**3GPP TSG-SA5 Meeting #138-e *S5-214668d8***

e-meeting, 23 - 31 August 2021

**Title: LS Reply on offline charging only indication**

**Response to:** **S5-214027 (C3-213546: LS on Clarifications on the offline charging only indication) and**

**S5-214665 (S2-2106558: LS Reply on the offline charging only indication to C3-213546 on Clarifications on the offline charging only indication from CT3)**

**Release: Rel-17**

**Work Item: en5GPccSer17**

**Source:** **SA5**

**To: SA2, CT3**

**Cc: -**

**Contact person: Gerald.Goermer add Matrixx dot com**

**Send any reply LS to: 3GPP Liaisons Coordinator,** [**mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org**](mailto:3GPPLiaison@etsi.org)

**Attachments:** N/A

# 1 Overall description

SA5 thanks SA2 for the LS S2-2106558 and CT3 for the LS C3-213546 on offline charging only indication.

SA5 discussed the questions and agreed the following answers.

**Question 1:** When the "PDU session with offline charging only" indication is provisioned by the PCF for a PDU session within the SM Policy Decision to indicate that the online charging method shall never be used for any PCC rule of the PDU session, does this also mean that the offline charging method shall be used for all the PCC rules of the PDU session?

**SA5 answer:** TS 32.255 clause 5.1.11 states "When a PDU session charging method indicates "offline only" for a PDU session, offline charging method applies to all the PCC Rules activated during the PDU session". The TS 32.255 only covers the cases when there is either online or offline charging applicable for a PCC Rule, the case when “neither” is applicable to the PCC Rule has not been covered by SA5.

**Question 2:** If the answer to Question 1 is yes, then should the PCF be allowed to also provision the offline charging method as a default charging method for the PDU session when it provisions the "PDU session with offline charging only" indication? In other words, does the provisioning by the PCF of the "PDU session with offline charging only" indication mean that the offline charging method does not need to be provisioned by the PCF as the default charging method for the PDU session or as the charging method for any PCC rule of the PDU session?

**SA5 answer:** The provisioning by the PCF of the "PDU session with offline only charging" indicates, in SA5 understanding, that any PCC rule of the PDU session cannot indicate online charging. This "PDU session with offline charging only" indication is considered by SA5 as a "default charging method" set to "offline".

**Question 3**: Can the offline charging only indication be locally configured in the SMF and apply if no charging method is provided by the PCF (e.g. local policies indicate so)? If the answer is yes, then how to handle that the PCF may not be aware of it and would hence not be able to enforce that for all the PCC rules of the PDU session the online charging method cannot be set?

**SA5 answer:** There is nothing preventing the "PDU session with offline only charging" indicator to be pre-provisioned on the SMF by default Charging Characteristics (Annex A of TS 32.255). The case where PCC Rules are enforced with a charging method different from "offline" after the PDU session has started with this "PDU session with offline only charging" indicator set, has not been covered by SA5.

# 2 Actions

**To SA2, CT3:**

**ACTION:** SA5 asks SA2, CT3 to take the above information into account in their work.

# 3 Dates of next TSG SA WG 5 meetings

SA5#139e 11 – 15 October 2021 online

SA5#140e 15 – 24 November 2021 online