



ISO/TC97/SC22  
 Programming Languages  
 Secretariat: CANADA (SCC)



ISO/TC97/SC22

April 1986

# N197

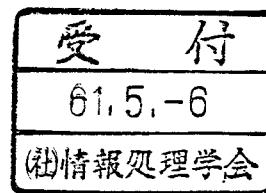
**TITLE:** Second Communication on the work of the Ad Hoc Group on the preparation of NWI on Prolog and LISP

**SOURCE:** Convenor of Ad Hoc Group on Prolog and LISP

**WORK ITEM:** N/A

**STATUS:** New

**CROSS REFERENCE:** 97/22 N176



**DOCUMENT TYPE:** Summary of comments received on 97/22 N176 and request for additional input.

**ACTION:** For information to Member Bodies and comment as appropriate. Comments should be submitted directly to the convenor of the Ad Hoc Group.

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To: ISO/TC97/SC22 Member Bodies  
and  
Participants in this Ad Hoc Group

Date: March 21, 1986

Subject: Second Communication on the Work of the Ad Hoc Group on  
the Preparation of New Work Items on Prolog and Lisp

Please reply directly and informally by April 30, 1986

Thanks to all of you who responded to my first letter. That letter was late getting out, so I have waited until now to make sure I had most of the responses. Thanks also for the names of interested experts. I am sending this letter directly to each of them also.

I received replies from Canada, France, Germany, Japan, UK, and USA. Rather than duplicate them all for distribution, I have summarized the relevant points here.

There seems to be general agreement on what I called Alternative A: "Separate, unrelated new work items on LISP and PROLOG to be assigned to separate working groups; PROLOG secretariat from either AFNOR or BSI; LISP secretariat from either AFNOR or ANSI." Most of the responses implied that there was sufficient work and support for both of these efforts. It is also interesting to note that the only responses specifically agreeing with my secretariat suggestions were from other than the three countries mentioned.

There was also agreement on the schedule in Plan II (rephrased): this ad hoc group would end its final round of correspondence in April (or May); suggested NWIs would be submitted to SC22 in June so they could be included in the agenda for the Advisory Group Meeting (if there is one); an SC22 ballot might occur around September; the TC97 ballot on the NWIs would take place over Winter 1986-87; the work on each of these items would begin in April or May 1987.

RE: Ad Hoc on NWIs for PROLOG and LISP

March 21, 1986

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Since there is a very strong interest in Common Lisp in the United States, I have submitted to X3 proposals both for the establishment of a Technical Committee (probably to be known as X3J13) and for a NWI proposal to ISO.

The submission of this second proposal requires some explanation. When a technical committee already exists in the US which has a similar scope to an ISO NWI proposal, the balloting process goes straightforwardly; but when no such technical committee exists, the ballot is handled much differently. Also when a technical committee (either existing or proposed) anticipates international involvement or liaison with its work, it is to inform the appropriate US coordinating committees. For these reasons I submitted a NWI proposal through the US organizations so that the US would be prepared to respond affirmatively (assuming everything goes as expected) to any reasonably similar NWI arising from the work of this ad hoc committee. I hope that each of you have been doing whatever is necessary in your countries and organizations to be sure they are prepared to act.

There is also very strong European interest in Lisp. A committee has been meeting regularly on the definition of EU\_LISP. I plan to be in Paris on Monday 5 May 1986 for a meeting of the EU\_LISP working group. In conjunction with that trip, I would be happy to meet with anyone interested in the work of this ad hoc group. After that trip I think we will have a draft of a generally acceptable NWI proposal for a Lisp standard.

During that trip, I also hope to meet with appropriate people involved with the BSI lead effort for a PROLOG standard. The comments I received on PROLOG standards efforts said, in effect "an interesting idea, but as an individual technical expert, I am not sure if PROLOG is really to the standardization point yet." It is clear from the BSI effort that useful work is being done in the standardization area, but a NWI also has to convince other member bodies.

I want to encourage each of you to give me any ideas you may have by the end of April so they can be included in my discussions the following week. You might also forward comments to M. Guyen Tran at AFNOR if that is more convenient. Even if I do not have your comments before my trip to Europe, they will still be useful and appreciated.