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2 TO:
3 Unit: Corporate reporting, audit and credit rating agencies (FISMA.DDG.C.1)
4 Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG
5 FISMA)
6 European Commission
7
8

9 **Reference: Revision of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive**

10 **Ref. Ares(2020)580716 - 30/01/2020**

11
12 First of all, a lot of thanks to Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and
13 Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA) for organising this important consultation.
14

15 This opinion represents an opinion of an individual citizen, not any legal entity.
16

17 This opinion does not contain:

- 18 – any business secrets
19 – any trade secrets
20 – any confidential information.

21
22 This opinion is public.

23 PDF file of this opinion can be added to a relevant web page.
24

25 Annex 1 holds information about previous consultations at the European Union level.
26 Annex 2 holds information about copyright, licence and disclaimers.
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30 Best Regards,
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34 Jukka S. Rannila
35 citizen of Finland
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37 signed electronically
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40 [Continues on the next page]
41

42

43 Previous opinion related accounting

44

45 Here I reiterate one previous opinion:

46

47 EN: Opinion 73: Financial / Conceptual Frameworks

48

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_73

49

50 Interestingly three entities were consulting at the same time different issues related to financial
51 reporting; these entities are:

52

53 * Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) / Australia

54

* External Reporting Board / New Zealand

55

* IFRS Foundation (global)

56

57 All three entities consulted partially the same issue.

58

59 **NOTE: some links provided by these three entities do not work (cf. 5 October 2015).**

60

61 Examples for reporting non-financial information

62

63 I gave earlier opinions to ACER and PDF files of those opinions can be downloaded from the
64 following addresses:

65

66 EN: Opinion 34: REMIT Registration Format

67

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_34

68

69 EN: Opinion 43: Publication of extracts of the European register of market participants

70

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_43

71

72 EN: Opinion 53: Trade Reporting User Manual (TRUM) (Draft)

73

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_53

74

75 EN: Opinion 55: European Energy Regulation

76

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_55

77

78 EN: Opinion 68: European Network Code Stakeholder Committees

79

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_68

80

81 EN: Opinion 71: Common Schema for the Disclosure of Inside Information

82

http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_71

83

84 As can be seen, ACER demands very detailed information when reporting issues related to energy
85 industry.

86

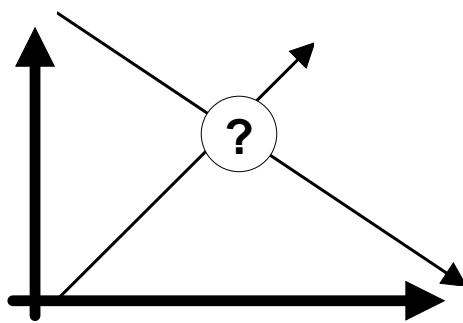
87 **Balance between general requirements and special requirements**

88

89 Here we can note the balance between general knowledge and special knowledge – this means also
 90 balance between general requirements and special requirements for reporting financial and non-
 91 financial information.

