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NATIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE NETHERLANDS NATIONAL BODY TO ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 Plenary, 1997

The responsible committee for JTC1/SC2 matters in the Netherlands is NNI 381 02.

Meetings are held now at irregular times only. Agreement on votes is reached by e-mail.

The membership of our committee still causes concern. Of the eight members there are hardly people from industry anymore, nor from the Government (which is still interested). Several institutions have a strong interest in our work, but are not able to find people to participate actively.

The revision of the national standards for handling personal data will start now. These are based on ISO standards and large amounts of money have been invested in their implementation. This means that we will resist any attempts to change SC2 standards in a way not backwards compatible.

A "POSIX LOCALE" for Dutch is under development, but delayed due to lack of time of the team members. The repertoire of letters will not exceed that of ISO/IEC 6937. But doubt have arisen regarding the possibilities of respecting cultural conventions by a Locale. Hyphenation is not involved, because it is too complex.

On the international level the participation in TC 304 of CEN, and in its four working groups, has been reduced to reading the papers, which is often not a joy. We regret that so little is based on a realistic view of the world.

We are still trying to attend meetings of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 and its WGs, but we cannot spend our resources to issues far remote from our actual needs. As we stated in our national policy document, we have to oppose developments that have no market relevance in the sense used by JTC1.

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