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2 TO:

3 Unit A.3: Company law

4 Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (JUST)

5 European Commission

6

7

8 **Ref. Ares(2021)4683211 - 20/07/2021**

9 **Upgrading digital company law**

10

11

12 First of all, a lot of thanks to Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (JUST) for organising  
13 this important consultation.

14

15 This opinion represents an opinion of an individual citizen, not any legal entity.

16

17 This opinion does not contain:

18 – any business secrets

19 – any trade secrets

20 – any confidential information.

21

22 This opinion is public.

23 PDF file of this opinion can be added to a relevant web page.

24

25 Annex 1 holds information about previous consultations at the European Union level.

26 Annex 2 holds information about copyright, licence and disclaimers.

27

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29

30 Best Regards,

31

32

33

34 Jukka S. Rannila

35 citizen of Finland

36

37 signed electronically

38

39

40 [Continues on the next page]

41

42 **About previous consultations / Repeating several issues**

43

44 Annex 1 holds information about previous consultations. I have repeated the same issues several  
 45 times and previous consultation documents can be assessed critically. Different units of the  
 46 European Commission already know something about my previous opinions.

47

48 **Highlighting only some issues**

49

50 This opinion does not handle all issues which are mentioned on the consultation document. I have  
 51 presented different issues to different units of the European Commission. Generally speaking many  
 52 proposals are already implemented and therefore I don't present all possible issues based on this  
 53 consultation.

54

55 **The consultation document is technologically neutral and does not mention specific company  
 56 names**

57

58 It is fully understandable that the consultation document is technologically neutral. It is also fully  
 59 understandable that the consultation document does not mention specific company names.

60

61 **This opinion concentrates on Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS)**

62

63 Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) is the main issue for this opinion.

64

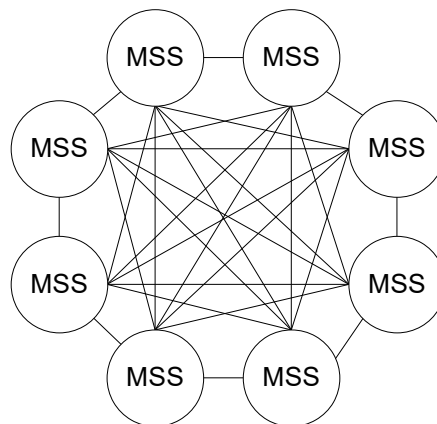
65 **EU-wide level?**

66

67 I have noted several times that different member state systems (MSS) can interlinked in many ways.  
 68 This means that co-operation with European Union systems means a lot of work. This leads to the  
 69 question of a European Contact Point (EUCP) for different member state systems (MSS).

70

1



**MSS = Member State System**

71

72

73

74 There are 28 member states (European Union) at the moment. In reality there are unique situations  
 75 with information systems in different member states. In some cases information systems can be  
 76 implemented based on complex system-to-system connections. Complex system-to-system  
 77 connections means a lot of work when there are changes in some systems.

78

79 Naturally there could be direct contacts between different member state systems (MSS) and  
 80 European Union Contact Point (EUCP). This option (MSS ↔ EUCP) could mean very large  
 81 number of different member state system. Based on 27 member state systems there could be  
 82 hundreds of connections:

83

$$27 \times 10 = 270 \text{ MSS} \leftrightarrow 1 \text{ EUCP}$$

84

$$27 \times 20 = 540 \text{ MSS} \leftrightarrow 1 \text{ EUCP}$$

85

$$27 \times 30 = 810 \text{ MSS} \leftrightarrow 1 \text{ EUCP}$$

86

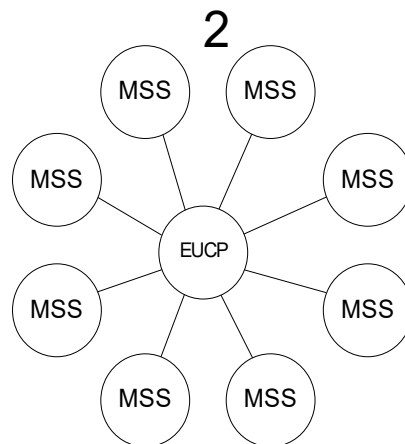
87

88 Here we can note that there can be hierarchy between different system (EU ↔ member states) and  
 89 there can be member state contact points (MCP). Then there can be some hierarchy between  
 90 different systems. (EU ↔ EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS ↔ Member state). There are unique situations  
 91 with member state systems in member states. Therefore member state contact points (MCP) can  
 92 reduce the complexity with European Union contact point (EUCP)

93

94 Based on those large numbers connecting (MSS ↔ EUCP) member state system I have to conclude  
 95 that there should be member state contact points (EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS).

