

3GPP TSG SA WG3 Security — S3#20
27 - 30 November, 2001
Sophia Antipolis, France

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SG

GSM Association

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Meeting Number **SG#41**

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Meeting Date **21st – 22nd November 2001**

Meeting Location **Marseilles, France**

Title Liaison Statement to 3GPP regarding cipher indicators and selection options in UMTS

Source **SG#41**

Date **22nd November 2001**

Security Classification Category*:	Please mark with "X" where applicable
Restricted – Members	X
Restricted - Associate Members	X

Status

Please mark with "X" one of the following actions relating to this document:

For Approval For Information

Associated Knowledge Basis	Security - 3G
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Document History

Revision	Date	Brief Description

Summary

This document contains a liaison statement to 3GPP SA3 expressing support for the use of a ciphering indicator in UMTS. The liaison statement also supports the use of a mechanism that will allow users to permanently disable a reject feature regarding the option to accept or reject non-ciphered connections.

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Liaison Statement

FROM: GSM Association SG
To: 3GPP TSG SA3
Subject: Cipher indicators and selection options in UMTS
Date: 22nd November 2001

The GSM Association's Security Group is aware of the ongoing work in SA3 to specify the use of the ciphering indicator for UMTS and the proposals that will allow UMTS users to select whether or not they wish to reject non-ciphered connections.

The issue was discussed at the 41st meeting of GSMA SG and the delegates, after some discussion, endorsed the view that users should have visibility of when ciphering is not implemented and the group wishes to support the mandatory implementation of the ciphering indicator.

The meeting also discussed the introduction of user control to accept or reject non-ciphered connections and the delegates expressed the view that this will not be fully understood by many users and this will necessitate a user friendly implementation.

The proposed mechanism that allows a user to permanently disable the default reject feature was found to be a balanced solution. This solution should be acceptable in a UMTS environment where the deployment of radio interface encryption should increase. User familiarity with SSL and TLS in the internet environment were also considered to be in favour of the proposed mechanism.