

eGovernment, Standards and Public Procurement

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Overview

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Requirements for eProcurement
- ▶ Work under way at EU level
- ▶ What needs further to be done
- ▶ Conclusions



Background - Personal

- ▶ 16 Years in European Parliament, including
 - ▶ 2, as adviser on IT strategy, to Deputy Secretary General
 - ▶ 4, as Head of Unit for Data Standards & Information Architecture
- ▶ 2004-2006, in Austrian Federal Chancellery
 - ▶ Senior Advisor on eGovernment Strategy
- ▶ 2005 →, Chair of CEN eGovernment Focus Group
- ▶ 2006 →, Pensive.eu
 - ▶ Founder and Principal



Background - Procurement

- ▶ Public Procurement represents 16% of EU GDP
- ▶ Much procurement favours larger, more established companies
- ▶ Vast majority of European companies are SMEs
 - ▶ Incredibly diverse sector:
 - ▶ Difficult to categorise, generalise or make assumptions about SMEs
 - ▶ Difficult for SMEs to establish economies of scale
- ▶ “Balance of power” in hands of administrations
 - ▶ Difficult for companies to cooperate on joint bids
 - ▶ level/volume/legal-uncertainty of paperwork overwhelming



What is eProcurement?

“Whole set of processes from identification of a requirement that will be need to be fulfilled by public tender, through the delivery of the requirement identified, and until the archiving of all relevant information required by law and/or good administrative and business practices”:

- ▶ Preparation;
- ▶ eNotification;
- ▶ eCatalogue;
- ▶ eTender;
- ▶ eContract;
- ▶ eAuction;
- ▶ eInvoicing;
- ▶ Reporting,
- ▶ eArchiving

But not (just) about digitizing 19th Century, paper-based processes, also:

- ▶ Change management;
- ▶ Service definition and composition;
- ▶ Legal certainty



EU 4 Fundamental freedoms

- ▶ Of people, goods, capital *and services*
- ▶ Therefore, “de-localisation”, but:
 - ▶ Equality of treatment of requests
 - ▶ Authenticated identification of businesses, requesting administrations and their respective “documentation”
 - ▶ Protection of confidentiality; security
 - ▶ Trust
 - ▶ Mutual recognition of different legal & commercial systems



Tendering in an ideal EU world

- ▶ Technologically agnostic
 - ▶ “semantic web” must be understood in larger context
- ▶ Support multi-lingualism
 - ▶ 24 official & 22 EU working languages
 - ▶ As well as more “sub-nation state” official/recognised languages
 - ▶ “Legal presumption of linguistic equivalence in official EU texts”
 - ▶ Legally binding and enforceable common terminology
- ▶ Development of eProcurement “Road Map” to 2010



Steps on Road Map

- ▶ Interoperability between national infrastructures
 - ▶ national company registries
 - ▶ “virtual company dossier”
- ▶ Common EU specifications
 - ▶ eCatalogues
 - ▶ Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) codelist
 - ▶ what about common vocabulary for companies to express their business interests?
 - ▶ EU Company ID
 - ▶ coupled with personal eID, possibilities of role/delegation management
 - ▶ but what about interoperable eID? and current limits on liability?
 - ▶ A common procurement language?
 - ▶ let’s walk before we can run
 - ▶ Build on existing specs for eInvoicing and basic documents (eg UBL)



More steps on the Road Map

▶ “Availability of common specifications and building blocks”

- ▶ role of standards
- ▶ role of demonstrators and good practices
- ▶ role of pilot projects



Bumps on the road ahead

- ▶ Level playing field for all businesses
 - ▶ eProcurement favours the brave and the large
 - ▶ some proposed alerting mechanisms might contravene law
- ▶ Interfaces between eProcurement platforms
 - ▶ need for standards? But at what level?
- ▶ Can you mix paper and digital submissions:
 - ▶ in the same procurement Call?
 - ▶ from same company?
 - ▶ importance of standards for document identifiers

