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| European Common Proposals |
| Stabilization of Recommendation ITU-T A.7 on focus groups |
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| **Abstract:** | The authors consider that Recommendation ITU-T A.7 is mature and does not need further modifications, hence propose to reconfirm without change ITU-T A.7 (2012) with its Appendix I (06/2015). |

Introduction

Europe has reviewed the impact of focus groups (FGs) on the work undertaken by ITU-T study groups and the process for the creation of FGs.

Discussion

The possibility of having FGs has been defined as an exceptional basis for (limited) particular issues. The process for the creation of FGs was conceived in order to avoid undue administrative burden, yet provide minimum preparation time to allow for a considered decision to create a new FG. This minimum burden foresaw the exchange of document-based proposals, and a determined amount of time to allow for reflection and consultation between the study group chairmen but also within the whole membership.

Europe insists that these provisions stand in Rec. ITU-T A.7. Any proposal to mitigate, or even by-pass, them would be of concern to CEPT as this would have a negative impact upon the work and status of the ITU-T.

Europe would also like to remind that the use of FGs is not neutral towards the need of limited resources in the current global economic climate. This is a source of potentially significant consequences. First, FGs can divert resources from the study groups. Second, FGs may dilute the role of the study groups by duplicating effort that otherwise would utilize Rapporteur meetings within SGs. Thus, Europe is of the opinion that Rec. ITU-T A.7 shall continue to leverage the role of ITU T study groups and of the expertise available to them.

Regarding the issue of financing, Europe strengthens that funding had to be handled through existing budgetary appropriations without sacrificing important ongoing work.

Proposal

For the aforementioned reasons, Europe is convinced that Recommendation ITU-T A.7 is now mature, and does not need further modifications, hence proposes to maintain the text published in November 2012 without change (except the addition of Appendix I agreed at the June 2015 meeting of TSAG).

NOC EUR/45A3/1

Recommendation ITU‑T A.7

Focus groups: Establishment and working procedures

(2000; 2002; 2004; 2006; 2008; 2012; 2015)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Reasons:** See introduction to Doc.45 Add.3. Europe proposes to maintain the text published in November 2012 without change (except the addition of Appendix I agreed at the June 2015 meeting of TSAG).

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1. This publication includes Recommendation ITU-T A.7 (2012) and incorporates its Amendment 1 (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)