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LS to 3GPP on IPv4/v6 IMS roaming and interworking

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High Level Document Summary:

This document is an LS to 3GPP on IPv4/ IPv6 and IMS.

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During the GSMA/IREG#46 meeting, mobile operators raised the issue of IPv4 and IPv6 IP Multimedia Subsystems coexistence and interworking.

GSMA/IREG is aware that IMS has originally been specified over IPv6 only. However, currently it is not possible to define when all mobile operators will migrate to IPv6. On the other hand, IPv4 IMS implementations will be available shortly, and some operators may want to launch IMS services before IPv6 is available.

Therefore IREG thinks that IPv4/IPv6 IMS roaming and interworking issue will be an actual need, and should therefore be studied and specified by the 3GPP.

IREG is aware that 3GPP has already started work on this subject, and has defined in TR 23.881 a number of roaming and interworking scenarios related to IPv4 and IPv6 IMS coexistence. IREG would like to provide here its analysis on the subject

- *IMS Roaming* should not be a major problem as long as HGGSN roaming scenario is used. It has only to be ensured that an SGSN does not reject PDP context activation requests for unsupported PDP types (e.g. IPv6)
- *IMS Interworking* however needs additional standardization. Indeed, if only IPv6 interworking is standardised, operators who have deployed « standardised » versions will not be able to interwork with existing « IPv4 » IMS operators:

Please note that only IPv4 IMS as already defined by the 3GPP should be considered: *« an IPv4 based IM CN subsystem implementation (or short: IPv4 IM CN subsystem) means an IM CN subsystem implementation, which is based on 3GPP Release 5 or 6 standards, but uses IPv4 rather than IPv6»*. Pre-IMS implementations which differ from the 3GPP standard on other points than the IP version should not be considered.

Actions
IREG kindly asks 3GPP SA2 to standardize in priority a solution to ensure that IPv6 IMS will interwork with IPv4 IMS, and this transparently for the end user.