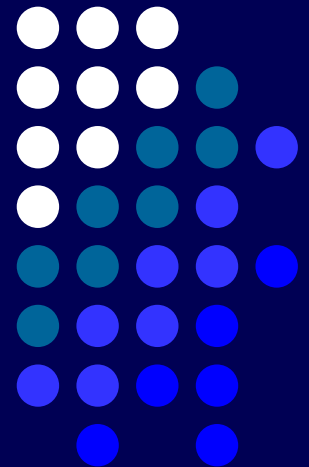


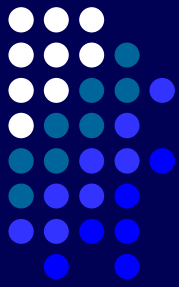
eHealth in Europe: Concluding Recommendations

Kees Smedema,
chairman COCIR IT Committee

EIF, 13 September, Brussels

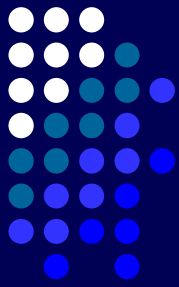


Quotes from Ms Reding at the eHealth conference 2005 in Tromsö:



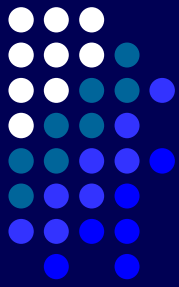
- eHealth offers us a possibility of health services that are seamless, that move with people as they move. Europeans are increasingly mobile and health services have to move with them
- We need eHealth services that are **interoperable** and transborder
- Today, Europe is in a leadership position on Health ICT. We need to maintain and reinforce this position
- To me, this is what a European approach to ehealth should be about: patients not paperwork!

Healthcare-IT: a key part of eHealth



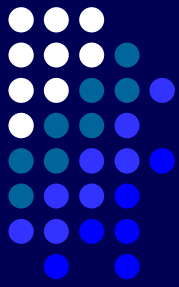
- eHealth comprises everything where ICT provides new or improved healthcare services for citizens or for organisations
 - Including e.g drug databases, disease control, home monitoring, lifestyle management, telemedicine, radiology and cardiology information systems, decision support systems, Computer Aided Diagnosis, EHR, health portals
- Today's presentations have mainly dealt with Healthcare-IT
 - Healthcare-IT comprises clinical and administrative systems that directly support the healthcare process and patient encounter
 - Healthcare-IT enables cost reduction and quality improvement by e.g. workflow improvement, improves access and availability of information, reduces errors, enable better diagnosis and treatment, provides new clinical possibilities and decision support

The Healthcare Industry in Europe



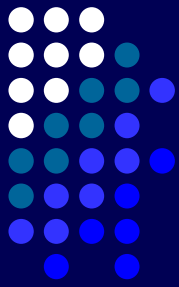
- European healthcare industry has worldwide a strong position
- Europe can also become world leader in Healthcare IT industry
- This requires **one** market for healthcare-IT systems, not 25.
- We need a common policy across the member states for Interoperability between different Healthcare-IT systems, especially for the Electronic Health Record (EHR)
 - It will enable access to EHR from any place in Europe, thus leading to better clinical decisions
 - It will decrease healthcare costs by having uniform interfaces in all countries (less customisation required)
 - It will reduce product complexity, while improving quality. This enables the necessary economy of scale for the European Healthcare-IT industry to be competitive in a world market
 - It will accelerate deployment of Healthcare-IT in Europe

Standards for Interoperability?



- So far the Healthcare industry has organised standardization in consortia together with users: DICOM, HL7, ...
 - De facto open standards adopted worldwide
 - No intervention from healthcare authorities or standards organisations
 - Practice-oriented interoperability profiles developed by IHE
- National Governments now start own eHealth programs:
 - E.g. UK NPfIT program, Ireland's EHR, France's EHR, Netherlands patient id are all separate programs without any coordination
- Unfortunately, the EU has no mandate in healthcare
 - EU eHealth Action Plan offers only guidelines
 - Despite EU eHealth conferences and programs, nothing substantial takes place between EU Member States to align their roadmaps
 - Cooperation between INFISO, SANCO, ENTR is very weak

Interoperability Standards in Healthcare



Until 2003: Industry-User Consortia for worldwide standards. No national programs

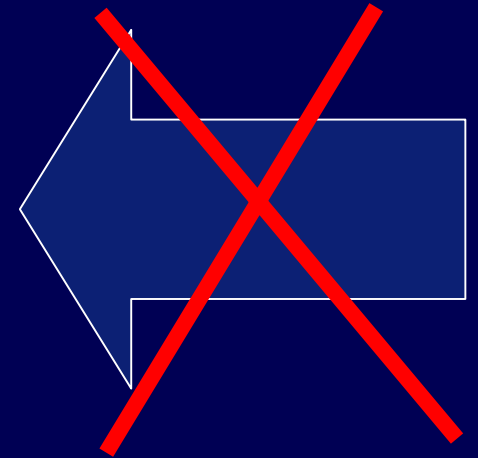
Now: Member States are setting their own programs and standards



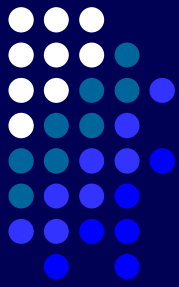
EU is absent: no mandate



Many different solutions

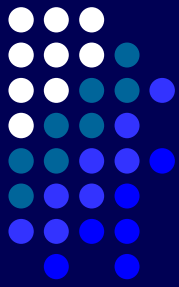


Europe needs an EU interoperability program



- Use model of IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise)
 - 6 years of positive worldwide experience
 - Priority-setting by all stakeholders together: vendors, users, but also policymakers, patients, insurers, ...
 - Use of existing standards as much as possible
 - Yearly improvement, efficient process, great impact
 - Education, promotion, local deployment
- Appoint one person, one DG to champion this (compare US, UK)
- Emphasis on
 - Pushing national authorities to provide the right (and harmonized) boundary conditions for the infrastructure
 - Pushing standards organisations to provide the missing pieces

Involvement of EU policymakers is key



- Member States have to be persuaded to accept a stronger role for the EU in Healthcare-IT
 - especially regarding interoperability
- The EU Commission has to
 - Re-organise internally in order to take a leading role
 - Establish a (high level) forum to set priorities and roadmap towards EHR and interoperability by directly involving stakeholders (on its way)
 - Re-consider its standardisation policy for healthcare-IT; supporting consortia is often more efficient than funding standards organisations
- MEPs should actively encourage this policy wherever possible
 - With all policy tools at their disposal

Only together we can make a difference.

Medical IT vendors are looking forward working with you !