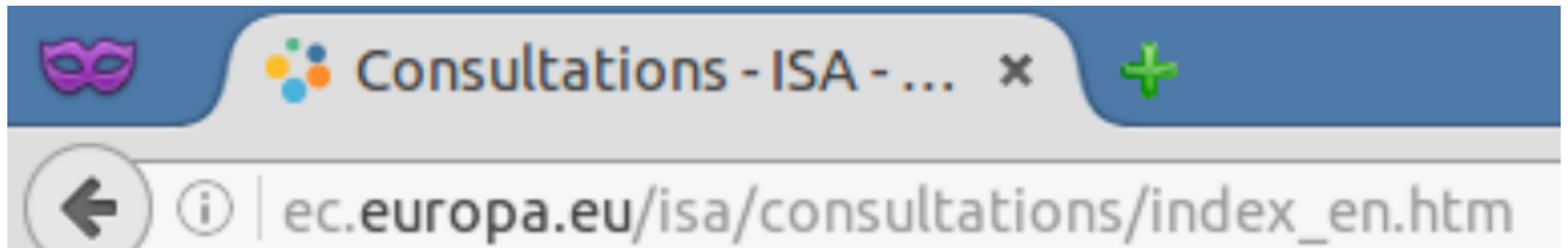


Open Standards in Perils?



The ongoing revision of the European
Interoperability Framework

Consultation



Ongoing consultations



Open Public Consultation: Revision of the European Interoperability Framework



[View all consultation details](#)

Policy field(s) Information technology

Target group(s) We welcome contributions from (i) citizens, (ii) businesses and private organisations, (iii) public administrations, and (iv) research centres, academic institutions, standardisation organisations, businesses supplying services to public administrations.

Period of consultation Opening date: 6 April 2016
Closing date: 29 June 2016 (12 weeks)
Comments received after the closing date will not be considered.

Objective of the consultation The general objective is to ensure that a **coherent vision on interoperability** exists in the EU in relation to interactions between the European public administrations and between them and citizens and businesses. This can be done through updating and extending the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) and updating the European Interoperability Strategy (EIS) by reviewing the current Communication "Towards interoperability for European public services", COM (2010)744.

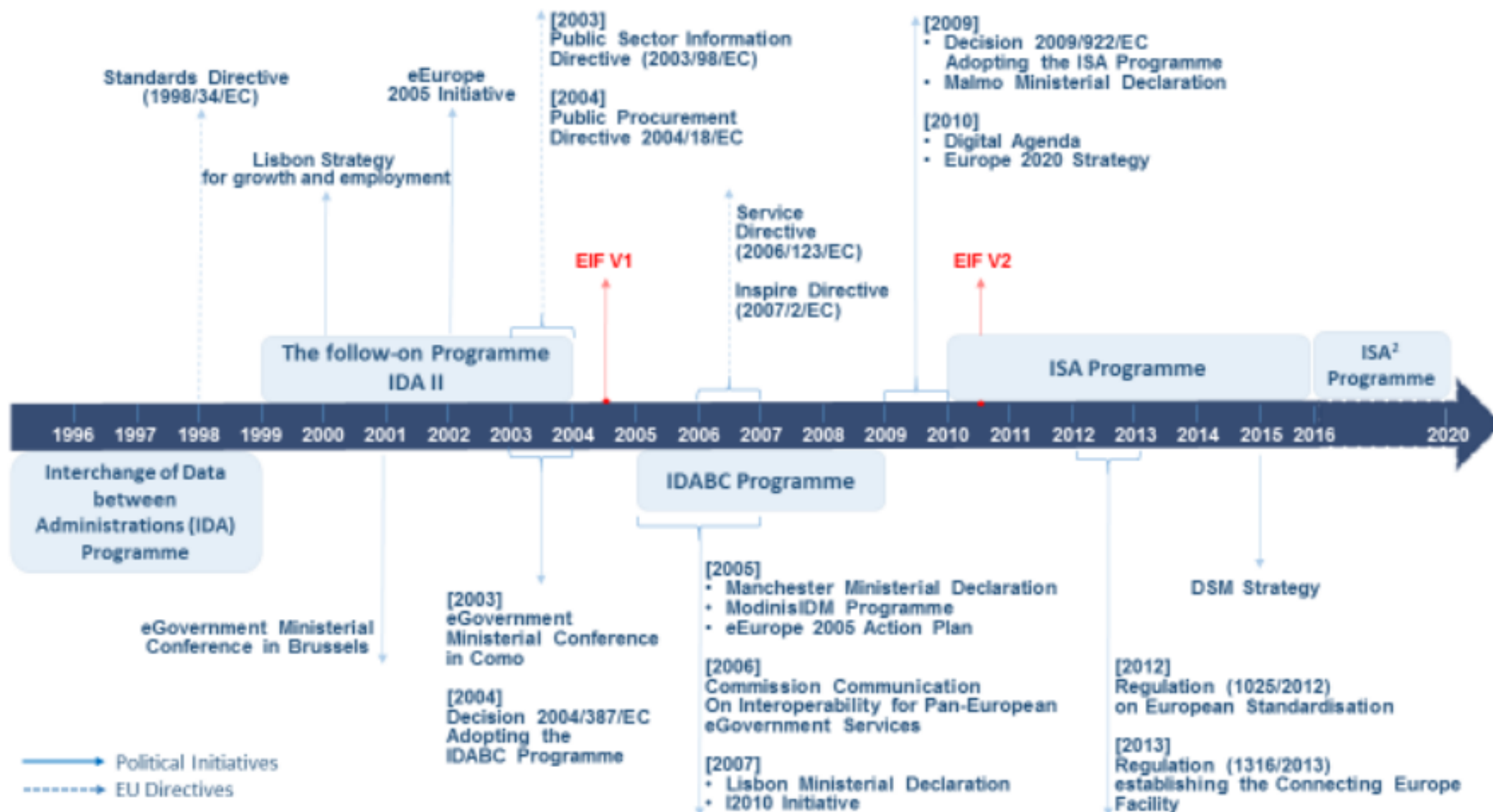
The review is deemed necessary in order (a) to align with the recent policy development, i.e. the Digital Single Market (DSM) policy, the revised Directive on the reuse of Public Sector Information, etc., (b) to align with emerging technological trends (cloud computing, big and open data, etc.) and (c) to put more focus on the implementation of the EIF rather than the simple alignment with the national approaches on interoperability.

