## Minutes of the 34th SMDG meeting in Lisbon hosted by Liscont Container Terminal of Lisbon/Portugal

September 7 and 8, 1999 Tuesday, september 7 1999.

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the chairman at 10:00 hrs. The chairman thanks Ricardo Wagner for hosting the meeting. Ricardo Wagner, on behalf of Liscont, welcomes all delegates. Mr. Abilio Neves Marques Afonso, member of the Board, Port of Lisbon Authority, also welcomes the participants. Mr. Marques Afonso gives an interesting presentation about the Port of Lisbon and its history.

2. Roll call

All attendees introduce themselves and their company.

3. Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Notes from the chairman and secretary

The chairman welcomes the new participants from all over the world.

Gerry Endenburg explains that he has left ECT and is now representing (and sponsored by) Cosmos of

Antwerp/Belgium. He will stay on as secretary.

The new glossy SMDG brochures are now available (thank you, Derek Dubber!). Participants are invited to take a few back home.

SMDG is now also responsible for the landside messages. It is a lot of work, but it is good to have all the "CO" messages under one roof.

During the last ITIGG meeting it was agreed that SMDG will publish the User Manuals in Word-format. ITIGG will publish the "Principles and Rules".

Very interesting presentations can be expected today and tomorrow, like the XML-presentations by Pekka Rautiainen and Sue Probert.

## 5. Minutes of the 33rd SMDG meeting april 1999 (Dubai).

The minutes were adopted.

6. Year-2000

Since the secretariat still receives questions about the Y2K-issue this topic is again on the agenda.

Hopefully for the last time!

Again: For BAPLIE SMDG decided last year to keep the MIG (Message Implementation Guideline) unchanged. This means that the year will be transmitted in 2 digits, i.e. "00" for the year 2000. The dates in the BAPLIE message are not used by the receiving party any way.

Furthermore Sue Probert points out that the dates in the service segments are also still 2 digits. The dates in the service segments of directory D99B are now 4 digits, but since this directory is not even

published yet no message can be using 4 digits at this moment. Concluding: Senders and receivers must convert the year from 2 to 4 digits and v.v. using the basic rules, i.e. if the year is more than "70" then the first 2 digits must be "19", otherwise "20".

7. Liscont presentation

Ricardo Wagner gives an interesting presentation about the systems and EDI-implementation at Liscont.

8. XML implementation in Helsinki

Pekka Rautiainen gives an extensive and very interesting demo and presentation about a demo-system they developed in Helsinki using the latest XML-technology. During the presentation an Internet connection was established showing the preparation and transmission of EDI-messages using XML.

9. XML/EDI

Sue Probert gives presentation about the XML-technology. Sue explains that XML is not complete yet. At the moment work is being done on the CBL 2.0 = Common Business Library. For more detailed information members are invited to visit the Internet sites www.xmlinfo.com, www.w3c.org or www.oasis-

For each data element an "XML-tag" must be defined and agreed worldwide. Who will do this? It is the intention that SMDG will define the tags for those messages under SMDG control. And this must be done soonest possible.

See Sue's interesting presentation: smdg\_XML\_0999.ppt

10. SMDG Internet webpages

Simon presents the new SMDG website, which is now in full operation. The improvements are clear. Faster and more user-friendly. Since the specific forums were removed and only one general forum was made available for use by SMDG members (or others) it is now being used frequently. Members are invited to read the messages from fellow-members on the forum page and react.

11. Subgroup Datacommunications: EDI over the Internet

Gerry gives presentation about how we can use the Internet for EDI transmissions and the pro's and con's of the available methods. There are various ways to use the Internet for EDI-file transmissions. Two methods are identified to be the most suitable: Email or FTP. The advantages and disadvantages of each method are discussed. The conclusion is that both methods are acceptable, email seems the easiest to implement and most members are in fact using email for their transmissions. You can download Gerry's presentation here: SMDGcoms.ppt

Envel Leung continues with his presentation, going more deeply into the FTP-method. He shows that there are various ways to use FTP over the Internet. Download Envel's presentation here: FTP-SMDG.ppt

12. ITIGG meeting

Sue Probert informs the attendees about the important work of ITIGG. The minutes of the ITIGG meeting of July were distributed.

13. EDI in Japan

Yoshi Kito gives a very interesting presentation about the EDI-implementation in Japan. It appears that much progress has been made the last year.

14. Breakbulk

Phillip Walsh presents the results of the subgroup non-containerised cargo (breakbulk).

15. Meeting in Brisbane/Australia

Phillip Walsh gives information about the meeting of september 2000 in Brisbane/Australia. The definite dates are: 25-26-27 september 2000.

