

Proposal to the Board of ETSI concerning the establishment of coordinated Telecommunication Terminology Activities in ETSI

by Ilias Zoiros, Kostas Valeontis – 1998

A Greek proposal to the Board of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) by **Ilias Zoiros** (Head of the Greek National Delegation to ETSI, board member) and **Kostas Valeontis** (Chairman of TE-T, the “Greek National Committee ‘Telecommunications’”, and Chairman of MOTO, the “Permanent Group for Telecommunication Terminology”).

The proposal was not adopted because it was considered “expensive”...

Source: I. Zoiros

Title: Telecommunication Terminology Activities in ETSI

Agenda item:

Document for:

Decision	
Discussion	X
Information	

1 Decision/action requested

The Board should consider the attached Proposal for

- creating a technical group (**ETEG**) as a central body for the telecommunication terminology coordination through ETSI's technical organization and
- establishing a telecommunication terminology bank (**ETSITERM**) providing an on-line service for all ETSI Technical Bodies, for ETSI members as well as for any other party concerned.

2 References

ISO 1087:1990 – "Terminology – Vocabulary"

ETSI Board#10/Temporary Document 30/19.11.97

TR/NA-080001 "Terms and Definitions for Network Aspects"

3 Rationale

Terminology is the *fundamental aspect* of **Standardization** in any field; it is the *support* upon which the whole of the work shall be based. It is the *starting point* of the "**Aspect**" axis in the three-dimensional "**Standardization Space**"(see Fig.1). Any standard describes a specific part of Reality, smaller or bigger, which is understood via a specific **System of Concepts** being rendered via a corresponding **System of Terms**.

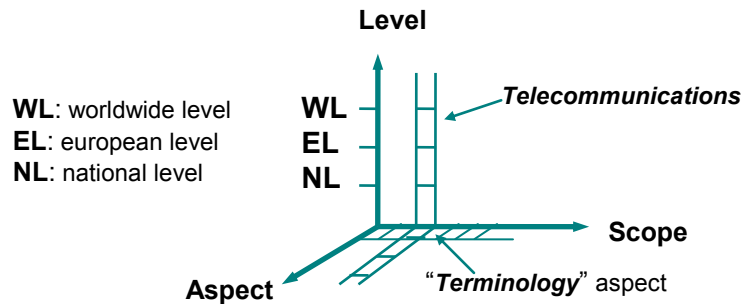


Fig. 1: The "Standadization Space" - The Terminology aspect

In the **T-sector** (*Telecommunications sector*) at the **WL** (*Worldwide Level*) much work has been jointly done by **ITU** (*International Telecommunications Union*) and the other two international standardization organizations: **ISO** (*International Organization for Standardization*) and **IEC** (*International Electrotechnical Commission*). The results of that work are contained in a number of **ISs** (*International Standards*) of the series **IEC 50 (7XX)** (i.e. *IEC 50 (701)*, *IEC 50(702)* etc.) all of which form the "**Chapter 700**" series of the **IEV** (*International Electrotechnical Vocabulary*).

At the **EL** (*European Level*) **ETSI**, **CEN** and **CENELEC** must adopt the **IEV's terms and definitions** or else contribute to the above worldwide organizations to **revise** any of them. Where there are areas which have not yet been covered by the **WL**, the european organizations have to forward the corresponding terminology, establishing terms and definitions, use them in order to cover the relevant needs, but also contribute to the **WL** in order that **these new terms be globally accepted**.

The first step is the internal establishment and harmonization of the **Telecommunication Terminology (TT)**. For ETSI this means the creation of a "**horizontal coordination for TT**" in which all the **ETSI TBs** (*Technical Bodies*) shall contribute. In this manner the **TT** elaborated by some **TBs** and already contained in some **ETs** or **ENs** or **ETRs**, **TRs** etc. will be **internally revised** (*harmonized, and consolidated*) and upon that base any further development and promotion will be built.

