

OpenForum Europe supports Document Freedom Day

March 27 is the annual Document Freedom Day (DFD). This celebration aims to raise awareness of free document formats based on open standards and to promote their widespread adoption.

OpenForum Europe (OFE) has long been involved in the debate around open document standards for the promotion of genuine multi-vendor interoperability. Electronic communications have become a centrepiece of the way our society interacts, which is why it is crucial to ensure universal accessibility based on inclusive software and technologies.

“Compatible and freely exchangeable documents are fundamental to the development of a healthy, competitive IT market in which users can share data without fear of vendor lock-in,” said Graham Taylor, CEO of OFE. “While closed document formats stifle innovation, open document formats enable competitive choice to the IT user, encouraging wide ranging innovation,” he added.

For a few years now, Open Document Format (ODF) has been a flagship for the cause of open file formats, and has enjoyed considerable success. Last year the government of [Portugal decided](#) to support ODF as the single editable, XML-based document format for use by government, and in public procurement. While it may seem like the fight has largely been won, new challenges await. Not all European governments have committed as strongly in favour of ODF. There is also still much work to be done to improve support for ODF in Cloud-based office suites and mobile platforms.

OFE is committed to see these changes become a reality and will continue to promote the adoption of open document formats. We welcome opportunities to raise awareness and debate of these issues, such as the [public conference](#) held today in the European Parliament.

For more information about Document Freedom Day, visit documentfreedom.org