This consultation is part of an overall assessment process for the impact of the EIF revision, described in the Inception [Impact](#)

European Interoperability Framework (EIF) for European Public Services

EIF REVISION

DRAFT INTERMEDIATE VERSION



EU Definitions

Interoperability	<p>"Interoperability" means the ability of disparate and diverse organisations to interact towards mutually beneficial and agreed common goals, involving the sharing of information and knowledge between the organisations, through the business processes they support, by means of the exchange of data between their respective ICT systems.</p>
Interoperability Framework	<p>An interoperability framework is a commonly agreed approach to interoperability for organisations that wish to work together towards joint delivery of public services and/or exchange of information. It specifies a set of common elements such as a common vocabulary, concepts, principles, policies, guidelines, recommendations, standards, specifications and practices.</p>

INTEROPERABILITY GOVERNANCE

Overcoming differences in legislation, policy and strategy

LEGAL INTEROPERABILITY

Aligning business processes, responsibilities and expectations to achieve commonly agreed and mutually beneficial goals

ORGANISATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY

Format, quality and meaning of exchanged information are understood by all parties

INFORMATION INTEROPERABILITY

Applications and infrastructures linking systems and services

TECHNICAL INTEROPERABILITY

PUBLIC SERVICE
GOVERNANCE

- Intellectual property rights related to the specification are licensed on FRAND³² terms or preferably on a royalty-free basis in a way that allows implementation in both proprietary and open source software³³.

Due to their positive effect on interoperability, the use of such open specifications has been promoted in many policy statements and is encouraged for European Public Service delivery. The positive effect of open specifications is demonstrated by the Internet ecosystem.

However, public administrations may decide to use less open specifications if open specifications/standards do not exist or do not meet functional interoperability needs.

In all cases, specifications should be mature and sufficiently supported by the market, except if used in the context of creating innovative solutions.



Recommendation 37.

When establishing European Public Services, public administrations should give preference to open specifications, taking due account of the coverage of functional needs, maturity and market support.

Fixes

- ♦ Restore narrow scope of interoperability
- ♦ Delete explicit FRAND reference
- ♦ Expand on "openness" (not just pretext for transparency)
- ♦ Add problem-driven approach
- ♦ Advocate highvalue projects with a positive technical interoperability outcome:
e.g. promotion of open document exchange formats, plugfests etc.

IEEE Code of Ethics No. 7

„to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;“