



CEPT/ECTRA

ECTRA/REC(98)04 – E

**CEPT - European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
ECTRA - European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs**

CEPT/ECTRA Recommendation of 10 December 1998

**on Guidelines for fundamental changes to National
Numbering and Dialling Plans**

(ECTRA/REC(98)04)



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As Chairman of the European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA), I hereby confirm that this recommendation was approved in Berlin on 10 December 1998 at the XXVIIth ECTRA Plenary Meeting.

Frédéric Riehl
ECTRA Chairman
10.12.1998

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**on Guidelines for fundamental changes to National
Numbering and Dialling Plans**

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The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

FOLLOWING

- The adoption of ETO's final report on "Review of National Numbering Schemes on their Openness to Competition" by the ECTRA Plenary on 4 December 1997 in Bruges.

CONSIDERING

- That convergence of national numbering plans would benefit the voice telephony services users.
- That convergence of national numbering plans could be very costly if not planned well.
- That the convergence of national numbering plans is a long term process which should bring fundamental changes in a way that costs for convergence are minimised.
- That the objective of complete convergence must be balanced with other interests, and that therefore only a partial convergence is achievable

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- ITU-T Recommendation E.164 - The International Public Telecommunication Numbering Plan, May 1997.
- Commission Directive 96/19/EC of 13 March 1996 amending Directive 90/388/EEC with regard to the implementation of full competition in telecommunications markets, OJ 22.3.96.
- Directive 97/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 1997 on Interconnection in Telecommunications with regard to ensuring universal service and interoperability through application of the principles of Open Network Provision (ONP).
- Directive 98/61/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 1998 amending Directive 97/33/EC with regard to operator number portability and carrier pre-selection.

DEFINING FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION

- That a National (Significant) Number (N(S)N) is that portion of the corresponding international number that follows the Country Code (CC). See scheme below.

< international number >	
< CC >	< N (S) N >

- That a N(S)N consists of either a National Destination Code (NDC) followed by a subscriber number (SN) or an SN only. See both schemes below.

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">< N (S) N ></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 75%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">< NDC ></td> <td style="text-align: center;">< SN ></td> </tr> </table>	< N (S) N >				< NDC >	< SN >	or	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">< N(S)N ></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 75%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">< SN ></td> </tr> </table>	< N(S)N >				< SN >	
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< N(S)N >														
< SN >														

- That some N(S)Ns may only be dialled in the national format and not in the international format. (In this case, the N(S)N is not considered to be an E.164 number).
- That local dialling may be possible for certain NDCs, that is dialling the SN only when both the calling party and the called party are within the same NDC area. National dialling is then distinguished from local dialling by using a national prefix, normally the digit 0, before the N(S)N.
- That the national numbering plan deals with N(S)Ns.

- That a prefix is a string of digits that may be dialled before an N(S)N in a dialling sequence on a public network within the geographic area covered by the national numbering plan. The prefix provides some extra information to the network, for example regarding the (national or international) format of the dialled number, the carrier to be selected for the call or the status of certain supplementary services required for the call.
- That a national dialling sequence may consist of an N(S)N only, or a prefix (or several prefixes) followed by an N(S)N.
- That the national dialling plan deals with national dialling sequences.
- That a fundamental change in a national numbering plan consists of one or more of these important changes like e.g. change of maximum number length, closing the plan, introduction of a new NDC scheme.

RECOMMENDS to administrations, when planning fundamental changes in their national number plan,

- That the number of geographical numbering areas is reduced to achieve more efficiency in the usage of the total available numbering capacity.
- That national dialling sequences beginning with the digit 1 are recommended for access to special services/facilities (e.g. emergency services, directory enquiry) in order to facilitate easy recognition of these sequences and their possible harmonisation.
- That at least one value of the most significant digit of the N(S)N is left spare to allow flexibility for future changes.
- That if the N(S)Ns beginning with 0 become spare because of a fundamental change, they shall be left spare in order to allow a future harmonised use throughout Europe.