



European Commission

DG Enterprise and Industry

The Standards Edge Conference Brussels - 6 November 2008

*Why are ICT standards important in procurement strategies for the
European Commission
and the Member States (and for all nations)?*

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Background

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- A. EU public procurement policies : an overview
- B. Role and importance of standards
- C. Referencing standards in public procurement
- D. Public procurement and standards in support of EU policies
- E. Role of private consortia and fora in the new ICT formal standardisation policy



A. Public procurement in the EU

- Procurement Directives 2004/18/EC, 2004/17/EC
- Manchester Ministerial Declaration of 24 November 2005
- EU e-Procurement Action Plan
- PEPPOL project



B. Role and Importance of Standards

- Standard: a technical specification approved by a recognised standardisation body for repeated or continuous application, compliance with which is not compulsory.
- International, European and national standards
- Standards : facilitate access to open markets, allow integration into complex systems, assist in overcoming barriers to innovation, provide market recognition and prescription of conformity with N.A legislation etc.



C. Referencing (of ICT) standards in Public Procurement

- EU: legislation on procurement (Directive 2004/18) and legislation on standardisation (Council Decision 87/95, Directive 98/34).
- EU legislation allows for flexibility (equivalence of standards, equivalent solution) and for expressing specs as “performance or functional requirements”.
- Specificity of ICT standards : Public Administration act as customer of ICT projects and services
- Policy objectives can be translated into technical specs (e-Accessibility)
- Non-discrimination, equal treatment, consider available solutions, prefer international standards first.



D. Public Procurement and ICT standards in support of EU policies: case of e-Accessibility

- **Mandate M 376: European Accessibility Requirements for public procurement for products and services in the ICT domain:**
 - harmonise and facilitate public procurement
 - identify a functional European accessibility requirements
 - provide electronic toolkit to public procurement
 - develop a European Standard
- **Close collaboration with US Administration (Gutierrez-Verheugen)**



E: Consortia and Fora in ICT standardisation stakeholders

- A new EU ICT standardisation policy should:
 - use highly qualified resources of private consortia and fora, complementing current systems.
 - respect WTO criteria on openness, maintenance, neutrality, democracy etc.
 - create an ICT standardisation dialogue platform
- *Issues where further work and discussion is required:*
 - *IPR and ICT standardisation*
 - *ICT standardisation and research*
 - *referencing ICT standardisation in public procurement*
- *Workshop on IPRM ICT (19 November 2008)*
- *White Paper (beginning 2009), legislative proposals for end 2009(?)*



Further Information

DG Enterprise and Industry

DG ENTR/D4 web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict>

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