Simultaneously, a **Termbase** of **TT** used by **ETSI** will be **accumulated** and **continually developed**, forming an *on-line "TT service"* for **ETSI TBs**, for **ETSI members** as well as for the "Outside World", that is a **multilingual reference TTbase**.

4 Consequences and implications

The adoption of the proposed philosophy for **TT** in **ETSI** and it's implementation will result in a **substantial enhancement of the technical communication language** among its **TBs** and a **better clarification of T concepts** used in *ETSI deliverables*, thus improving their quality from a *conceptual* point of view. Arbitrariness as well as extemporization in **choosing a term**, or in **forming an acronym** will be restricted, and a firm ground to build upon will be provided for the **new T terms** and their interrelationships.

Of course, everything will depend on the **TPs' proper action** in collecting and transferring the relevant **TBs' questions** and contributions to the proposed

coordinating body (**ETEG**) for harmonized resolution and upon **Secretariat's** contribution by providing at least one qualified person for management and operation of the TT bank (**ETSITERM**) to be accumulated and by offering the secretarial support needed.

5 First actions

The first actions to be taken are:

- ***A letter to all TBs*** to inform them about the subject and ask them to ***nominate a TP*** to be a ***member*** of or a ***contact*** to **ETEG**.
- ***Drafting the agenda of ETEG's first meeting***, one of its points being the election of a chairperson, and a vice chairperson, and another a decision on the design of ETSITERM.
- ***ETEG's first meeting***.
- ***Designing ETSITERM***.

ILIAS ZOIROS, *Board Member*
 KOSTAS VALEONTIS, *Chairman of TE-T and MOTO (Greece)*

Proposal to the Board

concerning the establishment of coordinated Telecommunication Terminology Activities in ETSI

1 Definitions

For the purpose of this proposal, the following *definitions* apply (all from **ISO 1087**).

1.1 object: Any part of the perceivable or conceivable world

NOTE – Objects may also be material (e.g. engine) or immaterial (e.g. magnetism)

EXAMPLES: The particular standard meant by the name **ETS 300 001**, a particular **pencil**, my dog **Azor**, the particular **enthusiasm** I felt when my team won.

1.2 concept: A unit of thought constituted through abstraction on the basis of properties common to a set of **objects**.

NOTE – Concepts are not bound to particular languages. They are, however, influenced by the social or cultural background.

EXAMPLES: the concepts designated by the terms **european standard**, **pencil**, **dog**, **enthusiasm**.

1.3 designation: Any representation of a **concept**.

EXAMPLES: See 1.3.1 to 1.3.4 below.

1.3.1 symbol: **Designation** of a **concept** by letters, numerals, pictograms or any combination thereof.

EXAMPLES: **F** (for a force), **U7** (for **Call Received state** at the user side), **N7** (for **Call Received state** at the network side).

1.3.2 term: **Designation** of a defined **concept** in a special language by a linguistic expression.

NOTE – A term may consist of one or more words (i.e. **simple term** or **complex term**) or even contain **symbols**.

EXAMPLES: **standard**, **european standard**, **pencil**, **dog**, **enthusiasm**, **Call Received state**, **Secretariat**.

1.3.3 name: **Designation** of an **object** by a linguistic expression.

EXAMPLES: **European Telecommunications Standards Institute**, **ETS 300 001**, **ETSI Secretariat**, **International Telecommunication Union**.

1.3.4 abbreviated term: **Term** resulting from the omission of any part of a **term** while designating the same **concept**.

NOTE – Each abbreviated term is derived from a full form.

EXAMPLES: See 1.3.1.1 to 1.3.4.3 below.

1.3.4.1 abbreviation: *Abbreviated simple term* resulting from the omission of some of its letters.

EXAMPLES

m mandatory
Dr. Doctor
A address
Jan. January.

1.3.4.2 initialism: *Abbreviated complex term* or *name* made up of the first letters of the term elements.

NOTE – An initialism forms a sequence which may be pronounced letter by letter, syllabically, or both

EXAMPLES

ATM asynchronous transfer mode
ETSI European Telecommunications Standards Institute
ITU. International Telecommunication Union

1.3.4.3 acronym: *Abbreviated complex term* made up of letters of the full form of a *term* strung together into a sequence pronounced only syllabically.

