

To: UTC / Script Encoding Working Group

From: Andrew West

RE: Feedback on L2/24-134 Proposal to Encode a Pridnestrovian Ruble Sign

Date: 29 Dec 2024

I suggest the following two impartial principles for encoding currency symbols that are in current usage:

A) The symbol should be proposed by, or the proposal supported by, an official government agency responsible for the currency or the relevant ISO/IEC JTC1 national body.*

B) The currency corresponding to the proposed symbol should have an active ISO 4217 code assigned to it.**

* Official support is required in case the symbol is copyrighted and the government, for whatever reason, does not want it added to Unicode. This has been the case for all recent current-usage currency symbol proposals:

U+20B9 INDIAN RUPEE SIGN was proposed by the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & IT, Government of India (L2/10-258R)

U+20BA TURKISH LIRA SIGN was proposed by the Central Bank of Turkey (L2/12-132)

U+20BC MANAT SIGN was supported by the Central Bank of Azerbaijan (L2/11-420)

U+20BD RUBLE SIGN was proposed by the Russian National Body of ISO/IEC JTC 1 (L2/14-039)

U+20BE LARI SIGN was proposed by the National Bank of Georgia (L2/14-161)

U+20C0 SOM SIGN was proposed by the National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic (L2/20-261)

** This sidesteps the question of the legitimacy of the state using the currency, and makes the decision whether to encode or not contingent upon an existing ISO standard. This is very similar to how ISO 3166 is used to determine whether a national flag is acceptable for encoding or not. All recently encoded current-usage currency symbols have an ISO 4217 code:

U+20B9 INDIAN RUPEE SIGN = INR

U+20BA TURKISH LIRA SIGN = TRY

U+20BC MANAT SIGN = AZN

U+20BD RUBLE SIGN = RUB

U+20BE LARI SIGN = GEL

U+20C0 SOM SIGN = KGS

The proposal for a "Pridnestrovian" Ruble Sign (L2/24-134R) fails both principles: it is an individual contribution, and there is no ISO 4217 code for the Transnistrian ruble.

