

## LEXML-Sweden position on Commissioner Liikanens consultation on the e-economy

In reference to the open consultation on the e-economy launched by the European commission, concerning the Communication on "The impact of the e-Economy on European enterprises: economic analysis and policy implications" (29 November 2001)<sup>1</sup>, the LEXML-group in Sweden<sup>2</sup> would like to submit a partial answer, concerning the need for standardisation and development of information management solutions. In answering the consultation we therefore limit ourselves to discussing barriers and targets that should be met in the area of standardisation and information management.

The growth of the e-Economy is dependant on interoperability and standardisation. The vision of an e-Europe for all hinges on the ability to find common ground in information systems design. One of the foremost barriers to this is the lack of public work and effort in creating and validating information standards.

XML has emerged as one important technology in this sector, but the fact that this is a technology should not obscure the truth that the work needed is essentially policy and information modelling work. The shaping of standards such as ebXML and related vocabularies will have profound meaning for the way the information society evolves.<sup>3</sup>

The market should form information standards, but it is important to validate and evaluate the emerging standards for policy targets such as openness, availability and capability. We therefore suggest the following policy measures and targets.

We suggest, as policy measures in the short and medium term

- 1) that the European Commission sets up a multi-disciplinary information management and standardisation group on the emerging XML-based information de facto standards and vocabularies, the observes and reports on the development. This could be done in the form of an observatory on information standards and information management
- 2) that the European Commission evaluates national initiatives in the information analysis sector and set up a forum for information exchange between groups such as the LEXML constellation and other such groups. The reason for having such a group hosted by the Commission is simply that there is a significant public interest to ensure that these standards are compatible with laws on public procurement, freedom of information and other such aspects on the information management process.
- 3) that the European Commission includes in e-Europe a separate track on information management and standardisation.

We further recommend that the targets set up to measure this development will be the following:

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<sup>1</sup> As presented <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/ict/policy/consultation-e-economy.htm>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://lexml.juridicum.su.se/lexml.htm>

<sup>3</sup> See the ebXML consortium, <http://www.enXML.org>

- 1) The number of public authorities in the European Union that operate with compatible and concurrent information vocabularies.
- 2) The establishment of sector and general standards in the e-Economy intensive business sectors.

#### References

This question has consistently been handled at the XML Europe Conferences the last three years, and there is a substantial amount of information available at <http://lexml.juridicum.su.se/lexml.htm>.

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