SHIPPLANNING MESSAGE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

HELD AT HESSENATIE ANTWERP, 3rd DECEMBER 1991

Present   :   See attached list

Not present with notice: N. Ianson (SAECS)
                               H. Martin (Senator Linie)
                               K. Geiser (BLG)
                               G. de Cuister (Hessenatie)

Not present   :   D.A. Porter (ANZECS)
                               J. Burtt (SCT)
                               M. Winn (SCT)

1.   Opening

The meeting was opened by Simon Spoormaker at 10.50 hrs.

Mr. Ruelens, PR-Manager of Hessenatie, made a short opening speech, welcoming all present at Hessenatie.

2.   Announcements

The chairman made the following announcements:

BAPLIE
Last September the message obtained status 1 and gets now recognition around the world. Hopefully the message will get status 2 by March 1993. No other messages will get status 2 before that date.

MOVINS
This message has now been allocated a UNSM. We expect status 0 by March 1992.

NEW MEMBERS
We have been approached by terminals in Helsinki, Genoa and Barcelona for membership of the SMDG. The chairman asked the group if there were any objections. There were no objections, therefore the chairman will notify the applicants that their membership has been approved.

TOPAS
This is a North-American group of terminals also involved in the implementation of EDI. TOPAS has shown interest in our work for some time and has now requested permission to send an observer to one of our next meetings. Since there were no objections, permission wil be granted.

There is a general feeling amongst the members of the SMDG that it is now time to present the results of our group to a wider public.

Gregor Ross has been asked by OOCL to keep them posted about the developments within our group.

The chairman proposed to apply to the Edifact Board to become a "PAN-EUROPEAN USER GROUP", This would mean recognition and acceptance of our authority in our line of business and this might create better possibilities to obtain subsidies. This proposal was accepted.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 19-9-1991

The following remark was made:

page 3, item 8: HHLA agreed to make a proposal, but not for this meeting as stated in the minutes. They will have their proposal ready for the next meeting.

4. Tedis Proposal

All members have received a copy of the proposal made by ECT to Tedis. The chairman explains that sofar we have survived 2 elimination rounds and we now expect the decision by mid December. It is a plan for 50% funding. Acceptance of our proposal by Tedis would mean that active members may expect 50% funding for travelling and lodging expenses and for the hours attending the meeting during 1992. For 1993 a new proposal will have to be made.

These are preliminary details. All further details are unknown yet. We must await the final decision of Tedis. There after the chairman will fax the details to all members.

Frank Merket asked about a french group with the same intention as the SMDG. No other member heard from this group. If we are accepted by the Edifact Board as a "Pan European User Group", then no other group may officially develop messages.

5. BAPLIE 91.1

So far no Change Requests (CR) were anticipated. The chairman will distribute any CR's that are transmitted to him to the members of the SMDG. When approved during the next meeting a proper CR will be prepared by the chairman and tabled in MD2.

6. BAPLIE User Manual

A discussion about the scope of the user manual takes place. Pierre Mijnsbergen proposes to consider the SMDG User Manual as a "Minimum requirement" and that bi-lateral additions and/or changes must always be possible. Gerry Endenburg explains that in order to achieve stability of the in-house file format we must try to develop the existing user manual to a "Maximum requirement". Perhaps it is not always possible to avoid a bi-lateral agreement on certain items, but at least we can try to categorize ALL possible data-elements, so that once implemented the individual lines can choose which data-elements they want to use and which not. Such a decision, should however, not result in an extention of the records in the in-house file, since that would automatically imply a change in application of software (on the mainframe).

Recognizing the fact that the terminals need to create a stable in-house file format and considering the fact that the SMDG secretariat will register any requests to change the user manual and that the secretariat will coordinate such requests and will inform all other members of such requests, all members accepted this proposal (to try and develop the user manual as a "maximum requirement").

Gerry Endenburg will work out a procedure and distribute same to all members.

