



*Interoperability Solutions  
for European Public Administrations*

# ***Rethinking Semantic Interoperability Through Collaboration***

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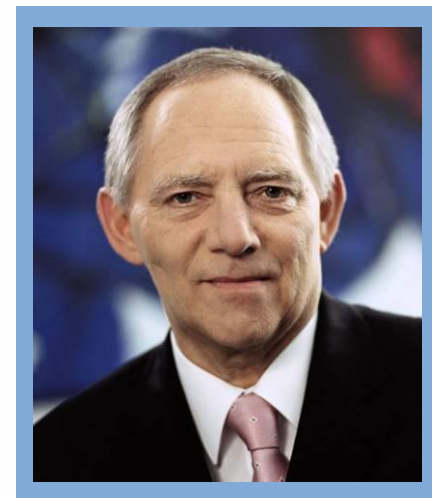


EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Informatics



**“Today, nearly every political project also encompasses or results in an IT project.”**



**- Dr Wolfgang Schäuble**

# Malmö e-Government ministerial declaration

**“ eGovernment has not only become mainstream in national policies but has also reached beyond national boundaries to become an important enabler to deliver European-wide policy goals across different sectors. ”**

**- Ministerial Declaration on e-government  
Malmö, Nov. 2009**

## **Policy priorities stressed in Malmö**

**Citizens and businesses are empowered by eGovernment services**

**Mobility in the Single Market is reinforced by seamless eGovernment services**

**Efficiency and effectiveness is enabled by a constant effort to use eGovernment**

# Malmö e-Government ministerial declaration

**“ The Member States invites the Commission (...) to further harness the potential of information and communication technologies (...) within the Commission through the relevant strategies and action plans. ”**

**- Ministerial Declaration on e-government  
Malmö, Nov. 2009**

# EU 2020

## 3 PRIORITIES

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Smart

Sustainable

Inclusive

Growth

## 5 OBJECTIVES

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- ✦ 75% 20-64 population employed
- ✦ 3% PIB for Research & Innovation
- ✦ 20/20/20 Climate & Energy
- ✦ Early school leavers <10% and 40% of younger generation with a tertiary degree
- ✦ 20 M less poor people

## 7 FLAGSHIPS

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- ✦ Union for Innovation
- ✦ Youth on the move
- ✦ *Digital Agenda for Europe*
- ✦ Efficient use of resources
- ✦ A Industrial policy for the globalization era
- ✦ New qualifications and jobs
- ✦ EU platform against poverty

**“ The overall aim of the Digital Agenda is to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultra fast internet and interoperable applications.**

**”**

**- Digital agenda**

# Digital Agenda

**1** Digital Single Market



**2** Interoperability and standards



**3** Trust and Security



**4** Very Fast Internet



**4** Research and innovation



**5** Enhancing e-skills



**6** ICT-enabled benefit for EU society





# Digital Agenda : Interoperability

*“A key action to **promote interoperability** between public administrations will be the Commission's adoption of an ambitious **European Interoperability Strategy** and the **European Interoperability Framework** to be drawn up under the ISA programme (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations) ”*

- Digital agenda

# Digital Agenda

**1** Digital Single Market



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# Digital Agenda : eGovernment services

“*The Commission will lead by example in implementing smart eGovernment. These services will support streamlined administrative processes, facilitate information sharing and simplify interaction with the Commission, thereby empowering users and improving the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Commission. (...) Europe needs better administrative cooperation to develop and deploy cross-border online services.*”

