

**U.S-E.C Guidelines
on Regulatory Cooperation and Transparency
U.S/Department of Commerce-E.C/Enterprise Directorate General**

**Exchange of Information Regarding the Planned Use
of ICT Standards in Support of Regulations and other Public Policies**

Terms of Reference

- Proposal:** Initiate a transatlantic exchange of information regarding the planned use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standards in support of regulations and other public policies.
- Objective:** Minimize the potential for bilateral trade friction and facilitate a better understanding of the respective U.S. and EU goals in the ICT sector, the range of regulatory and alternative tools that are considered as the means of meeting those goals, and the methods by which technical standards and other documents are identified and/or developed to provide the underlying technical solutions in support of a specific regulatory tool or public policy goal.
- Means:** Regular exchanges oriented toward the sharing of information regarding the planned use of ICT standards in support of specific regulatory or public policy goals, in particular in the field of ICT and e-business. The dialogue will be carried out by means of regular expert meetings on specific topics, which will decide on the adequate follow-up for their discussions and, when agreed, make recommendations on how to improve cooperation in specific areas of common interest.
- Duration:** This exchange of information is initially agreed for a period of two years, starting with the initial meeting. The US Government and the European Commission will review its implementation and functioning at the end of the above mentioned two years period and decide if it should be continued.
- Participants:** Representatives and governmental experts from the European Commission and the US Government. The delegations could be supplemented where appropriate by representatives of the Standardisation Organisations and private sector with expertise in specific standards under discussion. The non governmental experts will be part of the delegations and act under the responsibility of the head of delegation. In addition open workshops, Industry Round Tables, or other meetings as appropriate, may be organised on the margins of the official meetings.
- Topics:** Possible topics to be considered include e-accessibility, security (security standards and evaluation methods) and biometrics. This list could be further amended/completed.