Source:	**Ericsson L.M.**
Title:	**Usage of SDLs in technical specifications**
Agenda item:	**7.3 Working Procedures**
Document for:	**Approval**

Introduction

TSG-CN and SMG3 discussed numeral times the use of SDLs and textual parts in technical specifications. However, there is still a lot of uncertainty in the WGs on whether SDL descriptions are normative or informative.

Analysis

Stage 2 service description and stage 3 descriptions are the base for implementation later on. Therefore these descriptions must be clear, unambiguous and easy to understand. This is necessary in order to ensure interworking between different vendors. It is also necessary to verify and to maintain complex features.

To have only textual description would always lead to different interpretations. Therefore it is not sufficient to use only textual descriptions. SDL descriptions fulfil the needs addressed above. They are clear, unambiguous and easy to understand. That does not mean that there should be no supporting text at all. To describe assumptions and workarounds textual parts are needed in addition. However, it must be avoided to have redundant information, because those specifications cannot be maintained.

We can already see how important the use of SDL descriptions are in specifications like 23.018, 23.078, or 23009. These specifications are examples that it is necessary to use SDLs.

Proposal

Ericsson proposes to mandate the use of SDLs as normative parts in new stage 2 and stage 3 specifications describing interworking with different nodes and requiring conditional and specific handling of a node. We see that as the only way to produce standards which ensures a proper interworking between vendors and a consistent handling, because of the reasons stated above. Textual description should be used to describe assumptions and workarounds.

Ericsson proposes that CN request to the CN-WGs that SDLs shall be normative. If there are normative textual descriptions and SDL descriptions, which are in contradiction to each other, the SDL description shall be regarded as valid. However, existing specifications should not be changed, if the SDL description is already marked as informal.