



CEPT/ECTRA

ECTRA/REC(98)03 - E

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

CEPT / ECTRA Recommendation of 25 June 1998

**on Harmonised National Numbering Conventions regarding ITU-T
Recommendation E.164 numbers**

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As Chairman of the European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs (ECTRA), I hereby confirm that this recommendation was approved in Sinaia on 25 June 1998 at the XXVIth ECTRA Plenary Meeting.

Frédéric Riehl
ECTRA Chairman
26.06.1998

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**on Harmonised National Numbering Conventions regarding ITU-T
Recommendation E.164 numbers**

(ECTRA/REC(98)03)

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

FOLLOWING

The adoption of ETO's final report on "Harmonised National Numbering Conventions" by the XXIVth ECTRA Plenary on 4 December 1997 in Bruges.

CONSIDERING

- a) That, in a competitive environment, a clearly defined regulatory framework on numbering is needed in order to ensure non-discriminatory and transparent access to numbering resources.
- b) That a certain degree of harmonisation of national numbering conventions, particularly the assignment process, provides support to ensuring non-discriminatory and transparent access to numbering resources.
- c) That harmonised national numbering conventions should not preclude national peculiarities, flexibility over time and case by case treatments and should allow room for leaving solutions to market mechanisms as much as possible.
- d) That, at present, such harmonisation is most important and most effective for E.164 numbers.
- e) That harmonised national numbering conventions should be presented in a general framework which easily allows future extension to other types of numbers, names and addresses for publicly available telecommunications services.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- i. ITU-T Recommendation E.164 - The International Public Telecommunication Numbering Plan, May 1997.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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).
- iv. Directive 98/[XX]/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of [mm.dd.yyyy] amending Directive 97/33/EC with regard to operator number portability and carrier pre-selection.

DEFINING FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION

- a. National numbering conventions as the whole of
 - the national numbering plan,
 - types of usage for designated number ranges,
 - rules for administration of the national numbering plan,
 - rules for management of the national numbering plan.
- b. Administration of the national numbering plan as the establishment and change of national numbering conventions.
- c. Management of the national numbering plan as the whole of
 - assignment of numbers from designated ranges,
 - surveillance of usage of assigned numbers,
 - withdrawal of assigned numbers.
- d. Numbering Plan Manager (NPM) as a national body that carries out the national numbering plan management.
- e. Assignment as the total of allocation and possible preceding reservation of numbers.

RECOMMENDS

That all CEPT Administrations ensure national implementation of the following regulatory framework as far as E.164 numbers are concerned:

A. General NRA responsibilities

1. The national numbering plan and the associated designated number ranges should be controlled by a National Regulatory Authority (NRA). Their administration should be carried out by an NRA or another national body independent of telecommunications organisations.
2. The national numbering plan and the associated designated number ranges should:
 - provide sufficient capacity in both the short term and the long term,
 - enable fair and open competition,
 - be in line with the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.
3. The management of the national numbering plan should be controlled by an NRA. The NPM should be an NRA or another national body independent of telecommunications organisations. If the national management process is divided up into a number of stages (primary, secondary or tertiary), the primary management should be carried out by the NPM, while the secondary and tertiary management are to be handled by market parties.
4. The management (primary, secondary and tertiary) should be carried out in an objective, non-discriminatory, equitable, proportionate, timely and transparent manner.

B. Consultation by NRAs

5. The NRA should consult interested parties or their representatives, such as by means of a consultation body, on important issues concerning numbering conventions and on large-scale withdrawals of assigned numbers by the NPM.

C. Publicity and appeal

6. Up-to-date information on the following items, if applicable, should be published in an appropriate manner:
 - the national numbering conventions,
 - the numbers assigned by the NPM,
 - the status of each of these numbers.
7. Appropriate procedures should be laid down for appealing to an institution independent of the NPM against management decisions by the NPM.
8. The publicity of a change in a substantial part of the active national numbers should be well co-ordinated and started in good time in order to allow market parties to prepare for the change.

D. Applications for primary assignment

9. Eligible applicants should be defined.
10. The information required to decide on an application should be defined. Additional information may be required depending on the specific application. The required information should not place an undue burden on the applicant.

E. Primary assignment

11. Generally, the principle of “first come, first served” should be applied.
12. The assignee should have the right to use numbers that are not frequently misdialled.
13. When assignment is granted, the NPM should inform the applicant accordingly and provide information about the procedure for appeal.

F. Refusal of primary assignment

14. When assignment is refused, the NPM should inform the applicant about the refusal, the reasons for the refusal and the procedure for appeal.
15. The reasons for which assignment can be refused should be laid down.

G. Usage conditions after primary assignment

16. Assignment by the NPM should only imply the granting of rights of use of numbers.
17. All conditions needed to control the usage of the numbers and to withdraw numbers if they are not used for the purpose or period required should be laid down.
18. Any fees imposed by the NPM as part of the assignment should seek only to cover administration, management and enforcement costs. The fees for categories of assigned numbers should be proportionate to the work involved.
19. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, where scarce resources are to be used, these fees may reflect the need to ensure the optimal use of these resources.
20. The assignee should not transfer or trade assigned numbers without the sanction of the NRA. An exception may be made for mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures, in which case the NPM should be notified.
21. The assignee should not use numbers which do not belong to the national numbering plan in a way that may cause interference with numbers that do belong to the national numbering plan.

H. Withdrawal of numbers from assignees of primary assignment

22. The reasons for which assigned numbers can be withdrawn should be laid down.
23. Before any decision on a large-scale withdrawal is taken, the overall implications of the withdrawal, the timescales and the number changes involved should be carefully considered.
24. When the NPM intends to withdraw assigned numbers, it should inform the assignee about its intention, the reasons and the timescales for withdrawal and the procedure for appeal.
25. When active numbers are withdrawn, because of the need for numbering capacity, fair and open competition or international harmonisation, the assignee should have the numbers simultaneously replaced.
26. When a change of active numbers is imposed by the NPM, the users of these active numbers should have the right to have the disruption minimised.

I. Conditions for secondary and tertiary assignment

27. Secondary and tertiary assignment should comply with the national numbering plan.
28. The following usage conditions for primary assignment should also apply to secondary and tertiary assignment:
 - Assignment should not imply transfer of ownership but should only imply the granting of the rights of use of numbers.
 - The assignee should not transfer or trade assigned numbers without the sanction of the NRA. An exception may be made for mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures.
29. The assignee should have the right of use of numbers that are not frequently misdialled.
30. When a change of active numbers is imposed by the assigning body, the users of these active numbers should have the right to have the disruption minimised.