96



97

**MSS = Member State System, EUCP = European Contact Point**

98

99  
 100 In the current situation, European Union member states (and some co-operation states) have their  
 101 own internal IDs for several information systems. Also, the members states organised as a  
 102 federation have their own internal problems with state-level IDs.

103

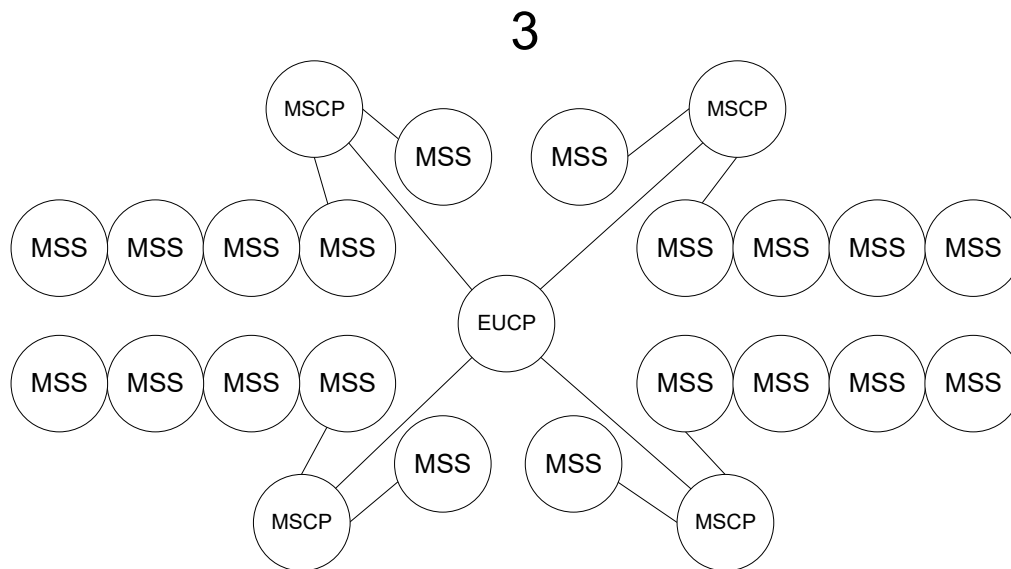
104 Based on those calculations there could be a lot of direct connections to the European contact point.

105 Number of those connections can be overwhelming. The situation between member states can vary  
 106 in many ways. So there can different and unique systems between member states.

107  
 108 On the other hand, there are some working examples of joined or federated EU-wide registers.  
 109 However, the amount of administration and needed legally binding agreements is considerable.

110  
 111 **Proposal : There could be one information system (member state contact point, MSCP)**  
 112 **on member state level.**

113



114

115

116 **MSS = Member State System**  
 117 **MSCP = Member State Contact Point, EUCP = European Contact Point**

118

118 The solution can be, that member states have own Member State Contact Points (MSCP) and  
 119 different state level systems are combined gradually. Then the member state system IDs can be used  
 120 in the European Contact Point (EUCP).

121

122 Based on those large numbers connecting (MSS ↔ EUCP) member state system I have to conclude  
 123 that there should be member state contact points (EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS).

124

125 Here we can note that there can be hierarchy between different system (EU ↔ member states) and  
 126 there can be member state contact points (MCP). Then there can be some hierarchy between  
 127 different systems. (EU ↔ EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS ↔ Member state). There are unique situations  
 128 with member state systems in member states. Therefore member state contact points (MCP) can  
 129 reduce the complexity with European Union contact point (EUCP).