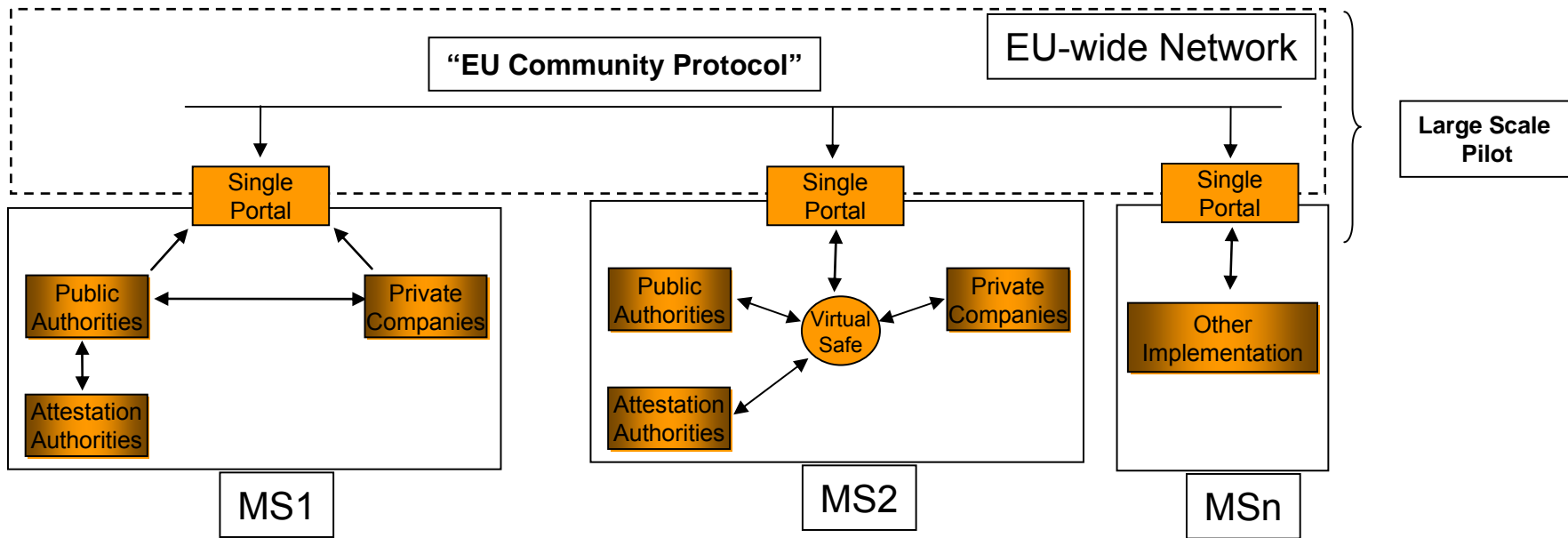


More bumps ahead...

- ▶ Open Source approaches
 - ▶ SMEs (and micro-companies in particular) more likely to use COTS (“commercial off-the-shelf”) software with fewer development overheads
 - ▶ Learn from the SOA (Service-Oriented Architecture) paradigm
 - ▶ standards needed at “exposed” interfaces, not in the “engine room”
- ▶ How *do* you get SMEs on board?
 - ▶ such a diverse group
 - ▶ what can they offer in “large-scale pilots”?



“Large Scale Pilot” - What’s on offer?



Source: eTEN draft proposal for large-scale pilot on eProcurement,
11 October 2006

- ▶ eAnything must be more than just digitized paper
- ▶ The above example doesn't leverage what is possible
 - ▶ don't get "starry-eyed" about the "semantic web" but
 - ▶ do understand that there are better ways forward...



More attention needed

- ▶ eService discovery
 - ▶ Cross-company eService discovery, composition and binding
 - ▶ Leverage practical tools of “semantic web” world
- ▶ Problem of identity management:
 - ▶ of people, across national jurisdictions
 - ▶ of companies
 - ▶ but also of documents, processes and other artefacts
- ▶ eProcurement process – *please* not just “digitized paper”



