CD92/531/814

Date: 4 February 1992

Subject: Parallel approval in JTC1 and CEN of EWOS dISPs

Copy: Mr. J van Herp - CEN, Brussels, Belgium
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Number of pages including this one: 2

Dear Mike,

Thank you for informing me on the progression of the technical cooperation between ISO and CEN for a parallel voting mechanism.

SGFS is aware that the acceptance of ISPs in ISO/IEC is paralleled by similar activities in other organizations. This is a good sign, it underlines and contributes to the importance of the Functional standardization process; an element in which we are certainly interested and to which we should contribute where possible. To investigate the improvement of the effectiveness of these parallel activities seems worthwhile, not only for the above reason but also because it might be that these processes depend on the same (scarce) resources as we do.

So, while encouraging you to continue with the direction taken, I have some concerns with details of the actual proposal.

Allowing parallel approval with the process in CEN, opens a door for similar requests by other organizations (taking the impartiality of ISO/IEC). Where such influence will improve the quality of the resulting work (and therefore has desirable results), at the same time it could imply a continuous request to adapt our procedures when other organizations opt for this form of cooperation. From the experience in our recent meetings we learned that the work on procedures tends to distract attention from "the other work of the committee". Therefore I should encourage a form

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of cooperation, which has no impact on the SGFS procedures, which we just formulated with great care.

I take it that in the current proposal the CEN Inquiry comments are forwarded by member bodies into the Ballot resolution process. However, due to the difference of the Ballot period and the Inquiry period, these comments will typically will be (too) late to be considered in the Ballot Resolution Meeting. Therefore, I suggest to reconsider this element of the plan.

Also, the additional "formal confirmation vote" in ISO/IEC may need reconsideration. In this vote we request a study/position for the third time; for documents which are assumed to be harmonized at the start this seems too much.

As a final note may I draw your attention to the fact that I have a new employer, but that my other coordinates remain unchanged.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Visser

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Dear Louis,

Parallel approval in JTC 1 and CEN of dISPs developed by EWOS

You may be aware that ISO and CEN last year concluded an agreement on technical cooperation, which provides a mechanism for simultaneous approval of standards in ISO and CEN by a parallel voting mechanism.

During a recent meeting between ISO and CEN officers, we discussed a resolution of the CEN Technical Board calling for parallel voting on dISPs originating in EWOS. This is a little complicated as the CEN approval process is in two steps, a six month enquiry, followed by a two months formal vote. (In ISO, we have agreed to carry out a formal two-months confirmation vote to align with the CEN formal vote and to equate the first DIS vote with the CEN enquiry.)

At present, of course, approval of dISPs involves a single four month vote so we had some difficulties in aligning the procedures. However, we finally came up with the following proposal on which I would welcome your reactions:

- 1 Immediately at the end of the SGFS review, CEN/CS will initiate enquiry in relation to dISPs submitted by EWOS.
- 2 ITTF will handle the dISP in the usual way.
- 3 After ballot resolution and agreement of the final text, ITTF and CEN will carry out formal (YES/NO) confirmation votes on the ISP text.

This procedure, as indicated above, would only apply in relation to dISPs developed in EWOS; in its S-liaison capacity, I believe that we could be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the parallel voting mechanism, but as indicated above I would welcome your reactions.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

M.A. Smith

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