



European Commission

DG Enterprise and Industry

Perspectives on e-Business

CEN Conference on Electronic Invoicing - 19 June 2008

Costas Andropoulos
DG Enterprise and Industry
Head of Unit
ICT for Competitiveness and Innovation



Background

DG Enterprise and Industry

- Lisbon Agenda
- Completion of Single Market
- SEPA
- Promote e-business



e-Invoicing...

DG Enterprise and Industry

- links internal processes of companies to payment systems
- simplifies processes, reduces administrative and financial costs, facilitates transition to new business models
- BUT, several obstacles to development of a truly pan-European e-invoicing system
- time is ripe for a European e-Invoicing Initiative



Cost savings

DG Enterprise and Industry

- Case study: Denmark
 - Danish Government saves €100-134 million per annum
- Case study: France
 - in 2001, B2B savings of € 40 billion
- EACT - CAST project
 - average processing cost of paper invoice € 30
 - 80% cost saving possible with e-invoicing
- Potential maximum benefits
 - full and early SEPA migration, at **€226 + €12 billion** over 6 years



Taskforce on e-Invoicing

DG Enterprise and Industry

- Formation: December 2006
- Objective: To pave the way for future work on a European e-Invoicing Framework.
- Members: key stakeholders (e.g. enterprises, banks and service providers, standardisation organisations).
- Final Report: published July 2007 at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/2007-07-eei-final-rep-3-2.pdf>



Expert Group on e-Invoicing - Mandate

DG Enterprise and Industry

Defined in Commission Decision of 31 October 2007:

Identify:

- shortcomings in current regulatory framework
- e-invoicing business requirements
- relevant e-invoicing data elements

Propose:

- responsibilities for standardisation bodies and time schedule
- European e-Invoicing Framework



Expert Group on e-Invoicing - Members

DG Enterprise and Industry

Selection criteria:

- must represent key stakeholders
 - service providers, public sector, corporate, SMEs, consumers, standardisation organisations
- operational expertise
 - legal, administrative, fiscal, standardisation, technical
- broad geographical representation, gender balance

Results of selection:

- 31 Experts selected
 - see http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/standards/einvoicing/einvoicing_experts_list.pdf
- 3 sub-groups formed
 - Network & Standards, Business Requirements, Legal Framework



Expert Group on e-Invoicing - Timeline

DG Enterprise and Industry

- Kick-off meeting 26 February 2008
- Follow-up 3-4 April 2008
- Further meetings every two months
- Mid-term report end of 2008
- Completion end of 2009



Subgroups

DG Enterprise and Industry

- Legal Framework
- Business Requirements
- Network & Standards



Interim Results

DG Enterprise and Industry

Ongoing work:

- Proposal for a European e-Invoicing Recommendation
- Development of business requirements, with particular attention to SMEs needs
- Creation of a “Network Model”, which could form the basis of a framework for interoperability
- Communication



End Result: EEI Framework

DG Enterprise and Industry

- achieves interoperability of e-Invoicing solutions
- basis for common business rules and technical standards
- increase incentives for electronic trade
- remove barriers to e-invoicing



Further Information

DG Enterprise and Industry

DG ENTR/D4 web site:

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

E-mail: entr-innov-ict-ebiz@ec.europa.eu