

TITLE : AFNOR POSITION ON INFORMAL BALLOT

In January, the French position, has been presented in a telex sent by Mr. BOURSTIN, on behalf the AFNOR Fortran Group.

The position was : YES, with comments.

At our last meeting, held on July 28 the group, after review of :

- the document X3J3/S8.104 (june 1987) ;
- the answer to our comments of January ;
- the recommendations of WG 5 of Ba-in and Halifax has decided to change its informal ballot to NO, with comments.

COMMENTS :

- 1) The majority of the group thinks that :
the language gets too big and too complex for the traditional Fortran users, with the problem of duplicated features (People continue to be attached to the old COMMON and EQUIVALENCE statements).
- 2) Some recommendations of Bonn and Halifax have not been followed by an effect (pointers, significant blanks).
- 3) The group agrees that Fortran 8X should be composed of Fortran 77 with the addition of the following features
 - vector facility (syntax and intrinsic functions)
 - a structure facility (intrinsic as in PL/I or derived type)
 - some extension on control constructs
 - new intrinsic functions (of numerical precision, CPU time, exception handling).
- 4) The group is divided between those who consider new intrinsic data types (Bit data type and pointer) as only desirable, and those who are strongly in favour.

Proposal solutions :

- 1) As proposed by D.Weaver, split into two languages :
 - a) Fortran 8X, extension of Fortran 77, without redundant new features,
 - b) a new language, no compatible and containing the new

Ada like functions (the problem is that people would prefer to choose directly Ada itself).

2) Other solution :

To have two levels of language :

1) Fortran 8X

2) a subset of FORTRAN BX containing the new features,
but removing all the old features who become redundant.