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**ODF 1.2 is ready for adoption - OpenForum Europe urges governments to use it**

Openforum Europe congratulates OASIS and all those who have contributed so much to the development of ODF 1.2, and to getting it approved as a standard. The release of OASIS OpenDocument Format 1.2 is a major step forward for open interoperability worldwide, and should boost the confidence of the European Commission and national governments across Europe enough for them to specify and use ODF as their preferred choice of open document standard.

ODF 1.2 is an important improvement of the ODF standard. It adds a powerful standard for spreadsheets, an improved track changes mechanism and the introduction of industry standard metadata into documents, which opens the door for smart documents.

ODF 1.2 is a prime example of a fora and consortia collaborative standard working for the benefit of the entire community.

"In the rapid adoption of OpenDocument Format the industry is showing the direction in which it wants to move," says Basil Cousins, Director of OFE. "It is now up to governments, companies and consumers to take advantage of the cross-platform, cross-product interoperability offered by a global standard."