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(71) Applicant: TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON (publ) [SE/SE]; S–126 25 Stockholm (SE).

(72) Inventors: EKUDDEN, Erik; Fjärilsvägen 23, S–184 38 Åkersberga (SE). HAGEN, Roar; c/o Bryland, Hägervägen 62, S–122 39 Enskede (SE). JOHANSSON, Ingemar; Regnvägen 89, S–976 32 Luleå (SE).

(74) Agent: ERICSSON RADIO SYSTEMS AB; Patent Support/Ericsson Research, S–164 80 Stockholm (SE).

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(54) Title: SPEECH CODING WITH COMFORT NOISE VARIABILITY FEATURE FOR INCREASED FIDELITY

(57) Abstract

The quality of comfort noise generated by a speech decoder (93) during non–speech periods is improved by modifying (30, 75) comfort noise parameter values (33) normally used to generate the comfort noise. The comfort noise parameter values are modified in response to variability information (43) associated with a background noise parameter. The modified comfort noise parameter values (35) are then used to generate the comfort noise.

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