Units for expressing enzyme activity

Enzyme activities are always expressed in terms of 'activity per unit time'. There have been many methods of calculating enzyme activities and hence various types of units have been there for different enzymes. In order to maintain uniformity in expressing enzyme activity in units, the Enzyme Commission of International Union of Biochemists has suggested a radical change. A new unit **Katal (Kat)** has been introduced. One **kat** denotes conversion of one mole of the substrate per second (mole/sec) in **SI units** (system International or International Units (I.U.). One I.U. is defined as the amount of enzyme activity that catalyses conversion of one micromole of substrate per minutes. One IU is equal to 60 µkatal. It may also be epressed in **millikatals** (mkat/sec), **microkatal (µkat/sec)** or **nenokatal (nkat/sec).** It has also been customary to express enzyme acitivity in SI **units** (system Interntional or International Units (I.U)