



eSafety Forum - Task Force ELSA in Transport

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The EC is in the process of identifying how to support focused initiatives or frameworks of significant scale and duration that cut across the innovation cycle to develop modern pan-European service infrastructures, thus speeding up the achievement of specific societal goals. An outline of these initiatives, tentatively called European Large Scale bridging Actions (ELSAs), in the area of ICTs is given in the March 2009 Commission Communication "A Strategy for ICT R&D and Innovation in Europe: Raising the Game". The Council Conclusions on "the future of ICT research, innovation and infrastructures" of 25 November 2009 confirmed Transport as one of the ELSA domains.

A stakeholders' analysis, involving primarily an Industrial Group, a Public Sector Group and the eSafety MS Observers, yielded the ELSA in Transport position paper, which was presented at the extended National ICT Research Directors Forum in Visby on 10-11 November 2009.

The Visby Forum confirmed ELSA as a new concept with novel elements requiring vigorous elaboration for further clarifying them. It also confirmed the leading role of the Public Authorities¹ in ELSAs.

2. Objective and Focus

The overall goal of the Task Force is securing the commitment of Public Authorities to a proposal for an ELSA in Transport, thus facilitating possible EC proposals.

The next steps in the development of ELSA in Transport will require more in depth work on the content to identify further clear demand driven objectives

¹ MS National, Regional and Local level

and strike the right balance between demand and supply. These objectives should be specific enough to describe the characteristic of the solution which the Public Authorities would commit to promote and deploy and the stakeholders to provide. This progress towards objectives should be accompanied by a reflection on how to achieve key stakeholders' and high level political commitment.

The Task Force will look into the ELSA governance structures and instruments adapted to the specified needs that could range from utilising existing ones (FP, JP, CIP) to FP re-engineering or, as a last resort, identifying new ones.

The Task Force deliverables will be submitted to the Member States for finalising the ELSA in Transport proposal. The National ICT Research Directors Forum will be informed of the ELSA in Transport proposal.

The Task Force's final report will be used as a basis for the Commission Communication to the Council and the Parliament in autumn 2010.

3. Deliverables

Among the issues necessitating comprehensive analysis are the main features of the ELSA in Transport, the road map for transport innovative solutions including technologies/services (emphasis on shortening the innovation cycle), the deployment model (including expected impacts) and the ELSA Action Plan addressing inter-alia issues of governance and hosting.

4. Membership and Organisation

The Task Force will be co-chaired by the representatives of the Users and the Public Authorities.

The Task Force will be open to all members of the eSafety Forum and will function within its frame.

The co-chairs will ensure that all pertinent stakeholders and expertise will be present. All members are expected to share the general objectives of the Task Force and to contribute actively to its work.

The Task Force shall determine its internal organisation.

The Task Force may be invited to contribute to the setting up of Workshops and Expert meetings related to specific ELSA in Transport topics.

5. Reporting

The Task Force will maintain regular status reports on progress towards both sSafety Forum and National ICT Directors Forum. All reports are considered to be public, if not explicitly stated otherwise by the chairs.

6. Costs

Task Force chairs and members are responsible for their own costs including travel costs and meeting expenses.

Working meetings of the Task Force will be normally organised in Brussels