16. Subgroup Container Messages

Gerry Endenburg presents the results of the subgroup meeting of Monday. The container messages are of utmost importance to everybody. No less than 24 people were attending the subgroup meeting on Monday.

It seems that the group has a very busy time ahead. The total number of messages to be maintained by this group is now 12 (shipside and landside messages)

For good order's sake we give hereunder a list of messages, for which SMDG has taken responsibility and who in SMDG is taking care of the development and maintenance of the User Manual (or Implementation Guideline).

Message	Responsible	Remarks
BAPLIE	Gerry Endenburg	Version 2.0 is frozen till 2000. Small amendments required for next year's version 2.1. Migration to D99B will not be done.
MOVINS	Gerry Endenburg	Version 2.0 is now being implemented. There are errors in the Manual, to be corrected with next year's version 2.1. Migration to
CALINF	?	CALINF might merge with VESDEP. The SMDG chairman is looking for someone to take the responsibility.
VESDEP	?	See CALINF.
COPRAR	Simon Spoormaker	Simon will arrange upgrade to D99B with the assistance of Gwen Nguyen of ECT.
COARRI	Jacco Bruijnes	Upgrade to D99B.
TANSTA	Greg Ross	Upgrade to D99B.
TPFREP	Roberto Ferrari	Upgrade to D99B. Coordinate with Peter D'Arcy.
BERMAN	Yoshi Kito	Upgrade to D99B.
CODECO	Zed?	Upgrade to D99B. Simon to ask Zed.
COPARN	Zed?	Upgrade to D99B. Simon to ask Zed.
COEDOR	Seagha/Hessenatie	Upgrade to D99B.
COPINO	Gwen Nguyen	Upgrade to D99B.
COSTOR		Not urgent. Can wait.
COSTCO		Not urgent. Can wait.
COHAOR		Not urgent. Can wait.
COREOR	Gwen Nguyen	Upgrade to D99B.
DESTIM	Zed?	Upgrade to D99B. Simon to ask Zed.
IFTFCC	Simon Spoormaker	Upgrade to D99B.
IFTSAI	Wolf Retzko	Upgrade to D99B.

A draft version of the D99B directory (including the new codelists) was made available to the SMDG secretary. You can download this draft here: d99bdra.zip

Upgrade User Manuals

All responsible persons are requested to look at the D99B directory and the impact on the message for which they bear responsibility. Upgrade the segments, composites and data elements, look at field lengths, mandatory or not, etc. etc. Last but not least you must find the correct codes in the new codelists. In the current User Manuals many codes are still temporary codes and these must now be replaced by

the official codes.

Furthermore everybody is invited to look at any message they are interested in and study the impact of the D99B directory on the message. Everybody's comments are welcome! Please channel your comments to the responsible persons mentioned in the above table.

Comments on D99B by 1 november 1999

The responsible persons are requested to study the impact of the D99B directory and give a summary of their first conclusions to the SMDG secretariat latest 1 november 1999. In this stage we must try to conclude if D99B is acceptable for the container messages or if we must wait for the next directory, D00A, which will come out mid 2000. There are still a few DMR's (Data Maintenance Requests) to be incorporated in the 2000 directory. For more details you can contact Sue Probert or Simon Spoormaker.

Extra-ordinary subgroup meeting in January 2000.

An extra-ordinary meeting of the subgroup Container Messages will be organised in Rotterdam during January 2000. Exact date and place will be given later.

During this extra-ordinary meeting a decision will be taken about the upgrade to D99B or not. If yes, then the responsible persions must try to have all draft versions of the User Manuals based on D99B available before the plenary meeting in april 2000 to be approved by the SMDG during this meeting (Salerno). If not, then we must wait till the D00A directory comes out meaning the new User Manuals cannot be expected before september 2000.

Format of User Manuals

Sofar the messages were maintained and published in Word-format. Sue Probert suggests that we start using a tool for this purpose called EDISIM. This is a professional tool, made available by the owners free of charge to the standardisation bodies, like SMDG and ITIGG. The result will be that we can all use the same directories and codelists and the printed documents have all the same format. This sounds very good and Sue will undertake the negotiations with the supplier of the tool. See also Sue's EDISIM presentation below.

Jost Mueller gives a presentation about the activities of the subgroup SHPDAT. Jost is working very hard to develop a workable structure for this message and he has now produced a first draft version of the message, which he presented to the other members of the subgroup. If you are interested in the developments please contact Jost.

14. P.R.

Derek Dubber reports about the work of the PR-subcommittee. A brochure has been developed and printed. A stock is now available for members to take with them.

