FLOSSPOLS Conference on
"Open Standards and Libre Software in Government"
The Hague
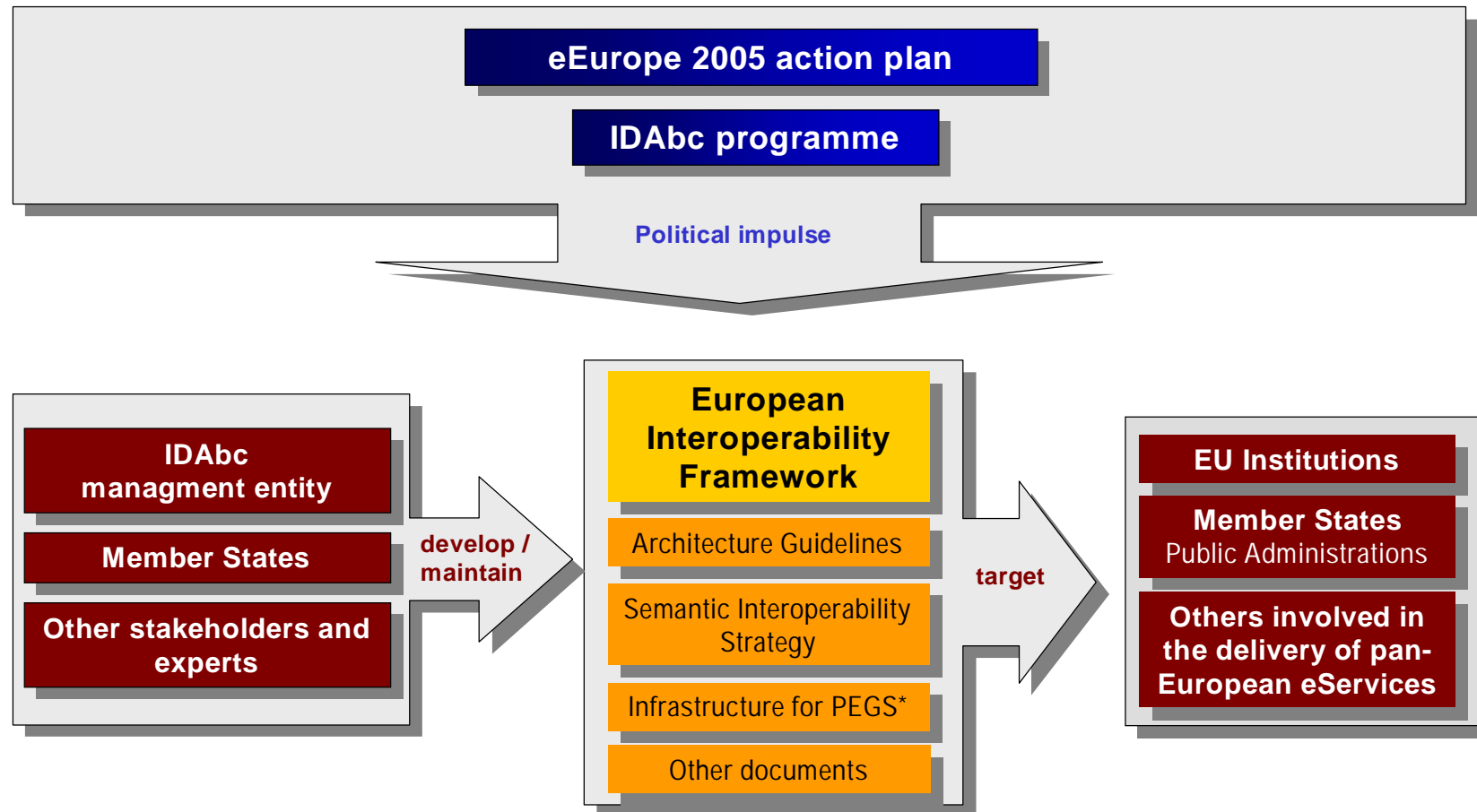18 November 2004

Interoperability:
The EU perspective

Dr. Barbara Held
Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA)
European Commission

... in a few words

n **Programme of the European Commission to support the "Interchange of Data between Administrations"**

- u **Funding sectoral networks in support of the implementation of Community policies (Projects of Common Interest / PCIs)**
- u **Making available generic services and common tools in support of European interoperability (Horizontal Actions and Measures / HAMs)**
- u **Facilitating interchange of data by setting up trans-European telematic networks (TESTA, sTESTA)**

n **Budget: Ca. 25 Mio Euro per year**

n **IDA funds projects**

- u **for the development of e-government applications**
- u **Facilitate information dissemination: studies, reports, guidelines etc.**

n **In January 2005 IDA will be superseded by IDABC**

- u **Promoting "Interoperable Delivery of pan-European Government Services to Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens"**

