



INTEROPERABILITY DECLARATION OF ROME

October 22nd, 2008

The Second European Summit on Interoperability in the iGovernment, held in Rome on October 20-22, 2008 endorsed the following document addressed to the European Commission, the European Parliament, to the national authorities of the 27 European Member States and to all the European regional governments

INTRODUCTION

We CONFIRM the validity of the introduction and principals stated in the Valencia Declaration of 2006;

We REAFFIRM our support to the construction of the European Union as a successful entity based on the common advance of all European Public Administrations of any territorial level, especially those close to the citizens; called to contribute to this construction on the principles of excellence, efficiency, transparency and participation of the citizens, as well as on the principles of collaboration and solidarity among their Administrations, giving priority to the investment in innovation and security;

We CONFIRM our commitment in achieving the objectives of the initiative i2010 of the European Commission, supporting the development of the Knowledge Society in the European Union, as well as of *eGovernment*;

We REASSERT that interoperability is the necessary and key enabler for the efficient, fair and sustainable development of *eGovernment*;

We CONFIRM the importance of the establishment of a non stop debate forum about the priorities in the field of interoperability and the exchange of the best initiatives and frameworks on interoperability that allow to improve the ability of the regional stakeholders to develop policies that take into account the real needs



of the European citizens and enterprises and the strengths and capacities of the regions;

We WANT to contribute to the development of an efficient interoperability amongst our Administrations, CALLING and INVITING all citizens, Administrations, the ICT field, the enterprises, the organizations and Institutions of the Civil Society to collaborate in the achievement of the objectives hereby established.

Aware of all the above mentioned, reaffirming to recognize all the different specific government requests at a local, regional, national and European level, inviting all Institutions to participating in all the activities that will be developed after ESIG 2 as well as to starting initiatives in the field of interoperability on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity:

WE ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. We put forward to the European Union institutions the request for the constitution of a **European Interoperability Agency** as a tool for the promotion of interoperability amongst European administrations which:
 - Supports the balanced development of the knowledge Society in all the EU countries and the modernization of Public Administrations;
 - Supports the fostering of a culture of interoperability as an element of continuous innovation of services and products based on the ICT potential, that is a key element for the economic development of European regions.
 - Allows to share resources and knowledge with the aim of developing new innovation opportunities able to create competitive advantages, provide services that meet the real consumers' and Public Administrations' needs and facilitate the advance of an administrative, social and productive system adequate to the characteristics of economy and knowledge.
 - Fosters the interoperability culture and practices as the key elements for the creation of a strong synergy among the public and private sector and the Civil Society, for the construction of a digital inclusive society that tackles any risk related to the digital divide,



favours the access to services through appropriate infrastructures and protects all citizens' rights in quality of digital consumers.

- Contributes to make all regulations coherent in order to create a common legal framework.

2. Promoting the creation of **ERNI (European Regional Network for Interoperability)** as a permanent governance structure among European regions, which involves the stakeholders that are directly closer to the subject and that, for this reason, are recognized as prestigious at a regional level, with the aim of creating a group of preferential interest that plays a role of qualified interlocutor towards the national and European authorities competent in the field. Specifically, ERNI, also in collaboration with other networks and in the associative forms that will be agreed, will operate for:

- Favours the consolidation, analysis and development of the European Interoperability Framework as well as of the concurrent synergies and methodologies between the EIF and the various local, regional and national interoperability frameworks aiming at allowing coherence amongst of the Public Administrations' regulations in force;
- Promoting the introduction of Interoperability as a crucial requirement within the Programs or Action Plans regarding ICT of the regional and national public administrations;
- Taking part in the financial opportunities proposed by the European Commission aimed at supporting priority initiatives for interoperability and in the identification of funds for the diffusion and reuse of the local and regional administrations' best practices;
- Supporting the process for the promotion of the European Interoperability Agency.

Rome, October 22nd 2008

