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                          EARN Document
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Author:     P Bryant
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I have drafted a paper for the Board of Directors to provide
background to the paper from Dennis. This document raises some points
that are more sensitive.

The unwillingness of IXI to provide X.75 to EARN is disappointing.

IXI (or the Dutch PTT) view IXI as an integral part of the PTT
universe of X.25 networks. Thus they follow the normal PTT practice of
not offering X.75. Thus EARN will be treated on a par with national
networks to be offered gateway X.25 and not as a peer network.

The address structure of IXI is curious. This sees all DTEs wanting to
use IXI needing to be registered either singly or via some algorithm.
Address conversion would take place between national/EARN networks and
IXI within the IXI switches. This provides a means of security but
reduces transparency. There is confusion as each DTE will have a
national and COSINE DTE.

The unwillingness of COSINE to fund EARN, apart from travel, is
disappointing. It effectively means that the only effort will be by
volunteers and the efficacy of this has been demonstrated to be poor.
We assume that EARN will not wish to use its own staff if this
detracts from the development of its own network. It seems unlikely
that there will be any spare effort in the foreseeable future.

The meeting suggested to me that IXI was less attractive than it
seemed at first sight. It is clear that the Dutch PTT will in effect
be offering the academic community a portion of the PTT network at a
zero (currently) tariff and a gateway function.

I believe further study and experience is needed before making any
significant commitment of EARN resources.

The meeting leads me to believe that our document should be firmer in

pointing out that iwthout funding EARN will be unlikely to be able to
take the active part in IXI that we may like to.