Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects ***TSGS#12(01)0224***
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3GPP TSG-SA5 (Telecom Management) **S5-010225**
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Category:	Liaison
From:	SA5
To:	CN4, SA2
Cc:	SA
Title:	LS on consistent description regarding the use of Charging Characteristics
Work Item:	BB1 Charging Management (OAM-CH)
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TSG-SA WG5 is currently in the process of specifying the usage details for the Charging Characteristics in GPRS for Release 4. In doing this, there has been some discussion about the exact circumstances under which the SGSN would transfer the Charging Characteristics to the GGSN upon PDP context establishment, or to the new SGSN upon inter-SGSN routing area update. A similar discussion has been observed on the CN4 email reflector.

Individual members of our group had also approached your experts on TS 29.060 (CN4) and TS 23.060 (SA2) in order to assure that our specifications and yours will be consistent. As a result, we are using the same approach that we understand is being used in both TS 23.060 and 29.060:

- The SGSN sends the Charging Characteristics to the GGSN exclusively if it received them itself from the HLR. This means that when no Charging Characteristics is stored in the HLR, the SGSN will not send anything to the GGSN.
- The same procedure described above is also applied in the roaming case, when the SGSN itself ignores any HLR supplied Charging Characteristics.
- The above implies that no explicit transfer of the Charging Characteristics Selection Mode to the GGSN is necessary, because it is implicitly given as “subscribed” when the GGSN receives them, and “non-subscribed” otherwise.
- The Charging Characteristics will not be transferred from the old SGSN to the new SGSN upon inter-SGSN routing area update, as the new SGSN will receive its required information from the HLR.

We believe that the above approach, being adopted within our charging specifications, is consistent with TS 29.060 and TS 23.060. Nevertheless, we request reconfirmation from CN 4 and SA2 relating to our opinion. Additionally, the questions being asked both within SA5’s charging RG and within CN4 reflector have led us to believe further clarification of this matter is needed within TS 29.060. We would therefore suggest that CN4 expend the effort to add explicit statements, along the line of the above four bullet items, to TS 29.060. This will provide clear and unambiguous understanding of the system behaviour pertaining to the Charging Characteristics, thereby warranting the implementation of interoperable UMTS systems and components.