92

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

93

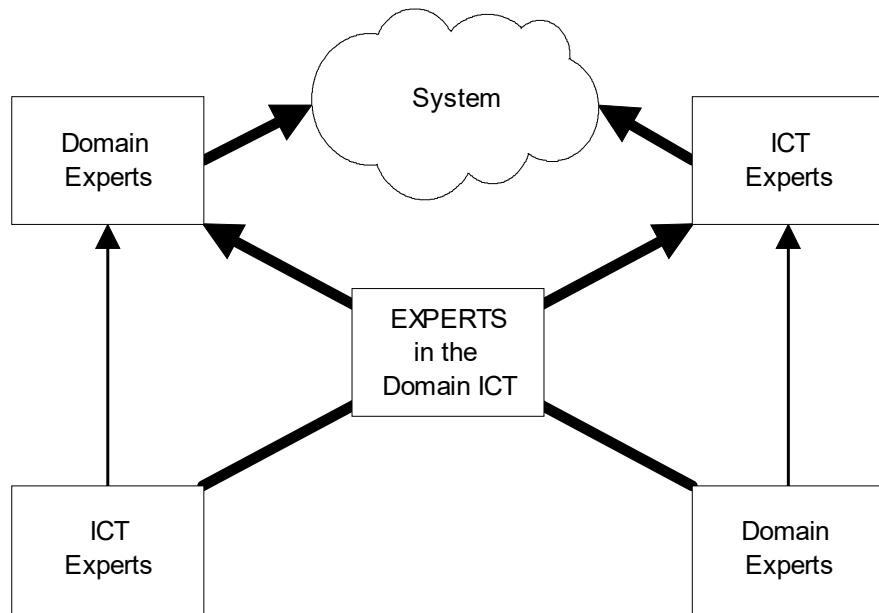
94

95 There are several special knowledge areas. Different entities work on different (knowledge) areas
 96 and they need information which can be very specific information. The problem seems to be the
 97 balance with general and special information.

98

99 **Experts on different domains – ICT experts and domain experts**

100



101

102

103 Here we can note that developing an information system means large-scale cooperation between
104 ICT experts and domain experts. Generally speaking developing an information system means also
105 large-scale learning processes – both ICT experts and domain experts learn different issues.

106
107 **NOTE: large-scale learning processes demand time since learning processes are not**
108 **straight-forward simple processes.**

109
110 **Two existing standards organizations**

111
112 It seems that there at least two existing standards organizations which are relevant to this
113 consultation:

114
115 * IFRS Foundation (<https://www.ifrs.org/>)
116 * XBRL International (<https://www.xbrl.org/>)

117
118 Both organizations are developing standards which should be assessed carefully when thinking non-
119 financial reporting.

120
121 **Policy option – Explore the use of standards**

122
123 **ConsortiumInfo.org – Standard Setting Organizations and Standards List**
124 <https://www.consortiuminfo.org/links/linksall.php>

125
126 ConsortiumInfo.org org provides very extensive list of Standard Setting Organizations.

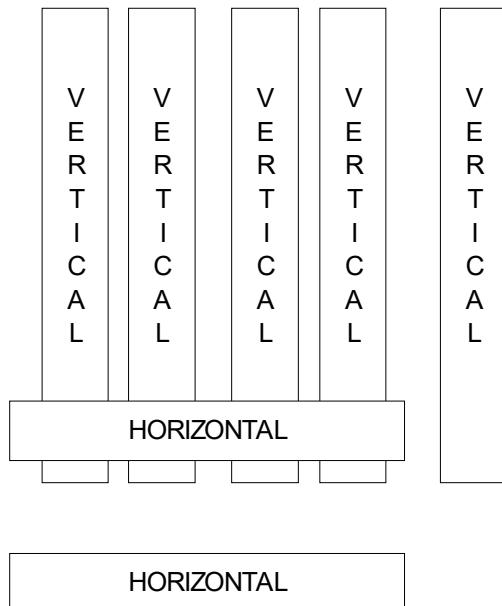
127
128 **Proposal: The list of standard setting organizations provided by ConsortiumInfo.org**
129 **should be assessed carefully.**

130
131 Based on assessment of existing standard setting organizations there are some options:

- 132
133 • using some existing standards
134 • joining some standard setting organizations.

135
136 **Favouring open standards / Favouring horizontal standards**

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138
139 [Continues on the next page]



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141

142 There are differences between horizontal and vertical standards. A simple example is naturally
143 email solutions. There are several vertical standards when creating technically email solutions. Then
144 there are horizontal standards which enable sending messages between technically different email
145 solutions.

146

147 **Proposal: There could be assessment of vertical and horizontal standards.**

148

149 **Proposal: Using horizontal standards could be favoured when creating different**
150 **information systems on the European Union level.**

151

152 Horizontal standards enables technological solutions which can work together. Horizontal standards
153 hides different complexities in information systems.