130

131 **Proposal: Different member state systems could be consolidated based on limited**  
 132 **number system-to-system connections.**

133

134 **Proposal: There could be some time frames for consolidating different member state**  
135 **systems (MSS) with member state contact points (MSCP).**

136  
137 **Proposal: There could be some time frames for consolidating member state contact**  
138 **points (MSCP) with the European Union contact point (EUCP).**

139  
140 **Proposal: One information system (member state contact point, MSCP) on member**  
141 **state level could handle system-to-system connections with the European Union level**  
142 **(European contact point).**

143  
144 **Proposal: There could be some serious work for developing a standardised member**  
145 **state contact point (MSCP).**

146  
147 **Proposal: After developing a standardised member state contact point (MSCP)**  
148 **different member states could consolidate their systems (MSS ↔ MSCP).**

149  
150 **Proposal: European Union contact point (EUCP) and member state contact points**  
151 **(MSCP) could then handle cooperation (EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS) on the European**  
152 **Union level.**

153  
154 Naturally we have to note that developing a standardised member state contact point (MSCP) means  
155 more work. On the other hand a standardised member state contact point (MSCP) could handle  
156 cooperation (EUCP ↔ MSCP ↔ MSS) based on unique situations in member states. Some member  
157 states may have more systems than other member states. We have to note that there are different  
158 systems based on several technological solutions.

159  
160 **About different identifiers (ID)**

161  
162 Developing a standardised member state contact point (MSCP) means some work to be done. Here  
163 we can note that there will be several *identifiers* when developing new systems and maintaining  
164 current systems (EUCP ↔ MSCP).

165  
166 I have proposed several times to use *open and public identifiers* when developing different  
167 information system.

168  
169 **More and more new identifiers (ID)**

170  
171 In previous consultations there has been discussion about different identifiers (ID) in different  
172 information systems. It can be noted from the previous opinions that there will be several and  
173 different identifiers (ID) for different levels.

174  
175 Examples of these identifiers (ID) are following:

- 176  
177 1) Facebook ID for an individual person  
178 2) Facebook ID for the individual up-dates of individuals

- 179 3) Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S)  
180 4) Reuters instruments codes (RICs)  
181 5) Social security code for individual citizens in the European Union member states  
182 6) Business identity code for a company in an European Union member state  
183 7) Value added tax code for a company in an European Union member state.  
184

185 The examples of private identifiers (Facebook IDs, Data Universal Numbering System (D-U-N-S),  
186 Reuters Instrumens Codes (RICs)) show, that persons and/or communities can use or even demand  
187 of using identifiers (ID) from privately owned information systems.  
188

189 **Proposal: There could be a systematic review of different identifiers (ID) on different**  
190 **levels.**

191  
192 **Proposal: Possible systematic review of different identifiers (ID) should assess different**  
193 **situations.**

194  
195 Different information systems have also internal identifiers (ID) and external identifiers (ID) for  
196 (possible) public usage. The added value for different stakeholders is provided by combination of  
197 different identifiers (ID) in a specific information system.  
198

199 **Proposal: There could be some assessment(s) based on different versions of different**  
200 **identifiers (ID).**

201  
202 It can be possible, that there are some legacy identifiers (ID) in the near future. It can be possible,  
203 that gradually some legacy identifiers (ID) can be consolidated for more standardised identifiers  
204 (ID), but this consolidation means some serious technical and administrative actions.  
205

