

EARN Document

Title: Proposal for country's connection through PPSDN
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Proposal for allowing, on a temporary basis, the connection of new countries to EARN through PPSDN-X.25

1 Today's situation

When a new country is accepted as EARN member, it must connect to an existing EARN international node through permanent connection (leased line or X.25 permanent virtual machine).

This rule is obviously justified, and it is an obligation for all countries to connect to EARN on a permanent basis, through a permanent connection.

2 Need for extensions

Since 2 years, only 2 countries connected to EARN (Egypt and Yugoslavia) and 6 have yet to connect (Algeria, Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia), 2 of them having been accepted by the BOD since 2 years (this does not take associate countries into account). This is due to the fact that they are either small countries or developing countries, and that they cannot justify the cost of a leased line. In addition, in all these cases, the leased line costs are higher than between 2 European countries.

To justify the cost of a leased line, 2 things have to be demonstrated to funding authorities :

- A- the usefulness of EARN
- B- the economic justification of a leased line

Point (A) can be demonstrated only through actual access to EARN, and

point (B) cannot be demonstrated before few months of actual use of EARN.

In addition, one country, Tunisia, is requesting this permission to connect to EARN, on a temporary basis, through X.25.

3 Problems raised by a connection through PPSDN

3.1 Technical problems

- 3.1.1 Feasibility
- 3.1.2 Spool space at both ends
- 3.1.3 Traffic data recording
- 3.1.4 Immediate messages
- 3.1.5 Security
- 3.1.6 Control of access

3.2 Cost problems

- 3.2.1 Cost of X.25
- 3.2.2 Charging mechanism

3.3 Administrative problems

- 3.3.1 Type of membership
- 3.3.2 Contribution to EARN

4 Proposal

As such a connection seems technically feasible today, (ref. 3.1.1), it is proposed to allow, on an experimental basis, the connection of one country to EARN under these following conditions:

4.1 The country presents to the EXEC a "connection plan" including a permanent link as ultimate step. This plan must indicate how the building up to the traffic is monitored.

4.2 When the plan is accepted by the EXEC, the country is allowed to connect for a maximum of one year through X.25.

4.3 In the meantime, the country is warned about the security problems

(ref. 3.1.5).

4.4 The country commits to connect to EARN at least once a day, 6 days a week, and more often when this traffic builds up (ref. 3.1.2).

4.5 The country commits to pay all the telecommunication costs (ref. 3.2.2).

4.6 As soon as the actual connection to EARN through X.25 is operational, the country becomes full member of EARN and, as such, starts paying its contribution to EARN after 6 months (ref. 3.3.1 and 3.3.2).

5 Additional remarks

5.1 Traffic data must be recorded by all countries, including those connected through PPSDN. However, at the beginning, this can be done by the country hosting the PPSDN connection (ref. 3.1.3).

5.2 Countries connecting through PPSDN must be warned of some limitation due to the lack of permanent availability of immediate messages. (ref. 3.1.4)

5.3 It must be recommended to all servers to accept commands through both immediate messages and mail (ref. 3.1.4).

5.4 The control of access (ref. 3.1.6) must be carefully studied, and appropriate body (EARN staff or EARN NOG) must make a recommendation to the EXEC which will not give the authorisation to a country to connect to EARN through PPSDN before this point is understood and solved.

6 Implementation

It is proposed to start with Tunisia as soon as all conditions listed in this document are met, and to study further countries

X.25 connections on a case by case basis.