

# APPENDIX C

**Hearing and speech impaired to benefit from new standards**

(Report from ITU News 10/97)

“...  
The first Recommendation, called **T.140**, **defines** a **universal** presentation-level protocol for text conversion which **will** work with **all multimedia** protocols and with existing Recommendation for text telephony, V. 18 [**believe** we discussed V.18 before]. The second, known as **Recommendation T.134**, is a companion to Recommendation T.140 and **defines** a simple **data** protocol for text conversion in a **data conferencing environment**. Support for Recommendation T. 140 has **also** been added to Recommendation H.324, which **defines multimedia** communications **over** the public switched telephone network (PSTN). There two Recommendations are expected to greatly **improve** the lives of those reliant on text-based conversation systems, such as the hearing and speech impaired.

The **Rapporteur** fix the work on **these** new standards, **Gunnar Hellstrom** (Sweden), said “The **results** we **have** achieved are **very important**. By **providing** standardized **video**, text and voice **conversation** services, users **will** be able to choose **whichever** combination **supports** their **system capabilities**.

**Our work represents a great** step **forward** for **users** who **suffer** from hearing- or **speech-**related problems. **These** people, who in the past **have suffered from** a **fragmented** market of incompatible text telephony **systems**, will **benefit greatly from** having **global** standards on which **future** systems can be based. And, given the huge and growing popularity of **internet-based** ‘chat’ systems, it’s clear that **many** other users **will** also benefit **from** our work on these new Recommendations.”

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