

European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardization

Meeting: 26 March 2012

Title document: *Minutes*

Document for:

Information	
Decision	✓
Discussion	

Email: entr-ICT-standardisation@ec.europa.eu

European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on ICT standardisation

First Meeting of 26 March 2012

Draft Minutes

Agenda:

1) Opening of the meeting and welcome by the meeting chairmen

Michel Catinat welcomed the participants and explained the reasons for setting-up the Platform which is based on a Decision of the Commission (2011/C 349/04). He stressed that the Platform is a unique group which brings the entire expertise in the ICT domain together. Mr Catinat further highlighted the political context in which the legal package on European standardisation policy must be seen: Digital Agenda, Innovation Union and Flagship initiative have the objectives to foster innovation and competitiveness in Europe. The legislative package on standardisation plays a crucial role in meeting these objectives by facilitating interoperability. Currently there are negotiations with the Council and the European Parliament; the adoption of the package will hopefully be before the summer. Michel Catinat highlighted that the Platform can only start with the concrete work, mainly with the evaluation of ICT specification, once the Regulation is adopted. The meetings until that moment have the objective to prepare the organisational and structural basis for the future work.

2) Approval of the draft agenda

Agenda approved.

3) Presentation of the Platform: Q&A

Anne Lehouck presented in detail the “history” of the political project to modernise European standardisation policy and in particular the tasks of the Platform (document ICT/MSP (2012) 008). Representatives expressed their support for this group. The discussion concentrated on the following aspects:

-How does the Commission see the many different interoperability procedures in the MS? The reason for the legal package is exactly to avoid fragmentation on European level and to build up a common understanding for interoperability.

-What will be the role of the Platform concerning mandates? In principle that Platform shall advice the Commission on the launch of mandates, but it is too early to define this role precisely it depends on the final outcome of the negotiations with the EP and Council on the legal package.

-How will the cooperation between the Platform and the ISA will look like? Commission services are represented in the committees.

-Who can make proposal for an evaluation? Only the Commission and the Member States.

4) Administrative information concerning the communication

Sandro d'Elia presented the archiving and communication system CIRCABC and how to use it (document ICT/MSP (2012) 007). He highlighted that transparency is a key objective in the communication policy of the Commission. The representatives, not the members of the Platform will have access to the system. That means that the representative must forward the documents to other persons of his/her organisation, if their input is needed. EDF has the particular request to publish only accessible documents.

The presentation initiated a broader discussion during which most representatives supported in principle the objective of transparency but raised also the question about the meaning of transparency and to which extend what kind of information should be made public accessible. Furthermore, representatives expressed the need for a space for open on-line discussions within CIRCABC to which access is reserved for the representatives; this would be an essential requirement to ensure high quality work of the Platform. The Commission will set up an online forum function in CIRCABC to allow for easy exchange of information between the Platform representatives. Open discussion would also be important during the meetings of the Platform and for this reason most representatives agreed upon the "Chatham House Rules".

The minutes will not be nominative, unless upon a specific request by a representative.

6) Terms of Reference for the Platform

Martina Sindelar presented the draft Terms of Reference (document ICT/MSP (2012) 002) She explained that the purpose of this draft ToR is to summarize in a concise way the tasks and composition of the Platform as identified in the Decision.

The important outcome of the discussion was that this document should less repeat the Decision but a document reflecting the political objectives and presenting an implementation plan e.g. how to contribute to the implementation of the Digital Agenda and thus identifying the work priorities of the group; in this light the document should have a more dynamic character; e.g. put in explorative issues which could be discussed in the Platform. Furthermore, the group recommended to taking into account public procurement but also interoperability purposes since both aspects are linked.

7) Rules of Procedures

Anne Lehouck presented the Rules of Procedures (document ICT/MSP (2012) 003). She explained that the document are based on the standard model used by all Commission services but adopted to the specific needs and working methods of the Platform; some points are subject to the final decision on the Regulation, in particular the setting up a Member States group as sub-group of the Platform. If this is the case, the representatives of the Member States in this group must be the same as in the Platform. Representatives highlighted that it is important to clearly identify the role of this Member State group to ensure transparency, efficiency and coherence of the whole Platform. Furthermore it is essential that all members act on equal footing.

8) Calendar of next meetings

23 June and in November 2012.