154

155 **Opinion: The number of redundant standardisation efforts should be minimal.**

156

157 **Proposal: There could be separation of horizontal standards and vertical standards.**

158

159 **Proposal: There could be different standardisation efforts to horizontal standards and**
160 **vertical standards.**

161

162 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards
163 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

164

165 Here we can note some problems:

166

167

- 168 • some systems are based on **de-facto** standards
169 • some systems are based on **de-jure** standards
170 • there can be confrontations between **de-facto** and **de-jure** standards
171 • there can be a monopoly situation in some domain
172 • some standards may inhibit possible actions of some stakeholders
173 • there can be a standard war on some domains
174 • standards have different life-cycles
175 • systems have different life-cycles
176 • there can be mismatches between different life-cycles
177 • there can be failed standards
178 • there can be deprecated standards.

179
180 It is quite normal situation in the information technology field that there are competing standards
181 for some application field. Therefore there are all the time ongoing “standards wars” or “format
182 wars”. The information technology standards tend to be interrelated and one “standards war” or
183 “format war” can lead to another similar situation.

184
185 I have advocated open standards even though in some cases open standards are not de facto
186 standards. In practice public sector has very important role, when some standards are competing in
187 the market place. Because public sector has a considerable power when buying/developing
188 information systems and therefore public sector can sometimes direct markets to certain standards.
189 Therefore there should be serious vigilance when assessing different standards and “standards” in
190 some application fields.

191
192 There are different standards setting organisations on the information technology field. One list¹ of
193 these standards setting organisations is provided by ConsortiumInfo.org.

194
195 One warning can be said about standards setting organisations. All standards setting organisations
196 are not successes based on several factors and there can be irrelevant standards setting
197 organisations. Market situation on different vehicle markets varies a lot based on different factors.

198
199 **Proposal: Current standardisation (e.g. list provided by ConsortiumInfo.org) efforts by**
200 **different standard setting organisations could be assessed carefully.**

201
202 Personally I have advocated using different horizontal standards. For example email standards
203 (horizontal) are implemented with very different technologies (vertical).

204
205 **Proposal: Governments should especially concentrate on horizontal standards.**

206
207 **Proposal: Some government agencies could apply for memberships of different**
208 **standard setting organisations which develop especially horizontal standards.**

209
210 **Proposal: Government agencies should not be passive by-standers when different**
211 **horizontal standards are developed.**

1 Standard Setting Organizations and Standards List, www.consortiuminfo.org/links/linksall.php

212

213 **Proposal: Government agencies could financially support development of horizontal**
214 **standards.**

215

216 **Proposal: There could some guidance for using open horizontal standards on different**
217 **application fields.**

218

219 **An example for cooperation: Web feeds (RSS and Atom)**

220



221

222

223 I have advocated usage of web feeds² on several previous opinion documents. Actually there are
224 two standards for web feeds: RSS^{3 4} and Atom^{5 6 7}.

225

226

227 **Proposal: Web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) could be advocated when developing different**
228 **informations systems (EU / Member states).**

229

230

231 **Proposal: Web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) should be used extensively for providing (real-**
232 **time) information for different stakeholder(s) (communities).**

233

234

235 **Proposal: There can be different web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) for different**
236 **stakeholder(s) – having just one web feed (RSS and/or Atom) may not be a feasible**
237 **solution.**

238

239 **Proposal: Several web feeds (RSS and/or Atom) can be based on different viewpoints.**

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249 My opinions to the previous and relevant consultations – there consultations were mostly organised
250 by the European Commission. General page to all consultations – both in English and in Finnish:
251 <http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html>

252

253

254 My opinions to the previous and relevant consultations – there consultations were mostly organised
255 by the European Commission.

256

257 EN: Opinion 1: Review of the rules on access to documents

258 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_1

259

260 EN: Opinion 2: Schools for the 21st Century

261 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_2

262

263 EN: Opinion 3: The future of pharmaceuticals for Human use in Europe- making Europe a Hub for
264 Safe and Innovative medicines