206 **Proposal: Legacy identifiers (ID) could be assessed seriously.**

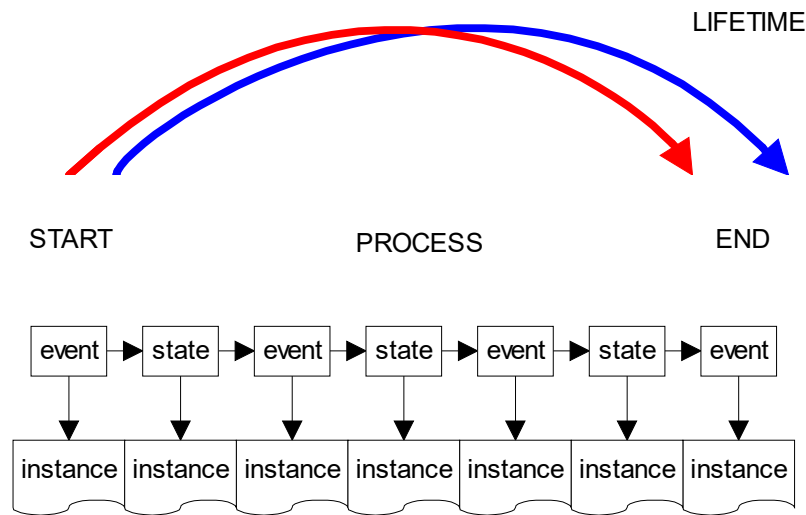
207  
208 When information about relevant identifiers is collected, there could be a serious assessment of  
209 possible (near) monopoly situation of some identifiers. Depending on the nature of an identifier,  
210 there may be a need for serious (anti-trust?) negotiations with providers of some identifiers.  
211

212 **Proposal: The nature of different identifiers (ID) could be assessed.**

213  
214 **Proposal: There could be serious negotiations with some providers of identifiers (ID).**  
215

216 In the European Union there has been different anti-trust cases which are related to different private  
217 sector identifiers (ID), since some of those private sector identifiers (ID) have been used in several  
218 other systems. Some private sector identifiers (ID) can mean a (near) monopoly situation.  
219

220 **Processes, events, states, lifetime, instances, start and end**  
221



222  
223

224 Finally some important concepts can be noted: processes, events, states, lifetime, instances start and  
225 end. It can be noted that during the lifetime of an information system there can be significant changes  
226 with the selected and implemented standards.

227

228 **Proposal: Based on the results of this consultation European Commission could create**  
229 **a roadmap/timeline for implementing different interoperable system.**

230

231 **Proposal: Based on the results of this consultation could create roadmap/timeline for**  
232 **consolidating different interoperable system**

233

234 Therefore European Commission could have a clear roadmap for implementing different standards  
235 in the near and distant future.

236

237 Here we note that different information systems have different lifetimes based on several issues.

238 Therefore there could be a clear roadmap for different information systems based on lifetime.

239

240 **Assessing different application programming interface (APIS) / System timeline**

241

242 There can be several APIs when using different information systems.

243

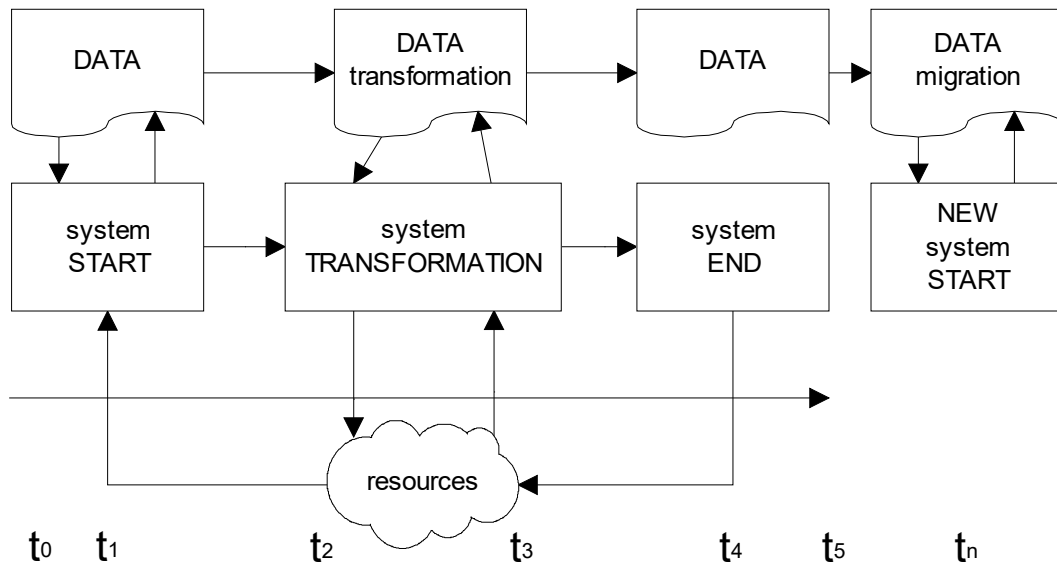
244 The natural problem with APIs is the timeline of different systems which implement different APIs.

