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RACE NetworkRFID

ICT-PSP: a European concerted effort on RFID

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| Dissemination Level | | |
| PU | Public | |
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| RE | Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services) | |
| CO | Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services) | CO |

Preface

RACE NetworkRFID work package 1:

“Policy Liaison and Collaboration”

The objectives of this quarterly updates are to:

- Facilitate and disseminate up to date policy information that will be used in the ongoing implementation of the rest of the WP deliverables.
- Bring together the public policy related activities of RACE NetworkRFID for the use of other WPs in particular WP 5, 6, 7 and 9.
- Address EU policies, where appropriate national initiatives in the EU and linkage to non EU policy developments for relevance to RACE NetworkRFID.

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Introduction

This update will provide information about several recent topics handled at the European Union and relevant for the Network: a report being prepared by the European Parliament on the Internet of Things, an important IoT conference in Brussels in June, the progress of the PIA draft framework, the last informal experts' group meeting, as well as a report on a communication issued by the EDPS on new technologies and privacy. Finally you will find at the end of this report links to interesting calls for proposals.

Internet of Things report

A report by the European Parliament ITRE Committee (Industry, Research and Energy) is currently being prepared on the Internet of Things. This report drafted by Spanish Socialist MEP Maria Badia I Cutchet provides a framework and recommendations to the development of the Internet of Things technologies in Europe.

Amendments have been proposed by several other committees, which have made clearer the distinction between the IoT and RFID. The report also highlights quite strongly the benefits of the new technologies of the Internet of Things, in diverse sectors such as Healthcare, anticounterfeiting, energy efficiency, etc. and calls for a proactive dialogue with the industry sector. Of course, data protection and privacy remain important topics when it comes to these new technologies. In this area, the report calls for a safeguard of citizens' and consumers' rights, through a proper information of users, and a right to deactivation of tags.

The plenary vote is planned for mid-June.

For more information on the report <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5830902>

Internet of Things 2010 conference, Brussels, 1-2 June 2010

Several high profile speakers presented at this conference:

- Neelie Kroes, Vice President and EU Commissioner for Digital Agenda, European Commission
- Maria Badia I Cutchet, MEP, Rapporteur for Action plan for Europe on IOT, European Parliament
- Prof Ken Sakamura, Professor of Information Science, University of Tokyo
- Peter Hustinx, Supervisor, European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)
- Gérald Santucci, Head of Unit, RFID, European Commission

Here are the highlights of the speech given by Commissioner Neelie Kroes. It was overall a positive speech on the opportunities of the Internet of Things, reflecting on the positive development of RFID.

- The concept of Internet of Things was defined as an ecosystem of applications that will open the door for an IT-enabled world. Ms. Kroes insisted on the fact that the Internet of Things will allow a better access to information and increase efficiency and sustainability.
- The value system and policy framework will have to be defined early enough to support this process. This is why the Digital Agenda that was proposed last month defines key actions to achieve this.
- The Internet of Things is fully integrated into the Digital Agenda through the listed key actions: Interoperability, Increasing Trust and Security, Increasing R&D, Rolling-out fast Internet access and spreading societal benefits of ICTs.
- The benefits of IoT need to be highlighted and she wants to open the debate in order to enable a positive experience of the IoT by all.
- Europe should be in the leading seat to develop the IoT while safeguarding important values.

- In terms of concrete steps, she said she wanted to take the same approach as with RFID, i.e. tackle the privacy concerns via a dialogue with various stakeholders and set up an experts' group (multi stakeholder forum) to advise the EC to address issues such as data ownership, privacy, a "right to the silence of the chips", standards and international scope
- She expressed her satisfaction with the Industry for anticipating and contributing to the efforts to support the RFID recommendation.