EXAMPLES

ALGOL ALGOrithmic Language
ERMES European Radio MEssage System
modem modulator/demodulator
laser light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation
codec coder/decoder

2 Basic principles

The following *basic principles* apply:

- a. All *telecommunication concepts* used by **ETSI TBs** and appearing in **ETSI deliverables** belong to the "**System of Concepts for Telecommunications**".
- b. Any *telecommunication concept* shall be **samely understood** by all **TBs**, that means:
 - **samely defined** (no diversity in the relevant *definitions*)
 - **samely designated** (same *term*, same *abbreviation*, same *symbol* etc.)

NOTE 1 – "*Samely designated*" does not necessarily mean "*uniquely designated*", but any **synonyms** (*synonymous terms*) shall designate **exactly the same** concept. In this context "*synonym*" stands for "*full synonym*". "**Quasi synonyms**" shall not be accepted because they result in **ambiguity and misunderstanding**.

EXAMPLES

(synonyms given with exactly the same definition)
conformance, conformity (ETR 022).
basic access, basic rate access (TR/NA-080001)
interface rate, interface bit rate(TR/NA-080001)

NOTE 2 – If a **term** may correspond to **more than one concepts** in different contexts, it shall be **registered** as a **separate term** for each of them. So, the following **correspondence** shall apply:

1 concept ⇔ **1 term entry**
(consisted of **one** term or **more than one** full synonyms)

EXAMPLES

(From: "Telephony's Dictionary" by G.Langley)

block: a group of bits, or N-ary digits, transmitted as a unit
block: a string of records to be treated as an entity
block: a set of things handled as a unit.

- c. **Different concepts** appearing *in the same context* (of Telecommunication or any Sub-sector) shall be designated by **different terms**.
- d. Special importance shall be given to the formation and understanding of **abbreviations, initialisms, acronyms** and **symbols**.

3 ETSI Terminology Group (ETEG)

ETEG (see Fig.2) is the proposed body for the implementation of a **horizontal “Terminology” coordination** within and through the **TBs** of **ETSI**. In **ISO** or **IEC**, usually, the first (No 1) *working group* of any **TC** (*Technical Committee*) is that for the **relevant terminology (WG1)**. Since this idea has not been implemented in ETSI organization, **at least one person from each TB** has to be designated as the **“Termperson” (TP)** of that TB.

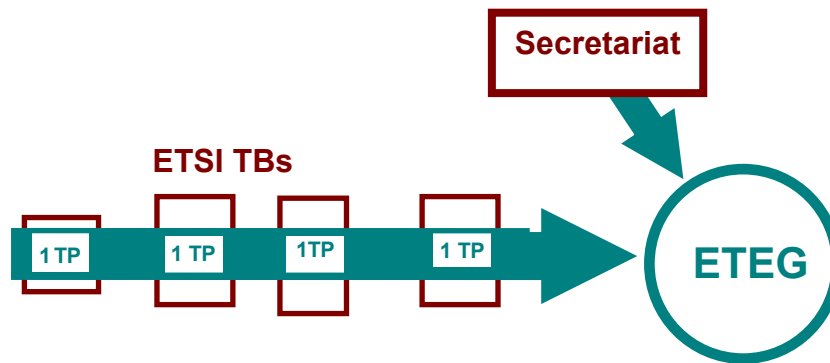


Fig. 2: The “horizontal” contribution of ETSI TBs to ETEG

Each **TP** has the responsibility to contribute to **ETEG** and transfer to it any **TT** problems of the corresponding **TB** for **homogeneous solution**, as well as to transfer **all ETEG’s solutions, proposals** or **instructions** back to the **TB**. At least the **TPs** from the Technical Committees shall be members of **ETEG** and participate in its meetings. Any ETSI member may delegate **experts in telecommunication terminology** to participate in **ETEG**. There shall be at least two of them. **ETEG** shall be chaired by one of its members being elected for this task. The **ETSI Secretariat** participates in **ETEG** providing a qualified person (**Secretariat’s TP**) as a member of **ETEG** being the contact person between **ETEG** and **Secretariat**. Thus, **ETEG** shall consist **at least** of:

