



European Commission

Enterprise Directorate General

Conference eAccessibility by Voice  
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# Standardisation policy in support of eAccessibility

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# The Framework

- eEurope 2002
- eEurope 2005
- Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communication networks and services (Framework Directive)



# eEurope 2002 (1)

- The European Council held in Lisbon on 23-24 March 2000 set the ambitious objective for Europe to become the most competitive and dynamic economy in the world
- To achieve this, the Heads of State and Government invited the Council and the Commission to draw up "*...a comprehensive eEurope Action Plan ...*"



## eEurope 2002 (2)

- The eEurope 2002 Action Plan was agreed by the Feira European Council on 19-20th June 2000
- The aim of this Action Plan is to ensure that the targets set by the Lisbon European Council are reached by defining the necessary measures
- The 11 actions are clustered around three main objectives:
  1. A cheaper, faster, secure Internet
  2. Investing in people and skills
  3. Stimulate the use of the Internet



# eEurope 2005

- The eEurope 2005 Action Plan builds on eEurope 2002
- It was agreed by the Sevilla European Council on 21-22 June 2002
- It aims at stimulating secure services, applications and content based on a widely available broadband infrastructure



# eEurope 2005 Action Lines (1)

By 2005, Europe should have:

- Modern online public services, which include e-government, e-learning and e-health services
- A dynamic e-business environment



# eEurope 2005 Action Lines (2)

And, as an enabler for these

- Widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices
- A secure information infrastructure

**Measures regarding e-inclusion are contained in all action lines**



# eEurope Standardisation Action plan (eSAP)

- Common response of CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI
- Financially supported by the Commission: €12,5 million
- Contracts with CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 (under preparation)
- Actions: standardisation, pre-standardisation, promotion
- Deliverables





# eSAP Objectives

- Focus on eEurope targets
- Quick responses
- Public interest standardisation: DfA, e-learning , e-signatures, etc.
- User centric
- Inclusive platforms
- Deliverables freely available



# eSAP deliverables in the Digital TV domain

- Organisation of the Sevilla meeting (June 2002)
- Report on standardisation in digital interactive television (June 2003)



# Directive 2002/21/EC

**“Interoperability of digital interactive television services and enhanced digital TV equipment, at the level of the consumer , should be encouraged in order to ensure free flow of information, media pluralism and cultural diversity.”**



# Key Articles

- Article 17: Commission to publish a list of standards for the harmonised provision of electronic communications network and services and associated facilities and services
- Article 18: Interoperability of digital interactive television services



# Digital TV Critical Issues

- Access for all to TV and interactive services
- Widely accessible Interface to interactive services
- But: cost effective-win/win situation
- Thus : standardisation, i.e. harmonised and interoperable solutions



# E-Accessibility: What happened?

- Mandates M/273, M/283, M/292, M/293
- COM(2001)529 supporting the adoption of WAI guidelines for the accessibility of public web sites
- Council Resolutions (2001, 2002, 2003)



# E-Accessibility: What happened?

- Commission Staff Working Paper SEC(2002)1039
- COM(2003)541 underlined the need to ensure access to digital broadcasting for users with special needs
- Establishment of DATSCG, which co-ordinates the workprogrammes within the ESOs with the support of EDF, W3C, ECMA, etc.



# Pending Issues

- Strategy for e-accessibility standardisation
- Industry commitment
- Co-operation among the stakeholders





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# Links

eEurope 2005 Action Plan

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/2005/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/2005/index_en.htm)

eEurope standards online

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