



Towards one eBusiness Language for fashion

eBIZ meeting on 15th May 2013 in London at the premises of UKFT, the UK Fashion & Textile Association

Meetings notes

On Wednesday May 15th at the premises of UKFT, the national Fashion & Textile Association, an important first step to introduce eBusiness interoperability with eBIZ in the UK market has been achieved.

The meeting featured 2 members of the eBIZ team, the host organization and 2 leading IT solution providers with interest in either the apparel or the footwear markets both in the UK and in other European countries. The reduced number of participants facilitated interaction in all sessions and a frank discussion of the benefits and critical steps to achieve harmonized digital communication in fashion.

In particular the meeting provided an **opportunity to discuss how to expand the use of digital communications** (e-Business) in and for the sector, as well as to discuss collaboration of mutual benefits and for the benefit of the client companies.

After the opening welcome (Mr. Miln, UKFT CEO), two **presentations** outlined the objectives and the progresses of the eBIZ initiative including extract of testimonials from leading fashion companies and IT providers using eBIZ (reference attached presentation: Mr. Scalia, EURATEX). The state of the art of the eBIZ Reference Architecture was provided (reference attached presentation: Mr. Baker, Tor Consulting); the RA is the guiding document allowing interoperability of digital communications in fashion and which is currently under public consultation managed by CEN.

The main part of the meeting focused on an **exchange of views** between all participants on the contents presented, some specificities of the UK market, business models of the IT providers and on additional items deemed necessary to facilitate the adoption of digital communication between fashion companies.



Among the **items discussed**: e-Business logics for brands' products distribution and concessions in multi-stores retailing, supporting the expansion or implementation of new software system either for a concession or for wholesale, the use of XML, TEX and FTP formats in fashion, the relevance of simple web-based applications, the potential application of eBIZ in e-Business for goods other than apparel and footwear products, such as jewelry.

Drawing up conclusions Mr. Scalia highlighted the next steps of eBIZ in particular the validation of Architecture and the future governance structure of eBIZ that will be presented during the CEN eBIZ Workshop plenary meeting of 26 June in Brussels. He stressed the interest and willingness of EURATEX to deepen collaboration with the participants and with further UK based stakeholders, both IT and fashion companies, for the mutual benefits and within the eBIZ scope of action.

Next steps over May-June, 2013:

- Circulate the meeting's notes and presentations, send link to the Architecture; Scalia.
- Circulate information to members and stakeholders as appropriate; UKFT and Scalia.
- Send comments about Architecture and join the CEN eBIZ workshop; all participants;
- Contact EURATEX for assistance on eBIZ adoption and communication; all participants,
- Roll out of the validator, the web-based eBIZ-compliance tool; ENEA
- Update eBIZ website listing eBIZ Workshop members and / or companies which are eBIZ compatible (separate lists), Scalia
- Presentation of results and next actions at the Plenary meeting 26th June, Scalia

Participating companies /organizations:

UKFT, EURATEX, Tor Consulting, I.level software ltd, Retail Technology.

Excused: Henri Lloyd