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ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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Mechanical and electrical equipment (including telecom terminal equipment)
TCAM Secretariat

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**STANDARDISATION MANDATE FORWARDED TO CEN/CENELEC/ETSI IN
THE FIELD OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

TITLE

Harmonised standards covering Ultrawide band (UWB) applications

PURPOSE

The purpose of this mandate is to establish a set of Harmonised Standards covering UWB applications to be recognised under Directive 1999/5/EC (the R&TTE Directive) giving a presumption of conformity with its requirements.

JUSTIFICATION

This mandate derives from the R&TTE Directive. This Directive, following the New Approach on Technical Harmonisation and Standards¹, defines the essential requirements R&TTE equipment must meet to be placed on the market and to be put into service for its intended purpose.

Although various definitions exist for the term, UWB is generally understood to be a technology which, by transmitting exactly timed pulses, spreads transmitted electromagnetic energy over a very large frequency range with as a result a spectral power density, which lies below classical EMC limits. Proposed applications of the technology range from communications, anti-collision radar and imaging techniques (see through a wall).

Their proponents argue that UWB devices can operate without causing interference to other users of the spectrum. As a technology, UWB thus doesn't fit in the classical radio regulatory paradigm, which bases itself on a subdivision of the spectrum in bands, which

¹ Council Resolution of 7 May 1985 on a new approach concerning technical harmonisation and standardisation (85/C 136/01).

are allocated for specific usage(s).

Incumbent spectrum users are concerned that the accumulative effect of UWB devices raises the background noise for their spectrum, rendering operation of their services difficult or sometimes even impossible.

Public authorities, especially in the United States and in Europe, are studying these effects. The European Communications Committee held 2 workshops on the matter, whereas the Federal Communication Commission issued a first order on the matter in February 2002. Such studies should lead to the formulation of specific protection requirements for critical services to be taken into account in harmonised standards for UWB devices.

ORDER

The European Standardisation Organisations are mandated to:

- Develop a work programme for harmonised standards covering UWB applications;
- Report the progress of the work to the Commission at regular intervals and at least prior to each meeting of the TCAM²;
- Deliver harmonised standards for the work items confirmed by the TCAM, the references of which will be published in the official journal of the European Communities as giving presumption of conformity with the R&TTE Directive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The experts should liaise intensively with regulatory bodies and their experts.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

December 2003	Presentation of the work programme to TCAM
As of December 2004	Delivery of harmonised standards

ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL WORK

Where appropriate alignment with equivalent activities in the ITU and in ISO/IEC should be ensured. Due account should be taken of regulations and draft regulations adopted in other economies so as to ensure a global market for UWB devices.

STANDSTILL

For the terms of Article 7 of the Directive 98/34/EC, the standstill applies for the standards developed within the present mandate.

² Telecommunications Conformity Assessment and Market Surveillance Committee, which is the standing Committee set-up by the Directive.

PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

The title in the languages of the Community is required.