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Decree by the Minister of Economic Affairs, 11 March 2010, no. ETM/IT 10040343, regarding the establishment of the Standardisation Board and the Standardisation Forum 2010 (Decree establishing the Standardisation Board and Standardisation Forum 2010)

The Minister of Economic Affairs, acting in conjunction with the State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations;

Decides:

Article 1

In this Decree, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- a. *Board*: the Standardisation Board;
- b. *Forum*: the Standardisation Forum;
- c. *Ministers*: the Minister of Economic Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations;
- d. *Logius*: the digital government service of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations;
- e. *Inspection Board*: collaborative platform for government in government inspection services;
- f. *Manifest group*: collaborative platform for public social security administrative agencies;
- g. *VNO-NCW*: The employers' organisation VNO-NCW, the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers;
- h. *MKB-Nederland*: the employers' organisation Koninklijke Vereniging MKB-Nederland (Royal Netherlands Association for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises)

Article 2

There is a Standardisation Board.

Article 3

The Board has the following duties:

- a. Identifying and submitting recommendations to the ministers regarding open standards for electronic data exchange between government bodies and businesses, between government bodies and citizens and between government bodies;
- b. Promotion of the use of open standards and the transition from closed standards to open standards for electronic data exchange between government bodies and businesses, between government bodies and citizens and between government bodies;
- c. Maintenance for this purpose of a list of open standards for which a 'Comply or Explain' policy is in place for government bodies, and maintenance of a list of common open standards, as well as a procedure for maintenance of these lists;
- d. Offering support and advice concerning the Dutch position regarding standardisation of electronic data exchange with a public interest in an international context.

Article 4

By no later than 31 December 2011, the Board will provide a report to the Minister of Economic Affairs regarding the effectiveness and impact of the Board's activities.

Article 5

1. The Board is comprised of:

- a. A chairman to be designated by the Minister of Economic Affairs;
- b. Three members to be designated by the Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations;
- c. One member to be designated by, respectively:
 - the Minister of Justice;
 - the Minister of Finance;
 - the Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment;

- the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality;
- the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment;
- the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport;
- the Minister of Education, Culture and Science;
- the Minister of Economic Affairs.

- d. One member to be designated by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities;
- e. One member to be designated by the Inspection Board;
- f. One member to be designated by the Interprovincial Committee;
- g. One member to be designated by the Association of Water Boards;
- h. One member to be designated by the Manifest Group.

2. The chairman and the other members are appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs in consultation with the Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations.

3. The Board meets at least twice each year. Members who are unable to attend are personally responsible for arranging a permanent substitute.

Article 6

There is a Standardisation Forum.

Article 7

1. The Forum is responsible for preparing the activities of the Board and advising the latter on its activities. The Forum's advisory role is limited to providing advice on the implementation of policy regarding interoperability and standardisation.

2. The forum performs this duty through the following activities:

- a. Submitting proposals to the Board for inclusion of open standards in the list of standards for which a 'Comply or Explain' policy is in place, and for inclusion of open standards in the list of common standards;
- b. Maintaining the procedure for inclusion of open standards in the lists mention under a.;
- c. Submitting proposals for adoption and implementation of open standards;
- d. Conducting research into any missing or lagging open standards and standardisation activities;
- e. Indicating synergy opportunities between application areas where open standards may provide substantial effectiveness benefits/efficiency benefits for improved interoperability and greater supplier independence;
- f. Providing input for the Dutch position regarding international trends in the domain of standardisation of standards for electronic data exchange with a public interest;
- g. Monitoring developments of semantic standardisation and submitting proposals for accelerating the implementation of semantic standards;
- h. Providing advice on further development and application of the Dutch Government Reference Architecture.

3. The Forum may consult external experts and can arrange for working groups to be established specifically for this purpose.

Article 8

1. The Forum is comprised of a Chairman and a maximum of seventeen members, including at least the following:

- a. One member to be designated by the VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland (Royal Netherlands Association for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises);
- b. One member to be designated by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities;
- c. Two representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations;
- d. One representative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

2. The chairman and the members of the Forum are appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs in consultation with the Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations.

