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ECIS.

**European Committee
for Interoperable Systems**

SINCE 1989



Who is ECIS?

Founded in 1989, the European Committee for Interoperable Systems (ECIS) is an international non-profit association that endeavours to promote a favourable environment for interoperable ICT solutions. For three decades ECIS has actively represented its members and the wider community on issues relating to interoperability and competition before European and international institutions such as WIPO.

Why is interoperability important?



Communication across different systems

By facilitating smooth interactions between diverse systems, it supports more effective collaboration in crucial areas (healthcare, finance, public services...);



Boosting efficiency across all sectors

Interoperability reduces manual tasks, cuts down errors, and saves time, ultimately leading to significant cost savings;



Accessibility and User Experience

Ensures that services and information are easily accessible across different platforms, providing a more consistent and inclusive digital experience for everyone.

Why ECIS?

ECIS stands for **Interoperability** - the ability of different systems, devices, or components to work together and to exchange data seamlessly without any actions from the user. We seek to ensure that different technologies can communicate with high-hygiene open standards and specifications as well as collaborate and co-innovate effectively.

In today's networked ICT environments, devices do not function in silos: they must interact with other devices and services. A device that cannot interoperate with other similar products or services, essentially locks in users and reduces their freedom of choice.

Convinced that interoperability drives competition on the merits and innovation, ECIS has actively represented its members on issues related to interoperability and competition before European, international and national fora, including the EU institutions.



ECIS Members

ECIS' members are large and smaller information and communications technology hardware and software providers, all striving to promote vigorous competition in the ICT sector and improving the diversity of consumer choice and innovation for the entire EU market. The members include IBM, Oracle, Red Hat and Trellix, among others.

35 years of collaboration showed results

Since its creation and in recent years, ECIS has been a champion of interoperability for nearly two decades. Some of our multiple achievements include:

2004

Facilitating the European Commission's decision to order Microsoft to provide interoperability information to permit the development of competing products.

2009

Helping push through the interoperability provision of the Software Copyright Directive.

2011

First organisation to publicly advocate for open cloud solutions.

2019

Open source software and platforms excluded from Copyright Directive.

2022

Switching and portability requirements into the Data Act.

2024

Open source and open standards clarification within the Interoperable Europe Act.

ECIS' key principles and what brings its members together

01. Commitment to Interoperability

As the heart of its mission, ECIS actively advocates for policies and regulations promoting open standards, where consumers and businesses are not locked into proprietary systems.

02. Advocacy for a Fair Competition

ECIS is dedicated to promoting fair competition in the digital economy, committed to challenging anti-competitive practices by dominant players.

03. Guaranteeing consumer choice and innovation in the EU

Open standards allow for interoperability among a vast number of product offerings, also allowing consumers to choose among competitive products and determine success or failure in the marketplace.

04. Transparency

We advocate for transparency and accountability in business practices and regulatory processes. Clear and predictable rules are essential for ensuring fair competition.

ECIS seeks to be a major interlocutor in shaping the future of Europe's digital landscape. As experts in promoting open standards, open source implementations, fair competition, and innovation in the sector, ECIS offers valuable insights and expertise to support the development of balanced and effective tech policies. ECIS aims to contribute to a legislative environment that fosters a competitive, innovative, and consumer-friendly digital economy across Europe.

Our goals and priorities for the 2024-2029 mandate

Data Policy

support selected developments in the sector, particularly regarding the European Data Union Strategy;

Digital sovereignty

championing policies for an open, competitive, and non-discriminatory Europe;

Cybersecurity

promote open standards and mutual recognition in cybersecurity and related regulatory activities, such as the Cyber Resilience Act and the European Cybersecurity Certification Scheme for Cloud Services (EUCCS);

Preventing vendor lock-in

support competition and choice in the marketplace. Favour initiatives that promote data portability, interoperability and open hybrid multi-cloud solutions;

Trustworthy AI

safeguard openness and transparency in AI ecosystems, avoid dependency on one or few hyperscalers for generative AI and defend core open-source definition when applied to AI.

To learn more about ECIS, its actions and members, visit the ECIS website www.ecis.eu

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