



Towards one eBusiness Language for fashion

eBIZ plenary meeting of the CEN eBIZ Workshop 26th June 2013 in Brussels

Meetings notes

On 26th June Members of the CEN eBIZ Workshop met in Brussels at the final Plenary meeting and unanimously¹ approved the new version of the eBIZ Reference Architecture, which therefore becomes an **official CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA)**.

The achieved status of CEN Workshop Agreement marks the value of the Architecture which is set to be the reference document for eBusiness (i.e. digital communication between companies) for many years to come and it guarantees the transparency and quality of the consultation performed.

The plenary meeting was open the Chairman, Mr. **Marchi** Director General of EURATEX, and by a message delivered by Mr. Conte, Project Manager at the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry which is the co-funder of the eBIZ initiative.

Mr. **Conte** expressed satisfaction for the result achieved and pointed out eBIZ in the framework of both the current and the upcoming Commission actions (ref. enclosed presentation), including: the multi-stakeholders platform, the guide for public administrations to boost smart use of ICT by SMEs and full exploitation of the Structural and Innovation Funds, the upcoming awareness-rising campaign to be launched as tender by the Commission services.

Mr. **Scalia**, coordinator of eBIZ, provided a brief overview of the previous 18-months work in the CEN Workshop (ref. enclosed presentation) pointing out the membership growth as well as the lessons learned through some 20 open meetings with members and other stakeholders. Mr. **De Sabbata**, responsible for the Architecture development, and Mr. **Backer**, Task leader of the gap analysis, elaborated respectively on the novelties of the new Architecture and the input collection which brought to the Architecture new contents. Mr. De Sabbata also gave a demonstration of the **eBIZ validator**, the new web application for companies to verify eBIZ compliance, namely the compatibility of their IT systems with the specifications set in the Architecture.



Mr. **Schneider**, eBIZ Team member liaising with IT companies, pointed out why it was important to embed the whole technical document (CWA) in the relevant business models and their corresponding processes. As second major point he stressed the importance of having joined forces with GS1 organization and avoided double work or even worse competition. He finally advocated building up a joint EURATEX/GS1 structure to spread the news with more distribution power into the global business communities.

Mr. **Postigo**, AENOR secretary of the Workshop, explained the consultation process which made available the Architecture final draft for any interested party (i.e. workshop members and not) to comment. The resulting 166 comments (36 general, 62 technical, 68 editorial, none critical) were assessed by the project team and were all accepted except for three; the full list of comments were sent to the Workshop members on Friday 21st June. Mr. Postigo pointed out that the formal vote to approve, comment or reject the Architecture by the Workshop was due to take place at plenary, whereas any interest party may express endorsement until 4th July and being quoted in the document foreword.

The Chairman asked for the **formal approval** of the Architecture final version, for it to become an official CEN Workshop Agreement. Mr. Roenn (I.Level) expressed his preference to abstain from immediate approval and to take advantage of the available extra days for further technical check prior to confirm full endorsement. The Chairman welcomed such approach, considering the relatively short time since the company has joined the Workshop and the limited background information.

All other participants approved the document.

The second part of the morning addressed the next eBIZ phase. Mr. Scalia elaborated on the **eBIZ 2013-2014 Action Plan** (ref. enclosed extract). Focusing on the: the 2 priorities of monitoring eBIZ adoption and promote its growth, the informal set up of the eBIZ Interest Group, the role of the eBIZ advisory Board. Mr. Conti (EC) observed that the Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation may support new action for eBIZ expansion. Mr. Van der Eijk (Sonnenglanz Consulting) suggested considering free web demo or open source middleware to support small companies full assessment and adoption of eBIZ compatible systems. Mr. Behrens (GS1 DE) commented on the role of associations in Europe to monitor the adoption. Ms. Arias (CEC) inquired about possible future support actions. On the latter Mr. Scalia noticed that support for pilot actions, publicly co-founded, will be



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actively investigated as these clearly support the eBusiness uptake by manufacturing medium to small companies; he also noticed that in retail and large distribution channels public support appeared to be less critical.

A final set of introductions of business cases (see enclosed 4 presentations) featured presentations from **Mr. Roenn** (I.Level, UK,) who elaborated on the UK market, the company I.level relevant products and the relevance of standardized electronic language for domestic and international market. **Mr. Jacob** (Schaeffer Productique, France) presented a business cases of market spontaneous adoption of the eBIZ specification supported by the French project ECOLTEX. **Mr. Toscano** (INESC Porto and Creative Systems, Portugal) elaborated on a case of RFID systems integrator for the apparel market and possible collaboration with eBIZ. **Mr. Behrens** (GS1 DE, Germany) presented GS1 profile, its organization contribution to the new Reference Architecture and he shared a perspective on the next eBIZ actions.

In closing the session the Chairman thanked all the presented delegates for their active contribution and particularly those committing to work together to achieve an even higher integration in the fashion value chain with the next actions.

Next steps 2013:

- Circulate the final Architecture / CWA for endorsement, *Postigo*
- Circulate the meeting's notes, presentations and next action plan 2013-14, *Scalia*
- Express interest to join the eBIZ Interest Group, *any interested party*
- Detail the action plan 2013-14 based on companies' contributions and requests, *Scalia*
- Launch the eBIZ website update to include eBIZ users / supporters, *Scalia*
- Present at Premiere Vision 17-19 September in Paris, *Scalia, UIT, others*
- First meeting of the eBIZ Advisory Board, November, *Euratex and AB members*

Participating companies /organizations:

AEDT / InRetail (Europe), AENOR (ES), CEC (Europe), CEN (Europe), Bivolino (BE), GCS (DE), DITF-MR (DE), ENEA (IT), Euratex (Europe), European Commission (Europe), GS1 Germany (DE), I.Level (UK), Inesc Porto and Creative Systems (PT), Schaeffer Productique (FR), Sonnenglanz Consulting (NL), Tor Information System (UK). **Excused:** Inescop (ES)

ⁱ Note: I.Level formalized CWA approval after the meeting