The whole speech is available at this link:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/279&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The following RACE NetworkRFID members presented at this conference:

- Marisa Jimenez, GS1, WP1 Leader (Wednesday 2 June AM)
- Patrick Guillemin, ETSI, WP4 Leader (Tuesday 1 June PM)

For more information on the conference:

http://www.eu-ems.com/summary.asp?event_id=55&page_id=342

Council conclusions on Digital Agenda for Europe

At the last Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council meeting in Brussels on 31 May 2010, the Council acknowledged the importance of the Digital Agenda and recognised that the deployment and effective use of digital technologies can provide diverse benefits to the society, such as better services, better healthcare, safer transport etc. It will also support a more sustainable society.

The Council highlighted among others proposals, the importance of strengthening the European technological capacity in ICT to increase opportunities for SMEs.

More information at this link:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5885&utm_campaign=isp&utm_medium=rss&utm_source=newsroom&utm_content=type-news

Opinion of European Data Protection Supervisor Peter Hustinx on New Technologies and Privacy

The European Data Protection Supervisor published in March 2010 an opinion on privacy in the Digital Age called "*Promoting trust in the information society by fostering data protection and privacy*". The concept of privacy by design is very much highlighted in this opinion.

RFID is the subject of a specific chapter and is often assimilated to the broader concept of Internet of Things. The EDPS first defines the gaps of the current regulation, mentioning that the ePrivacy Directive does not fully address the challenges raised by RFID and that Privacy by Design should be part of the updated legislation. He then acknowledges self regulation as a first step, and also lists potential risks in case this self regulation fails, such as use of data by third party, or careless operators who could leave tags operational after point of sale. He advocates for a default opt-in option. Finally, the EPDS addresses the governance of the Internet of Things, and calls for a decentralized architecture.

Other topics of interest for the EDPS are social networks and online advertisement.

You can read the full text of the EPDS at the following link

http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2010/10-03-19_Trust_Information_Society_EN.pdf

PIA Update

The draft PIA Framework for RFID applications has been sent on behalf of the industry community to the European Commission. The EC forwarded it to the Article 29 Working Party for review and endorsement. Although the European Commission supports our approach and proposal, the endorsement of the PIA Framework by the article 29 WP, which was initially planned for May, will most likely take place after the summer.

Informal experts' group update

During the last Experts' Group meeting, the development of a common European RFID sign was discussed in more details:

- ESOs established Specialist Task Force (STF) 396 to respond to the requirements of the RFID Standardisation Mandate. An important issue for STF396 is the development of a common European RFID sign.
- STF396 will specify technical requirements by June 2010 in close cooperation with RACE NetworkRFID.
- On June 22, the ESO Coordination Group will hold an open stakeholder meeting on data protection and privacy in Brussels to present the status of the work and seek for comments. It is expected that STF396 will provide a comprehensive report on the relevant issues. RACE NetworkRFID representatives will participate in this meeting.
- STF396 plans a final recommendation on standardisation needs for a common European RFID sign by September 2010.

Interesting calls for proposals: Eco-Innovation and LIFE+

Two interesting calls for proposals are currently open in the area sustainability and new technologies. The Eco-Innovation call and the LIFE + Programme Call, both under DG Environment, include interesting elements for the RACE NetworkRFID members and might be a good opportunity to highlight the potential of RFID in areas related to sustainability, recycling and waste management.

Eco-Innovation specifically focuses on recycled products and innovative recycling processes in different sectors. Projects proposals dealing with waste management in general are however redirected to the *LIFE + programme* which covers this topic in one of its objectives. You will find below more information on these calls. Both calls are managed by the same unit at DG environment: LIFE Environment and Eco-Innovation (DG ENV E4)

Eco-Innovation Call

This project closes on 9 September 2010 and has the following priorities: material recycling, sustainable building products, integration of greener packaging, labelling, etc. in the food and drink sector, and green business/smart purchasing.

More information at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eco-innovation/call_en.htm

LIFE +

This project closes on 1 September 2010. The chapter LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance calls "to develop and implement policies designed to ensure **sustainable management and use of natural resources and waste**, and to improve the environmental performances of products, sustainable production and consumption patterns, waste prevention, recovery and recycling; to contribute to the effective implementation of the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste"

It is mentioned that the projects answering this specific objective will be favoured against other objectives.

More information at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

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