245 There can be new and old systems which implement different APIs.

246

247

248 [Continues on the next page]



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250

**Proposal: Different information systems (EU-wide systems and member state systems) could be assessed based on informations system timelines.**

253

**Proposal: Different information systems (EU-wide systems and member state systems) could be assessed based on implementation of different APIs.**

256

**Proposal: There could be some assessments of different member state systems.**

258

**Note: Lifetime of different systems varies.**

259

**Note: Possibly it is not possible to consolidate all possible systems at the same**

261

**time.**

262

**Proposal: There could be some timetable for consolidating different systems, i.e. cooperation between member states systems and European Union systems.**

265

Here can be noted that there can several APIs implemented in different information systems.

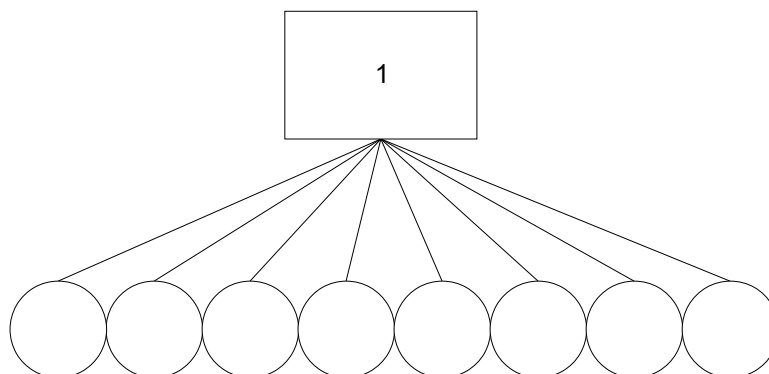
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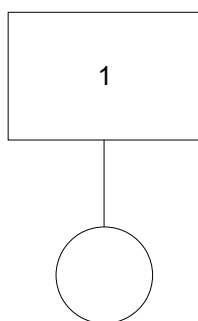


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One issue can be different versions of APIs. Based on timelines of different systems there can be different API versions in use.

**Proposal: Different API versions could be assessed very carefully.**

Based on previous issues it can be noted that in some cases an older system can implement only some versions of different APIs.



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Here we can note different approaches for developing information systems. Some stakeholders propose one well-done interface for all users of some information system. Some stakeholders propose several smaller well-done interface for different users of some information system.

**Proposal: Number of different interfaces should be assessed carefully.**

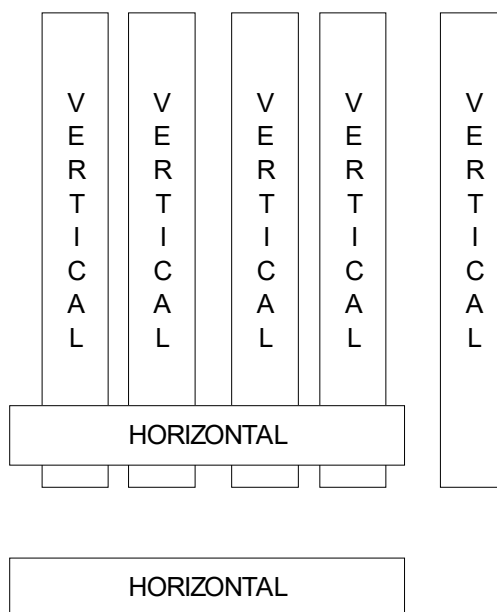
**Proposal: Number of features for different interfaces should be assessed carefully.**

**Opinion: One big interface with large number of features is not the best possible way for creating information systems.**

**Proposal: There could be several interfaces based on needs of different stakeholders.**

296 **Favouring horizontal standards**

297



298

299

300 There are differences between horizontal and vertical standards. A simple example is naturally  
 301 email solutions. There are several vertical standards when creating technically email solutions. Then  
 302 there are horizontal standards which enable sending messages between technically different email  
 303 solutions.

