

International Organization for Standardization
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Title: Request for SC2 to prepare to accept ISO/IEC 14651 as a new work item

Source: Ireland

Status: National Body Contribution

Action: For action by JTC1/SC2 and information to JTC1/SC2/WG2

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Document JTC1/SC22 (N3227) is, at present, out for ballot until 2002-01-07. The ballot proposes disbanding of SC22/WG20:

Please choose one of the following:

1. Reassign all existing projects of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 22/WG 20's to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC22 and disband WG 20. Such reassignment to take place following WG 20's October 2001, meeting. Handle new work item proposals concerning any internationalization issue raised in SC22 or JTC1. (Note: SC22/WG20 is also a part of the JTC1 Technical Direction on Cultural and Linguistic Adaptability and User Interfaces [CLAUI].)
2. Reconfirm WG20's mandate as is, allowing it to progress its current projects and handle any new work item that would occur in its programme of work.

Ireland favours choice (1), namely, that WG20 should indeed be disbanded. However, at the same time we feel very strongly that the string ordering project (ISO/IEC 14651) should not be assigned to SC22, but rather to SC2. ISO/IEC 14651 is no longer under development, but rather is in maintenance mode. The expertise needed to order new scripts and characters and to add them to ISO/IEC 14651 is with the experts who are adding new scripts and characters, namely the experts in SC2/WG2. That expertise is not present in SC22.

Ireland proposes that the way to accomplish this would be to set up a JTC1/SC2/WG2 GRG (Globalization Rapporteur Group). Ireland requests SC2 to endorse this proposal, asks SC2 to inform SC22 that, in the event that the proposed ballot passes, we stand ready to take responsibility for this particular standard. The SC22 ballot closes in January 2002. The next SC22 plenary is October 2002. There won't be an SC2 plenary until October 2003. Now is the time to act, to inform SC22 of our readiness to take on this work.

ISO/IEC 14651 should be in the care of the experts on scripts. Ireland wishes to take part in the new GRG, and wishes to work on ISO/IEC 14651, together with the expertise of the other Member Bodies participating in the work of SC2, as well as that of the Unicode Consortium liaisons. We believe that the IRG model which has been so successful in SC2 will work equally well for this new work. We therefore request that the Member Bodies at the Singapore meeting endorse the principle that SC2 should accept this work item, and we request SC2 to begin the process by sending out a call for participation in the new GRG. Because of the schedule, we must be ready to begin and to do the work. We do not, and should not, have to wait until November 2002 to be asked by SC22: we should signal our readiness now, to help SC22 decide and plan, and to prepare ourselves for taking on this important work.

Rest assured that Ireland is lobbying SC22 in a similar fashion on these points.