Gregor Ross proposes to add a code for a general "optional port of discharge". The user manual mentions codes for first/second/third optional port of discharge. This is necessary in case containers are loaded on ships with unknown destinations (e.g. empty boxes).
After some discussion it was agreed that we shall request a new qualifier from the code-committee for "Optional port of discharge". In that case the LOC-segment must be transmitted with the qualifier only and with no UN-locode in LOC C517.e3225.

There is also a question about off-standard dimensions for it is not always known how many centimetres the overheight, overwidth or overlength is. It was agreed that a DIM-segment with the respective qualifier and the measure unit qualifier in composite C211 will be transmitted without dimensions. In such cases the DIM-segment will be treated as a "flag", indicating that a particular container is off-standard.

Since item 9 on the agenda is related to item 5 it was agreed to continue with item 9 now.

9.   Deviating User Manuals

The case of the Port of Singapore Authority bayplan message was discussed. The chairman explained that Mr. Ray Walker, Rapporteur for the WE-Edifact Board, has travelled to Singapore for a discussion with the local representative there. He will also try and meet the people from PSA to convince them to adhere to the BAPLIE message. Meantime several shipping lines (Hapag Lloyd, P&O, EACBEN, Nedlloyd) also put pressure on PSA to accept BAPLIE and the SMDG User Manual version 1.3.

The group decides that PSA has no choice; it must accept the UN-standards.

7.   MOVINS message

The structure of this message remains unchanged. No further remarks.

8.   MOVINS User Manual

The MOVINS User Manual, as designed by the sub-committee and prepared by Frank Lehmann of Hapag Lloyd, was distributed to all members before the meeting. Frank Lehmann explained this user manual to the group and asked for comments.

Pierre Mijnsbergen recommended to ensure the correct sequence of the corresponding LOC and DTM segments within all user manuals. It was agreed that while the first LOC-segment on page 8 transmits the "place of departure" and the second LOC-segment on the same page transmits the "Next port of call". the first DTM-segment should give the "date/time of departure" instead of departure and the second DTM-segment should give the "Date/time of arrival" in the next port of call. The user manual of MOVINS does this correctly, but the User Manual of BAPLIE must be changed in this repect.

Ranges of cells

It was agreed that a range of cells will be indicated by transmitting the bottom left cellposition in the first LOC-segment and the upper right cellposition on the second LOC-segment.

It was also agreed in this respect to transmit ranges of rectangular areas only.

F.F. Schwarz asked about cells that cannot be used, for example when damaged. Is there a way to transmit such cellpositions ? It was agreed that in such cases the Tonnage Centers must know that such cells are not available and should therefore not include such cells in the MOVINS message. The Terminals will then not include such cells in their planning.

Concerning off-standard containers it was agreed to bring the BAPLIE user manual in line with the MOVINS user manual, viz. the RFF-segment should contain all related cellpositions as described on page 14 of the MOVINS user manual with the qualifier "ET" (see also the example message on page 29).

On page 19, LOC (3..9) code "61" (Final destination) to be added as qualifier for e3227.

10.   Any other business

Tank Status Message
Gregor Ross hands out a short explanation of a Tank Status Message. Apparently such a message should contain not only the weights per tank, but also other "Deadweight Items", such as stores, crew and effects. Consequently the message may not be called a "Tank Status Message". Members should recommend a new name for the message to Gregor Ross and also give him any other recommendations regarding this message.

Furthermore it was agreed that this message is relevant to the Tonnage Center and the ship, but not for the terminals.
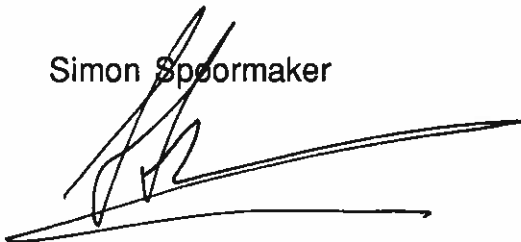
11.   Next meeting

The next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY March 18 1992 in FELIXSTOWE, where Derek Smith of FDRC will be our host.

12.   Closing

At 15.45 hrs. the chairman closed the meeting thanking all members for their continued support. He also thanked Hessenatie for their hospitality.

Simon Spoormaker

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