Furthermore Derek has posted a message on the forum page about the future role of SMDG. He can see some similarities between the work of SMDG and f.e. IATA for airlines. Please read his interesting message on the forum page and give your comments. The topic will be on the agenda of the next meeting in april 2000.

15. Schedules

Wolf Retzko reports about the progress in this subcommittee. The Shipping Lines want to implement such a message as soon as possible. The message documentation (message name: ITFSAI) is available on the SMDG website now.

The subcommittee has had a meeting last Monday. Yoshi Kito expects that the message will be

implemented in Japan by 2001. The IFTSAI message documentation has been developed using the D96B directory now available on the SMDG website. There is also a version available using the D99A directory. This version is available on the ITIGG website. Members are invited to download the documents from the SMDG website and give comments to Wolf. Wolf will now convert the message to the D99B directory.

Within the scope of SMDG the message will be used between the lines and the terminals. However, shippers can also use the message to inquire about schedules.

Wolf invites all members to start implementing this message soonest possible since it will save everybody a lot of time and money. It is much work to keep the schedules up-to-date manually.

Jacco states that Maersk will implement the message in their new scheduling system now under development.

20. BIMCOM situation

Greg Ross asked to be given a chance to clarify the situation of BIMCOM. Some members were informed that the BIMCOM network was not Y2K-proof and that it was not expected to be Y2K-proof before the end of the year. Greg explains that it had to do with the C&W network, who would not confirm that their network was Y2K-proof. In the meantime C&W have actually declared their network Y2K-proof, so no problems have to be expected.

21. BAPLIE

One problem was experienced: In BAPLIE it is now not possible to transmit information about the destination terminal. You can transmit the port of discharge, but if in one port there is more than 1 terminal you cannot identify which terminal in BAPLIE. Some ships go to 2 or more terminals in one port and they need to be able to identify one terminal from another.

SMDG members agreed in 1995 to keep the message stable for a period of 5 years. This period expires next year, so we can prepare an upgrade of BAPLIE. Gerry will prepare a proposal to upgrade BAPLIE with identification of the destination terminal. This also means that a list of codes for terminals must be prepared.

22. MOVINS

Another error was identified in the NAD-segment in the User Manual. This will be corrected.

Jacco Bruijnes prepared a small presentation proving that MOVINS is not compliant with the D95B as was claimed in the User Manual. It seems that the structure in D95B is quite different from the structure everybody is now implementing on the basis of the SMDG User Manual.

Sue Probert suggests that, instead of writing DMR's, we do a complete recast of the message for the D00B directory.

Gerry agreed to undertake this work.

23. Mastercodes

Peter Goodfellow presents an inventory of the codes used at this moment. Now Peter will have to create a proposal for the new unique codes, to be presented to the SMDG meeting in April 2000 for approval. Thereafter the UN/Edifact secretariat will maintain the list. The current list (inventory of existing codes) is now available on the SMDG website. He invites members, espectially the shipping lines to give their comments and recommendations.

Mrs. S.Y. Hung (Evergreen) recommends to use a 4-digit code. SMDG has decided, however, during the

previous meeting in Dubai, for a 3-digit code.

## 24. Electronic Seals

Presentation by Simon Spoormaker.

25. EDISIM Presentation

Sue Probert gives a short presentation about the software tool EDISIM. She recommends to use this tool for the mainenance of SMDG messages. (See also topic Container Messages).

Sue will ask the supplier to authorise the "free of charge" use of the tool by SMDG members for documentation pruposes.

Download Sue's presentation here: smdg EDISIM 0999.ppt

26. Next meeting

Frans Jol invites the SMDG members for the next meeting in Salerno. Definite dates: April 26 (subgroups), April 27 and 28 (plenary meeting). Note: Thursday/Friday! Further details will be available soonest possible on the SMDG Internet Server.

Schedule 2000, 2001 and 2002: September 25, 26 and 27 2000: Brisbane/Australia. Curacao: september 2001

Will still need invitations for spring 2001 and spring 2002.

24. Any Other Business

Jacco Bruijnes explains that there are Maersk-customers who ask for Y2K-proof EDI messages. He has explained that the dates in the messages of 2 digits, but that it should not be a problem.

Jacco suggests to print a statement on the SMDG website (homepage?) with the following wording:

EDI messages under the responsibility of SMDG support a date format using 4 digits for the year. Eventual Y2K compliancy of EDI exchange is depending on the sending/receiving system's capabilities.

The secretariat will look at the legal aspects, but has no principal objections to printing this clause.

The chairman closes the meeting, thanking Ricardo Wagner as representative of Liscont of Lisbon, for their generous hospitality and excellent organisation of this meeting.