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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Making e-Services a Reality in Europe e-Government event**

With more and more Europeans travelling, living and working in other EU countries, the demand for cross-border services is on the rise. Freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and people is a fundamental right, which results in a number of interactions between Member States. European enterprises are attracted by business opportunities in the European market. Consequently, the ability to tender for public procurement contracts abroad is one of the prime services expected by business. Over a billion cross-border journeys are made every year. A number of citizens fall ill or suffer injuries while staying in another Member State, which necessitates easy access to healthcare services abroad. The increased mobility of citizens and businesses results in a number of legal problems, thus easy access to judicial systems is required.

The priority of EU countries is to transform Europe into one Single Market to enable seamless transactions between countries, taking place online. With non-cohesive national laws and diverse IT solutions and systems having been in place for many years, cooperation and commitment are required from national governments as well as market players to implement the Single Market idea. A significant effort has already been undertaken by the European Commission and Member States. Numerous projects and initiatives have proved that the goal is achievable, although there is still a long way ahead. Interoperable solutions for cross-border services have already been developed and tested in real government cases in many areas: e-Health, e-Justice, e-Procurement, and business setup<sup>1</sup>.

To unlock the full potential of the European Single market, generic building blocks are needed to enable electronic transactions in various areas. Mutual recognition of electronic documents, identification of citizens and electronic signatures as well as safe delivery of e-documents are key enablers to allow cross-border administrative services to operate throughout the EU. The e-SENS (Electronic Simple European Networked Services) project aims to provide generic and re-usable solutions to foster electronic interactions with public administration across the EU. It consolidates, improves and extends existing developments, building on European standards.

The e-SENS project is organising an event under the title "Making e-Services a Reality in Europe", taking place on 6–7 November 2014 in Luxembourg, to discuss how progress is being made and what steps remain to be taken to build seamless e-Government, in particular:

- the ICT-facilitated public services already made available by Large Scale Projects;
- the strong need to develop more new public e-services in the digital era;

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<sup>1</sup> The Large Scale Pilot projects (LSPs) – epSOS, e-CODEX, STORK, STORK 2.0, PEPPOL, e-SENS, SPOCS.





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- progress made in building generic solutions for electronic communication;
- the future of digital infrastructure for e-services in Europe.

Through speeches and exhibitions, the event will present the current state-of-play as well as giving an outlook on the future of European e-services, providing valuable information for decision makers when developing national e-Government systems. It will discuss how e-SENS and other LSPs contribute to the platform of “core services” for the e-Government cross-border digital infrastructure foreseen by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The event aims to provide first-hand information on interoperable architecture and real-life testing, which will demonstrate the reusability of e-SENS solutions. It will also be a unique opportunity for the IT Industry to keep abreast with e-Government trends, get a closer look at technical developments and identify business opportunities.

Electronic services accessible across the EU are essential to strengthen the digital single market in Europe and offer concrete benefits to citizens and businesses. Seamless electronic services have the potential to improve access to information, reduce transaction time and costs, and increase efficiency in administrative processes. Only the common effort and dedication of diverse parties will make e-services a reality in Europe.