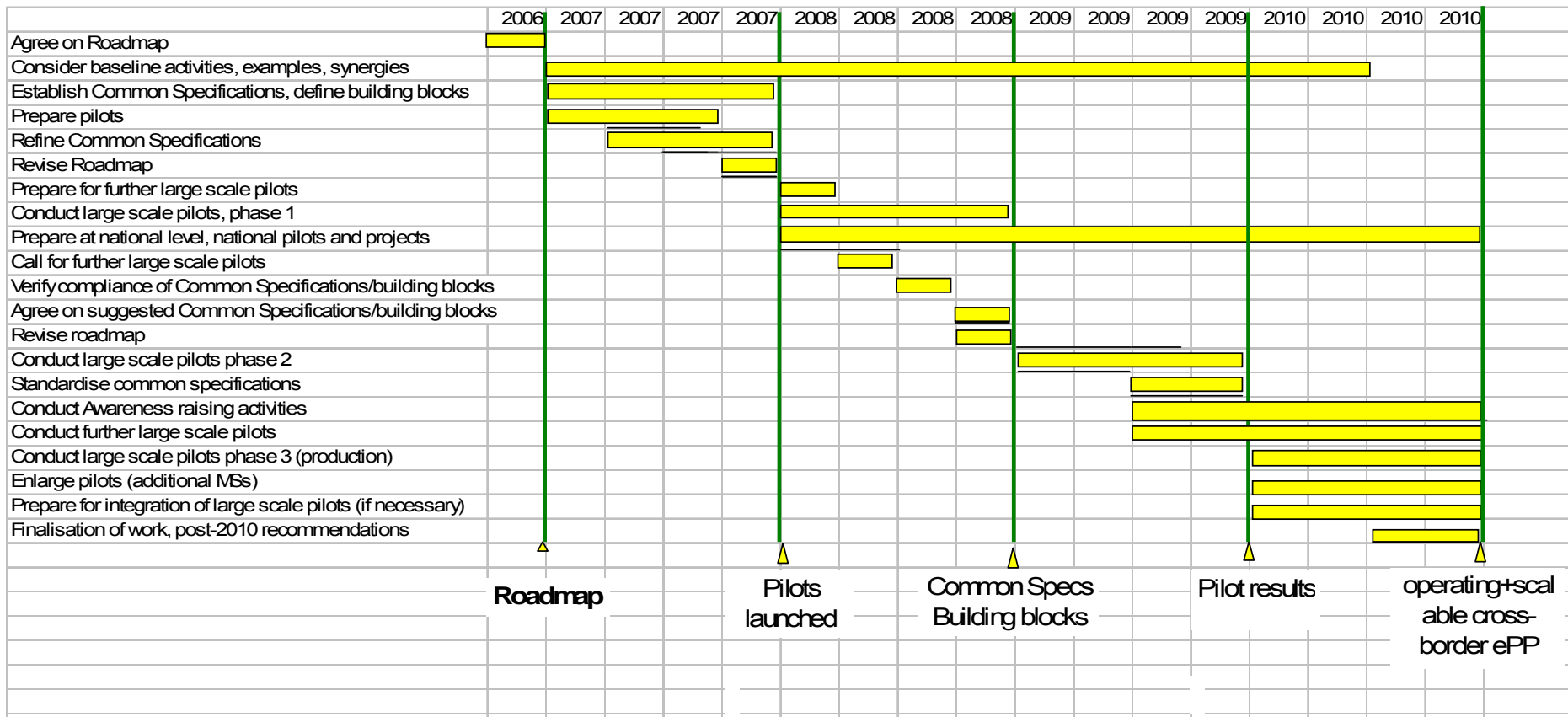
In conclusion...

- ▶ Need for greater cooperation between actors:
 - ▶ Public policy makers;
 - ▶ Researchers and research project leaders
 - ▶ Standards bodies
 - ▶ Business groups
 - ▶ Solution providers

in order to avoid “disconnects” between research, standards and policy making



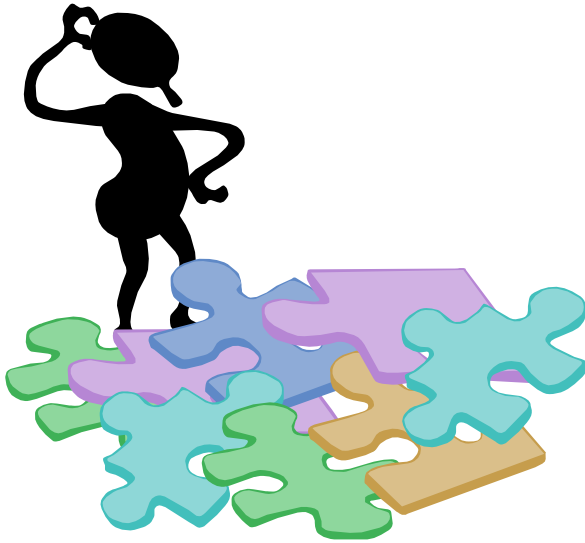
eProcurement Road Map



Source: High Impact Services Roadmap
28 November 2006, European Commission



Comments and questions



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