



ECC Decision (17)05

Harmonised prefixes and short codes in national numbering plans

Approved 02 March 2018

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

Harmonisation and standardisation of national numbering plans have been important objectives in the development of numbering policy for many years. The harmonisation of numbering resources is necessary to allow certain services provided in different CEPT countries to be accessed by end-users using the same short code ranges. This is particularly relevant for citizens travelling between CEPT countries so that they can access certain services such as emergency services, using a common number in all countries.

CEPT Recommendation T/SF 1 “Long-term standardisation of National Numbering Plans” which was adopted in 1972 and amended in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1990 represents an important and historical CEPT deliverable. Since the Recommendation was adopted, the telecommunications landscape has fundamentally changed. The telecommunications markets’ of most CEPT countries have been fully liberalised, and the European Union has implemented a regulatory framework for Electronic Communications Networks and Services.

Technological developments have resulted in new products and services. Several important regulations, reports, recommendations and decisions have been published by the ECC, the European Commission and the ITU providing information, guidance and policy direction in the numbering area. Conversely, these developments have also resulted in rendering some legacy services as obsolete.

This Decision supersedes CEPT Recommendation T/SF 1 and ECTRA Recommendation (97)01 “Numbering Access to Voice Directory Enquiry Services”.

2 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

CEPT Recommendation T/SF 1 contained recommendations for harmonisation of certain short codes across Europe for important services to citizens. This Recommendation has been wholly or partially implemented in the vast majority of CEPT member countries, and this reflects the importance of those harmonisation efforts. According to the ECC Rules of Procedure, ECC Decisions are measures on significant harmonisation matters and this ECC Decision now supersedes CEPT Recommendation T/SF 1 thereby recognising the significance of the harmonisation measures contained herein.

ECC DECISION OF 02 MARCH 2018 ON HARMONISED PREFIXES AND SHORT CODES IN NATIONAL NUMBERING PLANS (ECC/DEC/(17)05)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) the regulatory framework for electronic communications in place in the European Union;
- b) the EU Council Decision of 29 July 1991 on the introduction of a single European emergency call number (91/396/EEC);
- c) the EU Council Decision of 11 May 1992 on the introduction of a standard international telephone access code ("00") in the Community (92/264/EEC);
- d) the adoption of the ECTRA Report 48380 on "Harmonisation of short codes in Europe" in September 1998;
- e) the adoption of the European Commission Decision (2007/116/EC) on "reserving the national numbering range beginning with 116 for harmonised numbers for harmonised services of social value" of February 2007;
- f) ITU-T Recommendation E.161.1 - Guidelines to select Emergency Number for public telecommunications networks, (09/2008);
- g) ITU-T Recommendation E.101 - Definitions of terms used for identifiers (names, numbers, addresses and other identifiers) for public telecommunication services and networks in the E-series Recommendations (11/2009);
- h) ITU-T Recommendation E.164 - The International Public Telecommunication Numbering Plan, (11/2010);
- i) the adoption of ECC Decision (07)03 of 6 July 2007 on "Reserving the National Numbering Range Beginning with '116' for Harmonised Numbers for Harmonised Services of Social Value" (amended 26 February 2008 and 16 June 2010);
- j) the adoption of ECC Decision (09)06 of 30 October 2009 on "Reserving the National Short Message Service (SMS) Numbering Range Beginning with '116' for Harmonised SMS Numbers for Harmonised Services of Social Value" (ECC/DEC/(09)06) (amended 16 June 2010);
- k) the adoption of ECC Report 154 on "Evolution of Geographic Numbers" in November 2010;
- l) the adoption of ECC Report 178 on "Open and Closed Dialling Plans" in May 2012;
- m) the adoption of ECC Recommendation (15)02 on "Guidelines for Major changes to National Numbering and Dialling Plans concerning E.164 Numbers" in April 2015;
- n) that for citizens travelling anywhere in Europe, it seems essential, to achieve harmonisation of the following prefixes and short codes:
 - international prefix;
 - trunk prefix;
 - emergency services number;
 - European harmonised services of social value;
- o) that harmonisation of these prefixes and short codes could affect the national numbering plans of different CEPT countries;

- p) the harmonisation of prefixes and short codes does not preclude the parallel use of other national numbers for the same services.

DECIDES

1. that when CEPT countries revise their national numbering plans, they should seek to retain or introduce:
 - a) as an international prefix, the digits “00”;
 - b) as a national trunk prefix, the digit “0”¹;
 - c) as a harmonised number for emergency services, the 3-digit short code “112”²;
 - d) as a harmonised 6-digit number range for harmonised services of social value, short codes “116xyz” in accordance with ECC Decision (07)03;
2. that CEPT countries already using short codes beginning with 118 for national directory enquiries should continue to do so as long as required by the market.
3. that this Decision **enters into force** on 02 March 2018;
4. that the preferred **date for implementation** of this Decision shall be 02 September 2018;
5. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the **national measures** implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when this ECC Decision is nationally implemented.”
6. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the **national measures** implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when this ECC Decision is nationally implemented.”

Note:

Please check the Office documentation database <http://www.ecodocdb.dk> for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.

¹ This is only relevant to CEPT countries which have open dialling plans.

² The use of 112 as a common European number for emergency services does not exclude the parallel use of the existing national emergency services number(s).

ANNEX 1: LIST OF REFERENCE

This annex contains the list of relevant reference documents.

- [1] Recommendation T/SF 1 (The Hague 1972, revised at Puerto de la Cruz 1974, at Malaga-Torremolinos 1975, at Stockholm 1976 and by correspondence 1990)
- [2] CEPT / ECTRA Recommendation (97)01 (Adopted at Brugge on 4 December 1997) on Numbering Access to Voice Directory Enquiry Services