265 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_3

266

267 EN: Opinion 5: Consumer Scoreboard, Questionnaire for stakeholders

268 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_5

269

270 EN: Opinion 6: Consultation on a Code of Conduct for Interest Representatives

271 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_6

272

273 EN: Opinion 8: European Interoperability Framework, version 2, draft

274 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_8

275

276 EN: Opinion 9: CAMSS: Common Assessment Method for Standards and Specifications, CAMSS
277 proposal for comments

278 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_9

279

280 EN: Opinion 15: Collective Redress

281 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_15

282

283 EN: Opinion 17: Opinion to Antitrust Case No. COMP/C-3/39.530

284 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_17

285

286 EN: Opinion 18: Opinion Related to the Public Undertaking by Microsoft

287 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_18

288

289 EN: Opinion 19: Official Acknowledgement by the Commission

290 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_19

- 291
292 EN: Opinion 20: SECOND Opinion Related to the Public Undertaking by Microsoft
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_20
293
294
295 EN: Opinion 21: Opinion about the European Interoperability Strategy proposal
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_21
296
297
298 EN: Opinion 23: Public consultation on the review of the European Standardisation System
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_23
299
300
301 EN: Opinion 27: Public Consultation on the Modernisation of EU Public Procurement Policy
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_27
302
303
304 EN: Opinion 28: Consultation on the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_28
305
306
307 EN: Opinion 30: Internet Filtering
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_30
308
309 NOTE: Organised by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN)⁸
310
311 EN: Opinion 32: COMP/C-3/39.692/IBM – Maintenance services
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_32
312
313
314 EN: Opinion 34: REMIT Registration Format
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_34
315
316 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)⁹
317
318 EN: Opinion 35: Exploiting the employment potential of the personal and household services
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_35
319
320
321 EN: Opinion 37: CASE COMP/39.654 - Reuters instrument codes
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_37
322
323
324 EN: Opinion 39: Registry options to facilitate linking of emissions trading systems
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_39
325
326
327 EN: Opinion 40: Media Freedom and Pluralism / audiovisual regulatory bodies
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_40
328
329
330 EN: Opinion 41: AT.39398: observations on the proposed commitments
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_41
331
332
333 EN: Opinion 42: Opening up Education

8 <http://www.cen.eu/> (Accessed 2 July 2012)

9 <http://www.acer.europa.eu/> (Accessed 2 July 2012)

- 334 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_42
- 335
- 336 EN: Opinion 43: Publication of extracts of the European register of market participants
- 337 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_43
- 338 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 339
- 340 EN: Opinion 44: Evaluation policy guidelines
- 341 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_44
- 342
- 343 EN: Opinion 45: About ICT standardisation
- 344 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_45
- 345
- 346 EN: Opinion 46: Review of the EU copyright rules
- 347 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_46
- 348
- 349 EN: Opinion 51: European Area of Skills and Qualifications
- 350 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_51
- 351
- 352 EN: Opinion 52: Trusted Cloud Europe Survey
- 353 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_52
- 354
- 355 EN: Opinion 53: Trade Reporting User Manual (TRUM) (Draft)
- 356 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_53
- 357 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 358
- 359 EN: Opinion 55: European Energy Regulation
- 360 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_55
- 361 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 362
- 363 EN: Opinion 59: Green paper on mobile Health
- 364 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_59
- 365
- 366 EN: Opinion 60: Cross-border inheritance tax problems within the EU
- 367 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_60
- 368
- 369 EN: Opinion 61: European Register of Products Containing Nanomaterials
- 370 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_61
- 371
- 372 EN: Opinion 64: Corporate Social Responsibility - European Commission
- 373 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_64
- 374
- 375 EN: Opinion 66: Net Innovation for the Work Programme 2016-2017
- 376 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_66
- 377
- 378

- 379 EN: Opinion 68: European Network Code Stakeholder Committees
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_68
- 380 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 381 EN: Opinion 71: Common Schema for the Disclosure of Inside Information
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_71
- 382 NOTE: Organised by The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- 383 EN: Opinion 74: Enabling the Internet of Things
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_74
- 384 NOTE: Organised by Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)¹⁰
- 385 EN: Opinion 80: Mandatory Transparency Register
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_80
- 386 EN: Opinion 84: Revision of the European Interoperability Framework
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_84
- 387 EN: Opinion 86: 2016 Annual Colloquium on fundamental rights
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_86
- 388 EN: Opinion 88: Evaluation and Review of the ePrivacy Directive
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_88
- 389 EN: Opinion 89: BEREC Guidelines for net neutrality rules
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_89
- 390 NOTE: Organised by Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- 391 EN: Opinion 93: Safety of apps and other non-embedded software
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_93
- 392 EN: Opinion 95: Targeted consultation on eForms
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_95
- 393 EN: Opinion 97: COM(2016) 882 final - 2016/0408 (COD)
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_97
- 394 EN: Opinion 98: Opinions related to six (6) co-decision (COD) proposals
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_98
- 395 EN: Opinion 99: COM(2016)0863 - European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. Recast
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_99