- Digital agenda

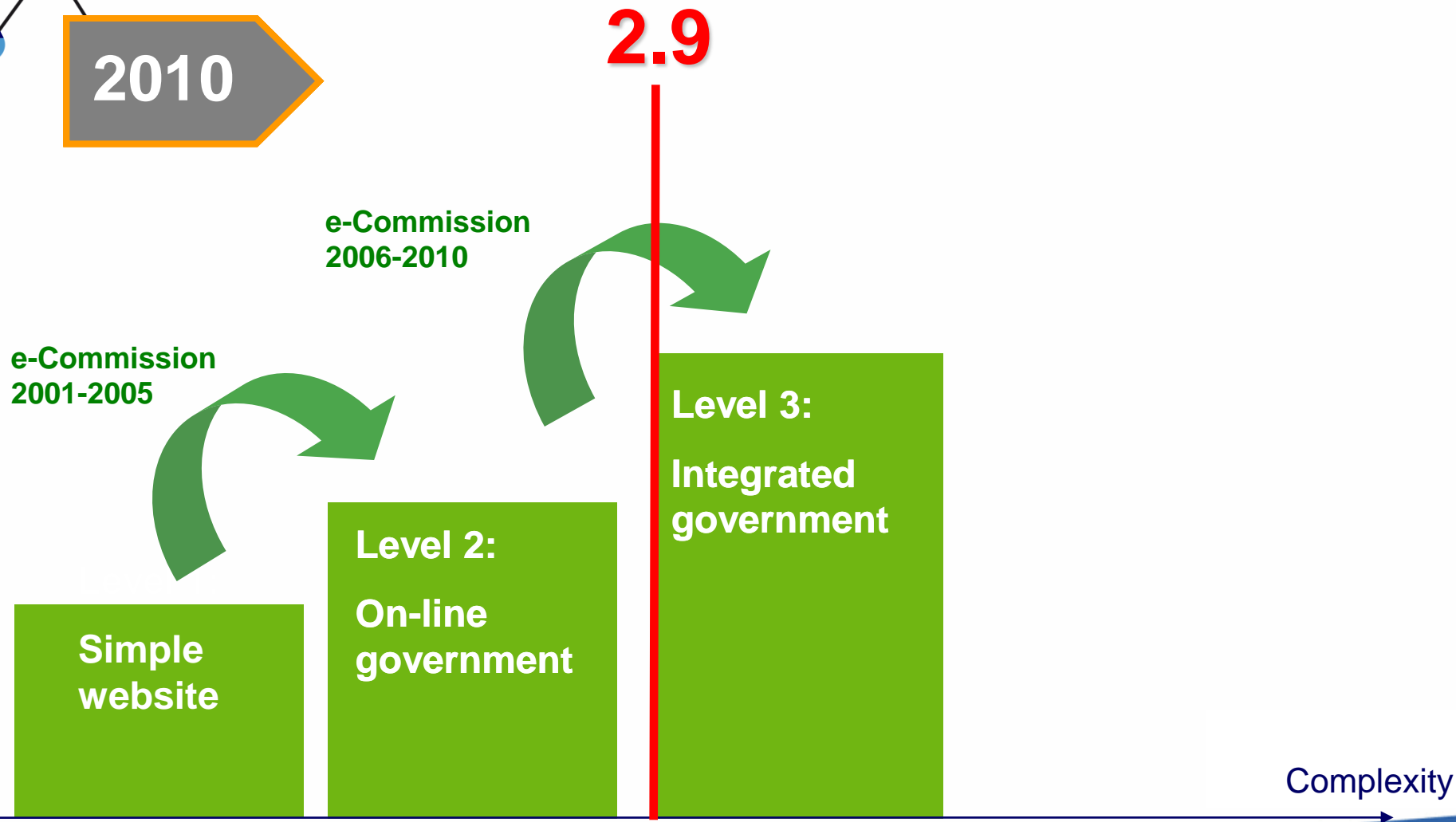
# Digital Agenda

*“ The European Commission will lead by example on open and transparent eGovernment by creating in 2010 and implementing an ambitious eCommission 2011-2015 action plan. ”*

