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# High Level Conference
# "eID and  Public Registers"

# Key note:
# « Electronic identities and Public Registers across borders –
# European visions and national challenges »

- Structure of key note (bullets) and outline -

High Level Conference on eID and Public registers

7 April 2009, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic

## The speech / key note focused on the following points:

What is the interest at EU level?

- Interoperable eIDs and public registers will foster the free movement of persons by making it easier for Europeans to work, study, retire in another Member State. Citizens will be able to use their own eIDs as keys to 'open doors' for all kind of services, anytime and anywhere throughout Europe without the need to visit the country.
- This will encourage the growth of online services and thus economic growth in Europe.

What actions are needed to have a robust eID system in place?

- Security is precondition number one.
- Citizens need to become empowered to manage and protect his or her data effectively. Identity infrastructures and public registers should have the ability to exert legitimate audit and control by the user.
- The need for interoperability and common specification at EU level in order to integrate e-services.

Actions at EU level

- Pilots (STORK, RISER, SPOCS, PEPPOL, ELSA,)
- Monitoring progress
- Policy actions (eGovernment Action Plan, Malmö Ministerial Conference and Declaration)

Conclusions

Welcome the audience and thank the Czech Presidency for the organisation. This speech is about the added value of the use of electronic identities and public registers in the EU.

**What is the interest at EU level**

o Interoperable eIDs and public registers make it easier for Europeans to work, study, retire in another Member State, and reduce spending days in unfamiliar public offices to make their wishes known. However, proving one's identity, securing rights for allowances, importing a car, and filling-in unfamiliar documentation can be a real struggle today.

o In the ideal world EU citizens can use their own eIDs as keys to 'open doors' for all kind of services, anytime and anywhere throughout Europe without the need to visit the country.

o Citizens should have the choice to identify themselves ranging from almost anonymous to identification with no doubt who you are; authorisation is highly secure and privacy is guaranteed, so that no one without authorisation can access and use somebody else's data.

o Public organisations should embrace social networking. Interaction with governments or the private sector will be through pro-active and personalised services.

o This will bring us a Europe where millions of businesses and citizens, and thousands of public administrations, will have <u>significant gains of reducing their cost</u>.

A few examples:

- o eIDs can be used for <u>safer chatting</u>, as it can prevent malicious adults interfering with children's chitchats on the net.

- o <u>ERASMUS students</u> can register at universities abroad using their own, national, eID solution and do not need to move physically to the new country.

o eIDs in combination with interoperable public registers can <u>unlock new markets</u>. However, there is a way to go before we are there.

**What is needed for having a robust eld system in place?**

o We need to ensure <u>safe conditions for citizens and businesses when using eIDs:</u> we need to empower the user, make the user environment secure, and ensure a well suited European infrastructure.

o <u>Citizens</u> need to become <u>empowered</u> to <u>manage and protect his or her data effectively</u>. Even if privacy is guaranteed to a maximum extent, the citizen should have an understanding of

the risks in the electronic world. (S)he needs to know to whom what kind of information is disclosed.

- o <u>Citizen requirement:</u> "I want my data to be used for the purposes which I supplied it for… and not for other purposes". Forging information should be impossible. In case of loss of data, the situation should be automatically remedied. Therefore, identity infrastructures and public registers should have the ability to exert legitimate audit and control by the user.

- o <u>Infrastructure:</u> needs to be built and maintained. A citizen cannot manage its own digital footprint effectively now. (S)he needs a myriad of fragmented identities due to closed architectures and complex structures of their governments.

- o <u>EU dimension</u>: It should not make a difference for the citizen whether provision of the service cuts across national borders. Interoperability at EU level helps to reduce the main barriers to the free movement of people and services in the EU. It is the task of Member States to integrate e-services with the help of common specifications at EU level. This will eventually save hassle for citizens and reduce the costs of implementing services.

- o <u>A secure interoperable eID authentication will encourage the growth of online services. This will ultimately be a self-reinforcing circle of economic growth and cultural renewal.</u>

**Policies and Actions at EU level:**

o Electronic identities are one of the priorities in the European i2010 eGovernment Action Plan. The European ambition is that citizens and businesses must have easy access to public services and administrations across Europe through a secure and interoperable electronic identity system.

o Member States involved in ongoing initiatives are proposing "mutual recognition" in existing systems. National systems should talk to each other and open the door to on-line public services.

**Ongoing EU initiatives**

1. STORK Large Scale Pilot on interoperable electronic identities aims to set up a cross border system for the recognition and authentication of public electronic identities, so that businesses and citizens can access electronic services of other countries. This year we start to extend the pilot to not-yet-participating Member States. ALL Member States should be part of it, so that we can develop together a true European interoperable eID management system.

2. ECRN pilot which sets up an infrastructure among the Civil Acts Registry of National Administrations to allow safe transmission of the Civil Acts (birth, death, marriage, divorce etc.) certificates exchanged among administrations.

<u>Both are exhibited here in this conference.</u> Other examples of EU projects:

- o Large Scale Pilot project <u>PEPPOL linking existing national e-procurement systems;</u>

- o Large scale pilot on the <u>implementation of the Services Directive, SPOCS.</u>

- o <u>RISER (eTEN project):</u> a Trans-European electronic service that verifies registry information in national population registers.


- o <u>Extension of the large pilots in the CIP 2009:</u> Member States that have not yet joined STORK and PEPPOL, could also take part in the large scale pilots in the future.

- o <u>European large scale actions as of 2013:</u> On 13 March this year the EU launched a strategy for "ICT R&D and Innovation in Europe".  As part of it, it is proposed to launch European large scale actions. One large scale action will be on an electronic identity management (eID) infrastructure, for trustworthy services in e-government and e-commerce.

- o <u>eGovernment Ministerial Conference in Malmö</u>, Sweden (19-20 November). The interworking of public administrations, security, and electronic identities will have a central place.

**Conclusion**

o There is still a good way to go to <u>finalise the free movement of persons</u>, one of the cornerstones of the <u>Single Market</u>. There are challenges with regard to security and trust. The Czech Republic devotes attention to security issues during their Presidency.

o The Commission aims to facilitate the <u>cross-border interoperability of eID and public registers</u>. This will make it easier and cheaper to live and work in different EU countries, and to set up and operate businesses across the EU.

o Also this poses some challenges. <u>Interoperability and security</u> may seem to be conflicting at first glance, but they go hand in hand.

Thank you for your attention.