3GPP TSG CN WG1 Meeting #17   **Tdoc N1-010867**
Puerto Rico, 14th - 18th May 2001

Liaison Statement

From:	**3GPP TSG CN WG1**
To:	**3GPP TSG SA WG1, 3GPP TSG CN, 3GPP TSG SA**
Cc:	**3GPP TSG CN WG4**
Subject:	**Request for information from GSM Europe on 3 digit MNC**
Contact:	**Andrew Howell, Motorola**
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3GPP TSG CN WG1 thanks 3GPP TSG SA WG1 for the LS relating to the request, from GSM Europe, for information concerning the introduction of 3 digit MNC in Europe.

3GPP TSG CN WG1 has reviewed the proposal and would like to make the following observations:

- 3 digit MNC were first defined in R98. All implementations that are based on releases older than that do not support 3 digit MNC.
- The mixture of 2 and 3 digit MNCs in the same MCC has been explicitly defined only for the MCC codes 310-316 which have been assigned for the USA.

In general the system implications of implementing the two scenarios proposed by GSM Europe are significant:

1. Mobiles implemented to specifications earlier than R98, which check the validity of any received MNC, will fail these checks if 3 digit MNCs are introduced.
2. Existing Mobile stations and SIM cards would have to be either upgraded or replaced.
3. Existing mobile implementations could potentially have problems with the displaying of 2 and 3 digit MNCs
4. While the cost of incorporating these changes in new equipment is not significant, the cost of upgrading ALL legacy equipment (which is necessary to support roaming) will be significant.
5. The introduction of 3 digit MNC will cause roaming, billing, and service outages if existing equipment (mobile and network) is not upgraded.
6. Any update to existing networks will require the change to be implemented country wide, in all PLMNs, to avoid inconsistent mobile behaviour within the networks.
7. Even though the software changes required are themselves not significant, it is possible that all currently deployed GSM/GPRS equipment will have to be upgraded. This will be a daunting task.

Attached Tdocs:
    Tdoc TSG S1 (01)518 (N1-010842), incoming LS from SA1

"N1-010842_LS
IN.zip"