- a. **Members:**
- * a Chairman (after election)
 - * one TP from each TC
 - * Secretariat’s TP
 - * two terminology experts designated by ETSI members.
- b. **Contacts:**
- * one TP from each TB

ETEG shall:

- **work** according its **Working Procedures** which shall be drafted by itself
- be in **continuous communication** with all TBs via their TPs.
- **harmonize** differing terms and definitions for the same concept
- produce **new terms** for newly appeared telecommunication concepts
- produce **terminology rules and instructions** to be observed by itself and by the TBs
- **communicate** with and **contribute** to ITU, ISO, IEC.

The decisions of **ETEG** on terminology issues shall be observed by all ETSI's Technical Organization.

Detailed **Terms of Reference** should be drafted for **ETEG** and approved by the Board.

4 "ETSITERM", the Terminology Bank of ETSI

There is an urgent need for a terminology bank in **ETSI**. The **lack of TT harmonization** among its **TBs** will grow more and more, leading to a **conceptual deterioration of ETSI deliverables**. A term bank will be a valuable reference for any **TB** chairman or member, but also for **ETSI** members and any other party concerned as well. The proposed databank for this purpose is **ETSITERM**. **ETSITERM** shall consist of **records** (**one** record for **one** concept) and any record shall consist of a number of **fields**. The **field structure** proposed (**as a minimum**) is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Field structure of ETSITERM

Field name	Field Description
ENTERM	English term + synonyms
ENABBREV	" abbreviation, initialism or acronym
ENSYMBOL	" symbol
ENDEFIN	" definition in the particular source
ENNOTE	" note
ENSOURCE	" source
ENCODE	" codenumber in the particular source
ENSTAGE	" stage of acceptance (predraft, draft, standard, revised)
LATERM	term, in LA (LA = FR, DE, ...)
LAABBREV	abbrev. initialism or acronym, in LA
LASYMBOL	symbol, in LA
LADEFIN	definition, in LA
LANOTE	note, in LA
LASOURCE	source, in LA
LACODE	code number in source, in LA
LASTAGE	stage of acceptance, in LA
...	

For any language **LA** concerned. In a **distributed** Term Bank this part may be distributed to as many different places as the number of the corresponding languages.

ETSI Secretariat is responsible for **operating, maintaining** and **updating ETSITERM** in close consultation with **ETEG** which shall be the governing technical body of **ETSITERM** on terminological matters. There shall be an **“ETSITERM officer”** who may be the same person as the *Secretariat’s TP*. In case that *ETSITERM officer* is a different person, then he/she shall participate in **ETEG** as an **ex officio member**.

5 Communication and/or information lines to and from ETSITERM

The overall chart of the communication and/or information lines to and from **ETSITERM**, both inside and outside **ETSI**, is shown in Fig.3.

The **operating principles** of **ETSITERM** should be drafted by **ETEG** and approved by the **Board** together with the Terms of Reference of **ETEG**.

