

The logo for Openforum europe is set against a background of a sunset or sunrise over a sea of clouds. The text 'Openforum europe' is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font. 'Open' is in a lighter weight, while 'forum' is in a bold weight. 'europe' is in a regular weight. A thin horizontal line is positioned below the 'Openforum' part of the text.

Openforum europe

open, competitive choice for IT users

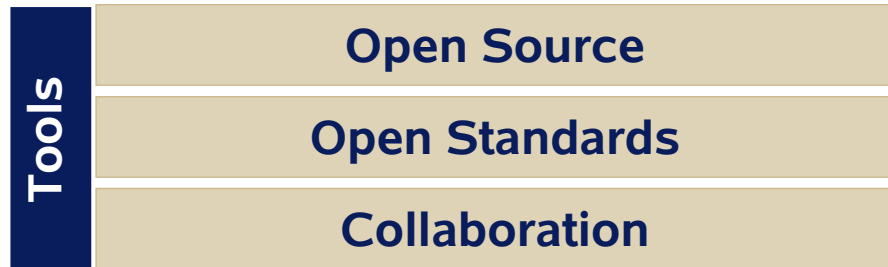
**European Parliament
Petitions Committee
6th November 2008**

Petition by OpenForum Europe

Graham Taylor,
Chief Executive, OpenForum Europe

What is Openness?

It's all about freedom but it isn't necessarily free



Petition

Citizens and stakeholder groups should not have to use the software of a single company in order to communicate with their elected officials or participate in the legislative process.

All companies should be given the chance to compete freely for contracts to supply ICT services to the European Parliament.

“ No citizen or company should be forced or encouraged to choose a closed technology over an open one, through a government having made that choice first”

*Neelie Kroes
European Commissioner for Competitive Advantage
OFE Briefing, Brussels, June 2008*

“ As purchasers, we need to be smart when we buy technology. We need to be aware of the long term costs of lock-in; you are often locked-in to subsequent generations of that technology. There can also be spill-over effects where you get locked in to other products and services provided by that supplier”

“ That is just bad purchasing”

*Neelie Kroes
European Commissioner for Competitive Advantage
OFE Briefing, Brussels, June 2008*

OFE Procurement Project – Oct 2008

- 3 month sample of all software procurements
- 136 contract notices examined
- Results indicated
 - 25% company names/products were specifically mentioned
 - Of which 50% were Microsoft
- Tip of the iceberg
- Widespread ignorance of EU directives

“The Internet is fundamentally based on the existence of open, non-proprietary standards”

*Vint Cerf, 'Father of the Internet'
OFE 'Standards and the Future of the Internet' Conference
Geneva, February 2008*

“ for all future IT developments and procurement procedures, the Commission shall promote the use of products that support open, well documented standards. Interoperability is a critical issue for the Commission, and usage of well-established open standards is a key factor to achieve and endorse it”

Commissioner Kallas, EC, 2007

“ the overwhelming desire of Public administrations in Europe is for a clear migration towards openness”

“ Public administrations should consider support for open data formats as a prerequisite at the procurement stage”

*Draft document, European Interoperability Framework V2, IDABC EC
June 2008*

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**“ I know a smart business decision when I see one –
choosing open standards is a very smart business
decision indeed”**

*Neelie Kroes
European Commissioner for Competitive Advantage
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