- Digital agenda

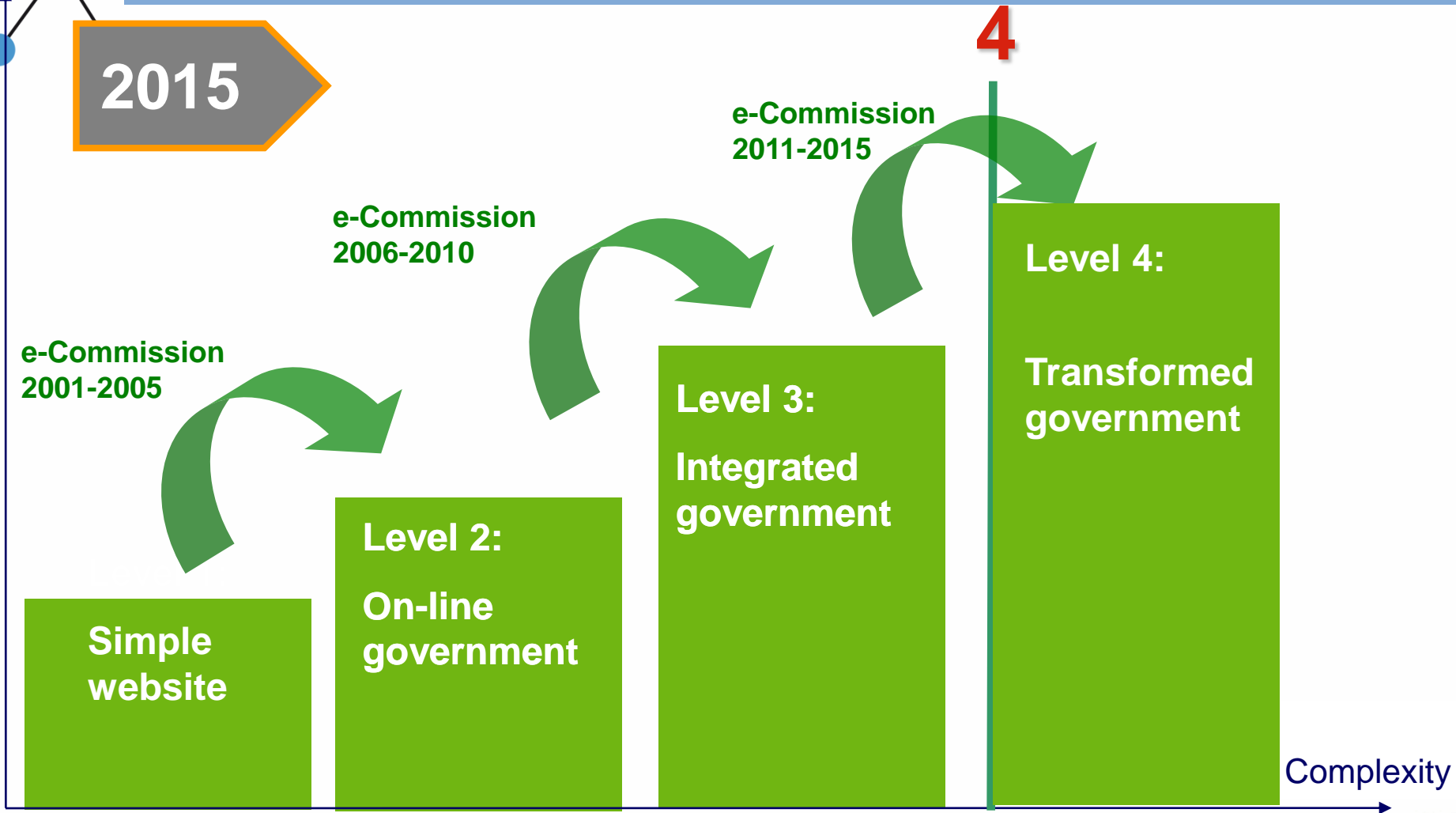


# 2006-2010 – State of play





# 2011-2015 – next steps





## e-Commission: Transformed Commission

Public services are ***built from the viewpoint of external and internal users,*** rather than based on the organisation's structure, with ***completely automated end-to-end processes*** crossing organisational boundaries; where ***information is shared*** in transparency among services; and cross-DG working ***groups collaborate*** and ***share knowledge*** and expertise.



# e-Commission roadmap

## External Dimension

**EESSI**

Support to  
specific policies

Horizontal  
Actions

## Internal Dimension

Support to  
specific domains

Corporate  
Systems

## Organisational Enablers

IT Governance

Methodologies

Foundations for  
Operational  
Excellence

Training &  
Awareness  
Raising

## Technical Enablers

Information  
Systems

Infrastructure





# Towards the Transformed Commission

**Transformation** is a journey to be undertaken together in **partnership** by business **managers** who know the importance of IT and **business-minded software engineers**



# Semantic Interoperability in Context



- **Digital Agenda promotes ...**

- *"... seamless cross-border eGovernment services in the single market"*
- *"... eGovernment services fully interoperable, overcoming organisational, technical, or semantic barriers ..."*
- *"... a minimum common set of patient data for interoperability of patient records to be accessed or exchanged electronically across MSs by 2012"*
- *EIF recognizes the importance of the semantic interoperability layer*

- **eGov Action Plan**

- *"The Commission will conduct a study with the Member States, of the demand for cross-border services and assess the organisational, legal, technical and semantic barriers ..."*
- *Semantic interoperability appears as an essential precondition for open and flexible delivery of eGovernment services*

- **ISA Programme**

- *Several Actions under the ISA Work Programme require semantic alignment (e.g. Access to Base Registries, EIA, Catalogue of Services, NIFO)*





# SEMIC.EU Identity





# Why “Rethinking Semantic Interoperability...”?

- 4 years passed from the initial “XML Clearinghouse” idea
- “Semantics” is not anymore an “exotic” academic discussion but has become mainstream topic in web-based Information Systems development
- Semantic asset repositories/libraries become part of National Interoperability Frameworks





# Repositioning SEMIC.EU

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- **An Assessment of what has been done so far is in progress**
- **Based on this, revised strategic directions and a new business model for SEMIC.EU will soon become available**

**Sufficient resources allocated to SEMIC.EU in the ISA Work Programme**





# New Directions for SEMIC.EU

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## **Promoting Semantic Interoperability through Collaboration with the MSs and broader communities**

- a) EGovernment Core Vocabularies
  - To start harmonizing and agreeing on common definitions at EU level
- b) Federation of National Semantic Assets Repositories
  - To tap on, promote, and reuse national efforts and results
- c) Creation of the EU Semantic Interoperability Community of Practice
  - To animate an open community for sharing experiences, lessons-learnt, etc
- d) New ISA Integrated Collaborative Platform to merge SEMIC.EU, OSAR and ePractise platforms in a single ISA portal





## RELATED LINKS

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- **Malmö Ministerial Declaration on eGovernment**  
<http://www.egov2009.se/wp-content/uploads/Ministerial-Declaration-on-eGovernment.pdf>
- **Digital Agenda for Europe**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm)
- **DIGIT**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/index_en.htm)
- **e-Commission: Making the Commission a leader in implementing EU e-government policies**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/ecommission/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/ecommission/index_en.htm)
- **ISA (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations)**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/isa/>