10 <http://www.berec.europa.eu>, Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)

- 423 EN: Opinion 100: Protection of personal data (EU)
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_100
- 425
- 426 EN: Opinion 101: Governance of the Energy Union
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_101
- 428
- 429 EN: Opinion 102: Smart Wearables
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_102
- 431
- 432 EN: Opinion 106: Review of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA)
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_106
- 435
- 436 EN: Opinion 108: Single Digital Gateway
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_108
- 438
- 439 EN: Opinion 110: Technical arrangements / Information systems / Union Customs Code
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_110
- 441
- 442 EN: Opinion 111: Interoperability of information systems for migration and security
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_111
- 444
- 445 EN: Opinion 113: Transform of health and care
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_113
- 447
- 448 EN: Opinion 114: Premium content on ECS markets and the effect of devices on the open use of the Internet
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_114
- 451 NOTE: Organised by Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- 452
- 453 EN: Opinion 118: Fake news and online disinformation
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_118
- 455
- 456 EN: Opinion 119: European Social Security Number
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_119
- 458
- 459 EN: Opinion 120: European Labour Authority
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_120
- 461
- 462 EN: Opinion 121: 2nd Data Package
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_121
- 464
- 465 EN: Opinion 122: Proposal to create a cybersecurity competence network with a European Cybersecurity Research and Competence Centre
http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_122

468 EN: Opinion 123: Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF
469 THE COUNCIL on the re-use of public sector information (recast)

470 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_123

471

472 EN: Opinion 125: Security of identity cards of Union citizens and of residence documents

473 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_125

474

475 EN: Opinion 128: Summertime arrangements

476 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_128

477

478 EN: Opinion 129: Format for a European Electronic Health Record (EHR) Exchange

479 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_129

480

481 EN: Opinion 132: Informative guidance on the Regulation on the Free flow of non-personal data

482 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_132

483

484 EN: Opinion 133: standard forms for the publication of notices in the field of public procurement ("eForms")

485 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_133

486

487 EN: Opinion 134: Update Implementing act on technical arrangements for the systems defined by UCC

488 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_134

489

490 EN: Opinion 139: Information management system for official controls Regulation (IMSOC)

491 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_139

492

493 EN: Opinion 141: Farm Accountancy Data Network

494 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_141

495

496 EN: Opinion 142: Horizon Europe (two consultations)

497 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_142

498

499 EN: Opinion 144: Digitisation and online access of cultural material and digital preservation (evaluation)

500 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_144

501

502 EN: Opinion 146: Draft CWA by the CEN/WS - Journalism Trust Initiative

503 http://www.jukkarannila.fi/lausunnot.html#nro_146

504 NOTE: Organised by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

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[Continues on the next page]

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517 All opinions in this opinion paper are personal opinions and they do not represent opinions of any legal entity I am
518 member either by law or voluntarily. This opinion paper is only intended to trigger thinking and it is not legal advice.
519 This opinion paper does not apply to any past, current or future legal entity. This opinion paper will not cover any of the
520 future changes in this fast-developing area. Any actions made based on this opinion is solely responsibility of respective
521 actor making those actions.

522

523 Political disclaimer:

524 These opinions do not represent opinions of any political party. These opinions are not advices to certain policy and
525 they are only intended to trigger thinking. Any law proposal based on these opinions are sole responsibility of that legal
526 entity making law proposals.

527

528 These opinions are not meant to be extreme-right, moderate-right, extreme-centre, moderate-centre, extreme-left or
529 moderate-left. They are only opinions of an individual whose overall thinking might or might not contain elements of
530 different sources. These opinions do not reflect past, current or future political situation in the Finnish, European or
531 worldwide politics.

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