304

305 **Proposal: There could be assessment of vertical and horizontal standards.**

306

307 **Proposal: Using horizontal standards could be favoured when creating different  
 308 information systems on the European Union level.**

309

310 Horizontal standards enables technological solutions which can work together. Horizontal standards  
 311 hides different complexities in information systems.

312

313 **Opinion: The number of redundant standardisation efforts should be minimal.**

314

315 **Proposal: There could be separation of horizontal standards and vertical standards.**

316

317 **Proposal: There could be different standardisation efforts to horizontal standards and  
 318 vertical standards.**

319

320 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards  
 321 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

322

323 Here we can note some problems:

- 324
- 325 • some systems are based on **de-facto** standards
  - 326 • some systems are based on **de-jure** standards
  - 327 • there can be confrontations between **de-facto** and **de-jure** standards
  - 328 • there can be a monopoly situation in some domain
  - 329 • some standards may inhibit possible actions of some stakeholders
  - 330 • there can be a standard war on some domains
  - 331 • standards have different life-cycles
  - 332 • systems have different life-cycles
  - 333 • there can be mismatches between different life-cycles
  - 334 • there can be failed standards
  - 335 • there can be deprecated standards.
- 336

337 It is quite normal situation in the information technology field that there are competing standards  
338 for some application field. Therefore there are all the time ongoing “standards wars” or “format  
339 wars”. The information technology standards tend to be interrelated and one “standards war” or  
340 “format war” can lead to another similar situation.

341

342 I have advocated open standards even though in some cases open standards are not de facto  
343 standards. In practice public sector has very important role, when some standards are competing in  
344 the market place. Because public sector has a considerable power when buying/developing  
345 information systems and therefore public sector can sometimes direct markets to certain standards.  
346 Therefore there should be serious vigilance when assessing different standards and “standards” in  
347 some application fields.

348

349 There are different standards setting organisations on the information technology field. One list <sup>1</sup> of  
350 these standards setting organisations is provided by ConsortiumInfo.org.

351

352 One warning can be said about standards setting organisations. All standards setting organisations  
353 are not successes based on several factors and there can may irrelevant standards setting  
354 organisations. Market situation on different vehicle markets varies a lot based on different factors.

355

356 **Proposal: Current standardisation (e.g. list provided by ConsortiumInfo.org) efforts by**  
357 **different standard setting organisations could be assessed carefully.**

358

359 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards  
360 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

361

362 **Proposal: Governments should especially concentrate on horizontal standards.**

363

364 **Proposal: Some government agencies could apply for memberships of different**  
365 **standard setting organisations which develop especially horizontal standards.**

366

367 **Proposal: Government agencies should not be passive by-standers when different**

1 Standard Setting Organizations and Standards List, <https://www.consortiuminfo.org/list/>

368 **horizontal standards are developed.**

369

370 **Proposal: Government agencies could financially support development of horizontal**  
371 **standards.**

372

373 **Proposal: There could some guidance for using open horizontal standards on different**  
374 **application fields.**

375

376 **An example for cooperation: Web feeds (RSS and Atom)**

377



378

379

380 I have advocated usage of web feeds <sup>2</sup> on several previous opinion documents. I have advocated  
381 usage of web feeds on several previous opinion documents. Actually there are two standards for  
382 web feeds: RSS <sup>3 4</sup> and Atom <sup>5 6 7</sup>.

383

384 **Proposal: Web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) could be advocated when developing different**  
385 **informations systems.**

386

387 **Proposal: Web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) should be used extensively for providing (real-**  
388 **time) information for different stakeholder(s) (communities).**

389

390 **Proposal: There can be different web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) for different**  
391 **stakeholder(s) – having just one web feed (RSS and/or Atom) may not be a feasible**  
392 **solution.**

393

394 **Proposal: Several web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) can be based on different viewpoints.**

395

396 It can be easier to create web feeds in different information systems since web feeds enable  
397 connections without direct system-to-system connections.

398

399 It can be noted, that different back-office systems (with a wide variety of different technologies) can  
400 implement RSS standards, and these RSS feeds can be used in the front-office systems. With this  
401 kind solutions front-office systems don't need direct system-to-system communications with back-  
402 office systems.

