



Towards one eBusiness Language for fashion

eBIZ agreement reached at the CEN Workshop

Information to the press

On the 26th June, at the final Plenary meeting convened in Brussels the **new eBIZ Reference Architecture** has been **approved** becoming an official CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA).

The **Architecture** is the guiding document enabling better use as well as interoperability of digital communication between fashion companies. The new Architecture builds upon and upgrades significantly the results of the previous eBIZ demonstration phase (2008-10 action for smart use of ICT and the integration of SMEs in the fashion supply chain). The Architecture is being used since 2010 by large fashion groups, SMEs and IT companies.

The final Plenary meeting marks the conclusion of the 18 months workshop managed by CEN, the official European body for Standardization, and coordinated by EURATEX, the European Textile and Clothing confederation. The workshop pooled together expertises of 73 members from 53 companies/organisations in 10 European Member States.

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.

Mr. Marchi, EURATEX Director General and Chairman of the Workshop, welcomed the successful conclusion of the works as a major achievement to support fashion companies and their supply chain to be more **efficient, quicker in time-to-market and to cut costs**.

Mr. Conte, Project Manager at the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry (co-funder of the eBIZ initiative) expressed satisfaction for the result achieved and pointed out eBIZ in the framework of both the current and the upcoming Commission actions to boost the smart use of ICT and to integrate SMEs in industrial value chains.

The **next eBIZ plan of action** until June 2014 was finally presented to the delegates at the meeting; following a brief consultation the plan will be released for all interested parties.

Meetings Notes and further information will be released on Friday 5th July.