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**Question(s):** 10/16 Geneva, 26 October - 6 November 2009

**LIAISON STATEMENT**

**Source:** ITU-T Study Group 16

**Title:** Reply LS to IETF on speech and audio coding standardization

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**LIAISON STATEMENT**

**For action to:** IETF RAI, IESG

**For comment to:** -

**For information to:** -

**Approval:** Agreed at ITU-T SG 16 meeting (Geneva, 26 October – 6 November 2009)

**Deadline:** March 2010

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Study Group 16 thanks IETF RAI Area for their Liaison Statement.

Referring to the three main criteria referred to in your liaison statement, Study Group 16 wishes to bring the following to the attention of IETF RAI.

Study Group 16 has a mature and proven development process for selecting and standardizing speech and audio codecs according to a detailed set of technical requirements. We believe that this development process, refined over many similar exercises, has demonstrated that it can successfully select codecs that meet, or indeed exceed, the original technical requirements. Replicating or reinventing this expertise should not be underestimated by a group wishing to develop a codec.

It is important to note that there is nothing to prevent a royalty-free codec being selected as part of the codec development process within ITU-T. In fact, several royalty-free codecs have been developed and form part of the codec portfolio of the ITU-T. However, a non-technical requirement, such as royalty-free, cannot be specified as part of the Terms of Reference for a coder. We make reference to the IPR policy of the ITU-T (<http://itu.int/ITU-T/ipr/>).

When developing a new codec, SG16 agrees that eliminating 3rd-party IPR is almost impossible. However the impact of this 3rd-party IPR is significantly less of a problem with codec developments where there is no up-front goal to achieve a royalty-free result at the end. In cases where royalty-free is an up-front requirement then there is, in our view, an unacceptably high risk

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that the complete development effort will be wasted when this IPR comes to light after the standard is published. The ITU-T processes have safeguards in-place if a non-member has IPR claims which they will not license on RAND terms.

In conclusion, we would reiterate our desire to assist the IETF in satisfying the industry.

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