There are practical reasons for creating an eHealth ecosystem

Establishing multi-sector partnerships of critical mass, ecosystems have the potential to create the optimum organisational and working environment to facilitate the development of a shared vision and the achievement of policy, strategic, business and service delivery objectives. In particular, eHealth ecosystems:

- Improve the understanding of healthcare needs
- Support the health reform process
- Improve user acceptance for improved process management
- Increase understanding and exploitation of new and innovative public/ private business models
- Provide the rationale to build the necessary partnerships
- Incentivise plans for pilot-to-deployment, and
- Create multi sector synergies

The objectives of an eHealth ecosystem are to:

(1) Promote private and public sector innovation on a cooperative basis

(2) Ensure a vibrant economy for the deployment of eHealth applications

(3) Support national, regional health and social care strategies

During the course of the Ministerial discussions all parties agreed that these aims can only be achieved by:

- Strengthening coordination of all policies related to e-Health (from support for research and deployment, to developing a legal framework in specific areas like medical devices, patient safety, cyber security and interoperability), in particular through the high level eHealth Network under the Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.

- Promoting an ecosystem dialogue aimed at mutual learning and sharing of good experiences between purchasers and providers, academia, patients, citizens, industry throughout the public and private sector health industry.

- Implementing disruptive innovation schemes, using any innovative concept, product and service that can create new markets by applying new sets of rules, values and models which will ultimately disrupt and overtake existing markets by displacing earlier technologies and alliances, and

- Facilitating the use of cross-sectoral high risk, but high value solutions, in the context of achieving high societal impact and commercial return.