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|  | **Addendum 3 to Document EG-ITRs-1/2** |
| **7 September 2023** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution from HILL | |
| ART. 3: INTERNATIONAL NETWORK | |
| **Purpose**  Discussion  **Action required**  The document is submitted to EG-ITRs **for discussion**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Reference**  [Council Resolution 1379, revised 2023](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0121/en) | |

1. The work of the current ITR-EG is specified in its Terms of Reference[[1]](#footnote-1):

*2 Taking into consideration the work of the previous two Expert Groups, the review may consider, among others:*

*a) new trends in telecommunications/ICT and emerging issues in international telecommunications/ICT environment which may impact the ITRs,*

*b) empirical data on the current use of the ITRs by operating agencies and/or administrations and the proportion of global telecommunication services which now rely on the ITRs, and*

*c) the relevance of the ITRs which “consist of high-level guiding principles” in the current telecommunication/ICT environment.*

2. This contribution focuses on Art. 3 of the 2012 ITRs, International Network, which states:

*3.1 Member States shall endeavour to ensure that authorized operating agencies cooperate in the establishment, operation and maintenance of the international network to provide a satisfactory quality of service.*

*3.2 Member States shall endeavour to ensure the provision of sufficient telecommunication facilities to meet the demand for international telecommunication services.*

*3.3 Authorized operating agencies shall determine by mutual agreement which international routes are to be used. Pending agreement and provided that there is no direct route existing between the terminal authorized operating agencies concerned, the origin authorized operating agency has the choice to determine the routing of its outgoing telecommunication traffic, taking into account the interests of the relevant transit and destination authorized operating agencies.*

*3.4 Subject to national law, any user, by having access to the international network, has the right to send traffic. A satisfactory quality of service should be maintained to the greatest extent practicable, corresponding to the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.*

*3.5 Member States shall endeavour to ensure that international telecommunication numbering resources specified in ITU-T Recommendations are used only by the assignees and only for the purposes for which they were assigned; and that unassigned resources are not used.*

*3.6 Member States shall endeavour to ensure that international calling line identification (CLI) information is provided taking into account the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.*

*3.7**Member States should create an enabling environment for the implementation of regional telecommunication traffic exchange points, with a view to improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the costs of international telecommunication interconnections.*

**Discussion of Article 3**

2. In our view, article 3.3 is no longer relevant, nor should it be included in the ITRs, because it purports to impose obligations directly on private sector entities (see the discussion regarding article 1 of the ITRs).

3. In our view, the remaining provisions remain valid and should not be changed.

4. It has recently been noted that, in Europe (and presumably elsewhere) calls to certain international numbers (in particular +882 and +883) cannot be made, even when those numbers are used for safety of life (in particular, eCall)[[2]](#footnote-2). This is an undesirable situation: national regulators should ensure that all ITU-assigned numbering resources can be used properly.

5. As noted in no. 1.19 ff. of the main contribution (“Overall considerations”), the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and software based upon it is a new trend and an emerging issue. While many aspects of AI are outside the scope of the ITU, surely the use of AI in international telecommunications services is squarely within the scope of the ITU. For example, AI can be used for network management, including traffic shaping (optimization of traffic). There appears to be an emerging consensus that some limits should be placed on the way AI systems are deployed.

6. In light of the above, Member States are invited to consider the situation and to consider how to address it in the context of the review of the ITRs, for example by considering whether to abrogate article 3.3 and whether to add new articles along the following lines:

1. Member States shall ensure, through national regulation, that all international numbering resources assigned and published by ITU can be dialed and are routed in their jurisdictions.
2. Member States shall endeavour to ensure that AI systems used for the international telecommunication network are transparent: it should be clear when something is AI-produced, and the training data and model architectures should be disclosed.
3. Member States shall ensure that builders of AI systems used for the international telecommunication network are accountable for the outputs produced.
4. Member States shall ensure that AI systems do not have full autonomous control of critical systems or infrastructure used for the international telecommunication network (which would include basic telecommunications infrastructure).

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1. <https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0121/en> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://eena.org/blog/resolving-the-ecall-callback-issue/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)