To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee
CC: Anne Welsh, RSC Secretary
From: Ahava Cohen, Europe representative
Subject: Formal response to RSC/TechnicalWG/2026/6/[Proposal on] Soft-deprecated parallel elements

EURIG thanks the Technical Working Group for their continuing work on parallel elements and acknowledges that balancing the goal of making RDA consistent with various international conceptual models and the needs of communities throughout the world.

EURIG represents libraries using a wide variety of languages and scripts and, in some cases, more than one language of cataloging. Parallel elements are crucial for our membership, but not always in the same direction of travel.

Parallel elements retain a value in the RDA element set, contributing to those implementation scenarios which involve flat file and bibliographic / authority-based cataloguing. This position is consistent with the feedback offered by EURIG members to RSC's survey on soft deprecated elements. It is also consistent with feedback offered to the Worldwide Review of ISBD for Manifestation. Owing to RDA's alignment with ISBD Consolidated Edition, its parallel elements represent more than community resources. Unlike the AACR2 legacy guidance currently hosted in Community Resources, ISBD Consolidated Edition has an international focus; as such it reflects RDA's own international orientation. Besides its parallel elements, RDA contains other elements which bear a direct relationship to ISBD Consolidated Edition; these include the super elements edition statement and publication statement which have not been similarly proposed for deprecation.

EURIG sees no connotation of primacy in the principle of parallel elements, but rather the opposite. The notation "=" which represents parallel elements in ISBD Consolidated Edition indicates a status of equivalence. We do not regard manifestation statements as a suitable substitute for parallel elements, given the absence of this equivalent association. Though RDA is by design coding agnostic, we must bear in mind the real world; while many libraries encoding their metadata descriptions in ways which do not allow duplicating title proper, for example, relegating the parallel element to a manifestation statement further increases the primacy bias. Such relegation also makes it harder for specific communities to choose to flexibly display which of the parallel pair to show to the user as primary depending on local factors such as public catalog interface language.

EURIG would like to see RDA's current alignment with ISBD Consolidated Edition maintained and not superseded by a realignment with ISBD for LRM. Parallel elements may exist outside the scope of LRM attributes and relationships, but equally they do not break the model.

We would be open to revisiting this issue in the future as communities change the way they encode metadata descriptions, but at this time we are not in favor of encouraging a large group of RDA users to create and maintain localized string encoding schemes or local subtypes just so they can continue to catalog information they see as necessary as they switch over to Official RDA.

Recommendation 1
Reject.

Recommendation 2
Reject.