Article 9

1. The Board determines the agenda and the priority of the activities of the Forum.

2. As of 12 January 2010, Logius will be responsible for supporting the activities of the Board and the Forum.

Article 10

1. The Board and the Forum are supported by a secretariat.

2. The Director of Logius will be responsible for staffing the secretariat.

Article 11

Before 1 March of each year, the Board and the Forum will provide the ministers with a report on their activities during the past year.

Article 12

The Board and the Forum will establish their own working method after consultation.

Article 13

The management of the documents regarding the activities of the Board and the Forum will be identical to the document management method used by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Following termination of the Board and the Forum's activities, the documents will be stored in the archives of the above-mentioned ministry.

Article 14

1. This Decree will enter into force on 1 April 2010.
2. The Decree will remain valid until 1 January 2012.

Article 15

This Decree will be cited as: Decree establishing the Standardisation Board and Standardisation Forum 2010. This Decree, along with the explanatory notes, will be published in the Government Gazette and a transcript will be sent to all parties involved. *The Minister of Economic Affairs, M.J.A. van der Hoeven.*

EXPLANATORY NOTES

On 27 March 2006, the Minister of Economic Affairs appointed the Standardisation Board and the Standardisation Forum. The Decree expires on 1 April 2010. With the present Decree establishing the Standardisation Board and Standardisation Forum 2010, the Standardisation Board and Forum are appointed for the period up to and including 31 December 2011.

For the coming years, it is the objective of the Dutch Cabinet to further improve government services and reduce the administrative burden by automating information flows between the government and the rest of society. The National Implementation Programme for Improved Services and e-Government (NUP, 2008–2010) and the Intergovernmental ICT agenda (2008–2011) provide broad outlines of how the Dutch Cabinet intends to achieve its objectives with respect to electronic services.

It is the opinion of the Dutch Cabinet that use of open standards should be the norm for electronic exchange, to achieve (re)use of data (interoperability) and to reduce supplier dependence (action plan *Nederland Open in Verbinding 2008-2011* (The Netherlands Open in Connection 2008–2011)). Use of open standards helps enable single delivery of data, location and time-independent transactions and the use of electronic data files for a variety of applications. Realisation of this point of view of the Dutch Cabinet requires an administrative board that is responsible for coordinating and stimulating the process of selection, implementation, use and, if necessary, development of open standards. The Board may also advise cabinet members on this matter.

An important duty of the Board and the Forum is to define what standards should preferably be used by government bodies. For this purpose, the Board maintains lists of open standards, including the 'Comply or Explain' list (part of the action plan *The Netherlands Open in Connection*). In this Decree, the term 'government bodies' also refers to healthcare and education institutions. The Board sets priorities for the Dutch contribution to international standardisation forums when these standards concern a public interest. The Dutch Government Reference Architecture provides a framework for reaching agreements on electronic data exchange. Each member of the Board ensures that his ministry or organisation is aware of the Board's decisions and findings. Each member and each organisation will remain personally responsible for their own actions. The Board consists of three civil servants from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations, as it is important that the Ministry is represented in view of the two actual application areas (national government management, security) and in view of 'electronic public service'.

The Board is supported by and receives advice from a Forum, which includes representatives from the government, the private sector and the field of research. The members of the Forum are appointed in a personal capacity based on authority and a broad outlook and/or expertise in standards and process renewal for improved electronic (government) services. The Forum is maintained by experts who are members of yet-to-be-established working groups, and by national and international standardisation organisations. The Board and Forum are supported by a secretariat which is part of Logius, the digital government service of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom relations.

The emphasis is on reaching agreements on semantic, organisational and technical standards in the field of electronic data exchange between government bodies and citizens and businesses and between government bodies. Semantic standards are agreements concerning the unambiguous meaning of data in chains and procedures. Organisational standards are agreements concerning interdepartmental use of unambiguous principles and starting points for improved interoperability. Technical standards are agreements concerning transfer and logistics of data exchange. Another point for attention is the implementation of standards in segments

of society and highly regulated domains, in particular such areas where migration from closed standards to open standards creates the possibility to achieve significant benefits in effectiveness and efficiency. Each year, the Board and the Forum draw up a working plan. Additionally, they draw up an annual report on the activities, the findings and the results from the previous calendar year, which will be sent to the ministers no later than 1 March.

The Minister of Economic Affairs, M.J.A. van der Hoeven.