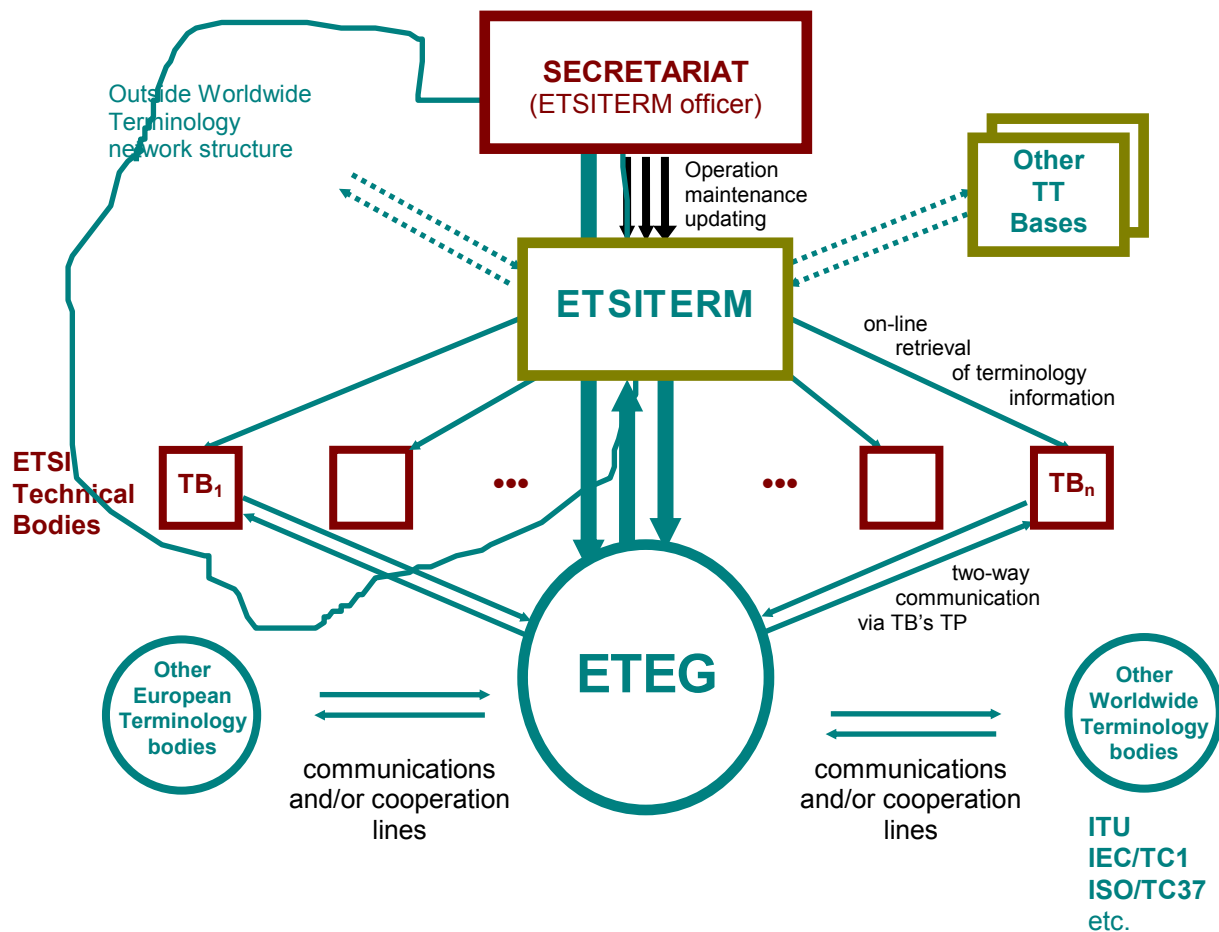


Fig.3: Communication and/or information lines to and from ETSITERM

6 Abbreviations, initialisms and acronyms

The abbreviations, initialisms and acronyms used in this proposal are as follows:

CEN	European Committee for Standardization
CENELEC	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
EL	European Level (of Standardization)
EN	European Standard
ETEG	ETSI Terminology Group
ETR	ETSI Technical Report
ETS	European Telecommunication Standard
ETSITERM	ETSI Terminology Bank
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IEC/TC1	IEC /Technical Committee 1 “Terminology”
IEV	International Electrotechnical Vocabulary
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISO/TC37	ISO / Tech.Committee 37 “Terminology (Principles and Coordination)”
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MOTO	Permanent Group for Telecommunication Terminology (WG1 of TE-T)
NL	National Level (of Standardization)
T	Telecommunications
TB	Technical Body
TE-T	Technical Committee “Telecommunications” (Greek National Committee for Standardization)
TP	TermPerson
TR	Technical Report
TT	Telecommunication Terminology
WG1	Working Group 1
WL	Worldwide Level (of Standardization)