403

2 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_feed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_feed)

3 <http://www.rssboard.org/rss-specification>, RSS 2.0 Specification

4 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS>, Wikipedia / RSS

5 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atom\\_\(standard\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atom_(standard)), Wikipedia / Atom (standard)

6 <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4287>, The Atom Syndication Format

7 <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5023>, The Atom Publishing Protocol

404

**ANNEX 1**

405 My opinions to the previous and relevant consultations – there consultations were mostly organised  
406 by the European Commission. General page to all consultations – both in English and in Finnish:

407 <http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html>

408

409 EN: Opinion 1: Review of the rules on access to documents

410 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_1](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_1)

411

412 EN: Opinion 2: Schools for the 21st Century

413 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_2](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_2)

414

415 EN: Opinion 3: The future of pharmaceuticals for Human use in Europe- making Europe a Hub for  
416 Safe and Innovative medicines

417 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_3](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_3)

418

419 EN: Opinion 5: Consumer Scoreboard, Questionnaire for stakeholders

420 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_5](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_5)

421

422 EN: Opinion 6: Consultation on a Code of Conduct for Interest Representatives

423 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_6](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_6)

424

425 EN: Opinion 8: European Interoperability Framework, version 2, draft

426 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_8](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_8)

427

428 EN: Opinion 9: CAMSS: Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications, CAMSS  
429 proposal for comments

430 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_9](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_9)

431

432 EN: Opinion 15: Collective Redress

433 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_15](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_15)

434

435 EN: Opinion 17: Opinion to Antitrust Case No. COMP/C-3/39.530

436 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_17](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_17)

437

438 EN: Opinion 18: Opinion Related to the Public Undertaking by Microsoft

439 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_18](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_18)

440

441 EN: Opinion 19: Official Acknowledgement by the Commission

442 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_19](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_19)

443

444 EN: Opinion 20: SECOND Opinion Related to the Public Undertaking by Microsoft

445 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_20](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_20)

446

447 EN: Opinion 21: Opinion about the European Interoperability Strategy proposal

448 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_21](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_21)

- 449 EN: Opinion 23: Public consultation on the review of the European Standardisation System  
450 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_23](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_23)  
451
- 452 EN: Opinion 27: Public Consultation on the Modernisation of EU Public Procurement Policy  
453 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_27](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_27)  
454
- 455 EN: Opinion 28: Consultation on the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative  
456 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_28](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_28)  
457
- 458 EN: Opinion 30: Internet Filtering  
459 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_30](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_30)  
460 NOTE: Organised by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) <sup>8</sup>  
461
- 462 EN: Opinion 32: COMP/C-3/39.692/IBM – Maintenance services  
463 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_32](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_32)  
464
- 465 EN: Opinion 34: REMIT Registration Format  
466 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_34](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_34)  
467 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) <sup>9</sup>  
468
- 469 EN: Opinion 35: Exploiting the employment potential of the personal and household services  
470 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_35](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_35)  
471
- 472 EN: Opinion 37: CASE COMP/39.654 - Reuters instrument codes  
473 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_37](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_37)  
474
- 475 EN: Opinion 39: Registry options to facilitate linking of emissions trading systems  
476 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_39](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_39)  
477
- 478 EN: Opinion 40: Media Freedom and Pluralism / audiovisual regulatory bodies  
479 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_40](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_40)  
480
- 481 EN: Opinion 41: AT.39398: observations on the proposed commitments  
482 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_41](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_41)  
483
- 484 EN: Opinion 42: Opening up Education  
485 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_42](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_42)  
486
- 487 EN: Opinion 43: Publication of extracts of the European register of market participants  
488 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_43](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_43)  
489 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)  
490  
491

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cen.eu/> (Accessed 2 July 2012)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.acer.europa.eu/> (Accessed 2 July 2012)

- 492 EN: Opinion 44: Evaluation policy guidelines  
493 [http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro\\_44](http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_44)  
494
- 495 EN: Opinion 45: About ICT standardisation  
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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.berec.europa.eu>, Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)



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- 660 EN: Opinion 147: EU customs procedures - developing and upgrading electronic systems  
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- 695 EN: Opinion 169: Fighting child sexual abuse: detection, removal and reporting of illegal content  
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**ANNEX 2**

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