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Fachbereich Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften

Mr. Brunonas Sickus
Director of the Lithuanian Standards
Board (LST)
Vilnius
Lithuania

Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaften

Vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert

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Datum: 29. November 2011

Inclusion of accented letters used in the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet in the standards of ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Dear Mr Sickus,

I strongly support and endorse the Initiative of the Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE. These characters are indispensable for all kinds of linguistic work on Lithuanian as well as educational purposes concerning this language. The unavailability of unique code-points for these characters has hampered the development of language-related tools and databases for long and has led to a considerable technological gap in dealing with Lithuanian in comparison with other intonation-sensitive languages such as Ancient Greek, Vietnamese, or (Pin-Yin) Chinese.

Sincerely,



(Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert)

December 1, 2011, Vilnius

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

Inclusion of the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Both public sector and private companies of the Republic of Lithuania pay ultimate attention to the effective usage of technologies. In order to perform different tasks, vast variety of technologies is being used, therefore, it is natural that all of them face challenges related to the need to harmonize different manufacturers' systems.

INFOBALT association promotes innovation and diversity fostering the formation of neutral and competitive information and communication technology policy, which shall allow all participants equal access to Lithuanian market as well as digital access of Lithuanian cultural heritage and other resources from abroad by means of internationally recognised and market-accepted software solutions.

Public sector and businesses of the Republic of Lithuania face real risks that emerge when technologies and solutions produced by foreign manufacturers cannot be implemented, because they do not support the usage of the Lithuanian accented letters.

For the reasons detailed above INFOBALT association strongly supports and endorses the Initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Sincerely,

The President of INFOBALT association



Evaldas Kulbokas



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TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

Inclusion the contemporary Lithuanian alphabet accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 and UNICODE

Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for maintenance of Lithuanian State Terminology Database, publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, as well as official and judicial documents.

Lithuanian language is used by approximately 4 million people (about 3.5 million in Lithuania and about 0.5 million in the rest of the world (mostly in the USA).

Lithuanian accented letters have no UNICODE positions appointed to them, aren't included in ISO/IEC 10646 and for this can't properly represent linguistic and cultural needs.

For the reasons detailed above we strongly support and endorse the Initiative of Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) to incorporate the Lithuanian accented letters in the ISO/IEC 10646 standard and UNICODE.

Director

Valdas Kisonas



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO KANCELIARIJA
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To whom it may concern

REGARDING LITHUANIAN ALPHABET ACCENTED LETTERS

Dear Sir or Madam,

Nowadays Lithuanian alphabet accented letters are widely used in Lithuania and are essential for maintenance of Lithuanian State Terminology Database as well as for publishing of Lithuanian standards (terminology chapters), Lithuanian schoolbooks, dictionaries, scientific and linguistic publications, also for legislation. Accented Lithuanian alphabet characters are indispensable for electronic publication of legal acts on Internet and for maintenance of Legal Acts Data Bases.

Lithuanian accented letters have no UNICODE positions appointed to them, and are not included into ISO/IEC 10646 either. Lithuanian language – the only one in European Union – is not able to represent properly linguistic, legislative and cultural needs. The fully-fledged Lithuanian texts are not available to international community or inside the Lithuania. Present situation can be treated as discriminative to Lithuanian language, one of current, usable EU languages.

The optimal way of solving the problem could be revising the UNICODE Consortium decision not to allow new pre-composed characters, and on this basis an appointment of UNICODE positions for the missing Lithuanian accented letters in the new version of the UNICODE and ISO/IEC 10646 standard. The accented letters of other languages have got their own UNICODE coding for a long time already and neither composition sequences nor PUA (Private Use Area) are being used for their input. Negative impact on accented letters presentations according the situation described above can be provided in various examples of explorers, outlooks and other applications.

I highly appreciate your support for successful solution on our national issue. More wide explanations of our problem and rationale are presented in documents, given by competent authorities and experts of this field.

Sincerely yours,

Jonas Milerius
Secretary General of the Seimas (Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania)