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Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

Dr. Boris Aleshin
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Mr. Jacob Holmblad
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Mr. Mike Ksar
Chairman of JTC1/ SC2/ WG2

and other persons concerned

International Organization for Standardization
ISO Central Secretariat
1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse
CP 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20

19-05-2011 Nr. 63-LL60

Re: CONTEMPORARY LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED LETTERS

Dear Sirs,

I would hereby like to address you on the issue of the inclusion of the full scope of the Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE.

As a matter of fact, the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for the maintenance of the Lithuanian State Terminology Database, the publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, as well as official and judicial documents. Pupils learn accented letters during several years of primary school.

Unfortunately, a considerable part of the Lithuanian accented letters has no UNICODE positions appointed to them, nor are they included in ISO/IEC 10646. The Lithuanian language – the only one from the European Union – cannot properly represent its own linguistic and cultural needs. Fully-fledged Lithuanian texts are unavailable to the international community and to the Lithuanians. The present situation causes considerable obstacles for the localization of computer software, and prevents from

using multi-language applications deployed outside Lithuania, and as a result – does not provide equal opportunities to use information technology for the Lithuanian-speaking people and creates a threat of losing a part of our cultural heritage.

Therefore, considering the above, it would be very helpful if the UNICODE Consortium decision preventing new precomposed characters were reconsidered, and UNICODE positions appointed to the missing Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and the UNICODE. In fact, the accented letters of other EU languages have long had their own UNICODE coding, and neither composition sequences nor Private Use Area (suggested alternative solution by ISO) have been used for their input.

As you may be aware, Lithuania today is a full member of ISO and P-member of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2. Currently, a proper technical proposal is in preparation to be submitted in due time for consideration during next ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 meeting.

I would highly appreciate your support in this matter of the national relevance. Please find a more detailed explanation of the problem and the rationale as presented in the Annex.

Annex – 6 pages

Yours faithfully,

Andrius Kubilius

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrius Kubilius', written in a cursive style.