Interchange of Data between Administrations

Interoperability Guidelines

eEurope 2005 action plan

IDAbc programme

Political impulse

IDAbc managment entity

Member States

Other stakeholders and experts

develop / maintain

European Interoperability Framework

Architecture Guidelines

Semantic Interoperability Strategy

Infrastructure for PEGS*

Other documents

target

EU Institutions

Member States Public Administrations

Others involved in the delivery of pan-European eServices
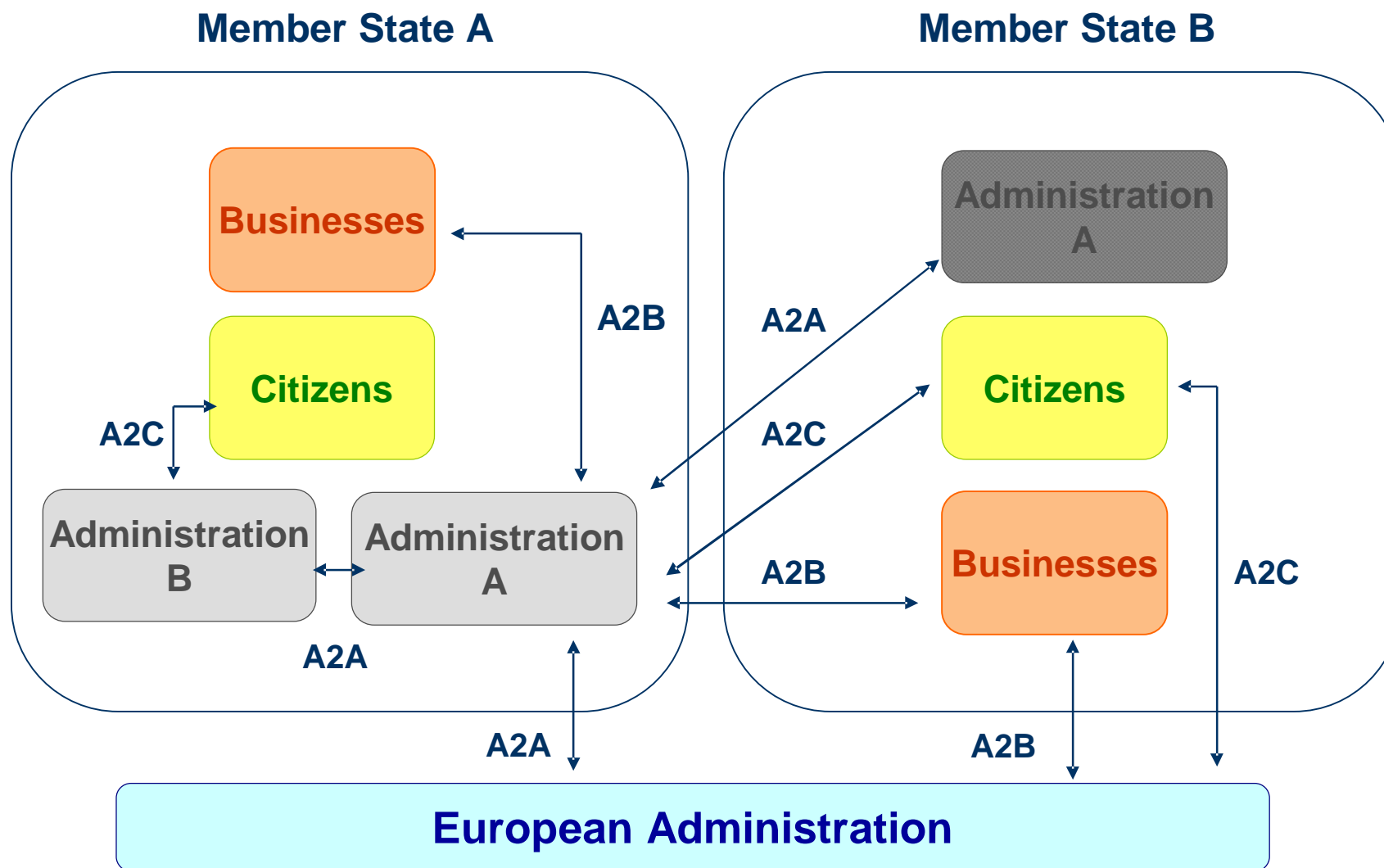
* pan-European eGovernment Services

The European Challenge to eGov

Potential costumers for cross-border services:

- Businesses and administrations in 25 Member States
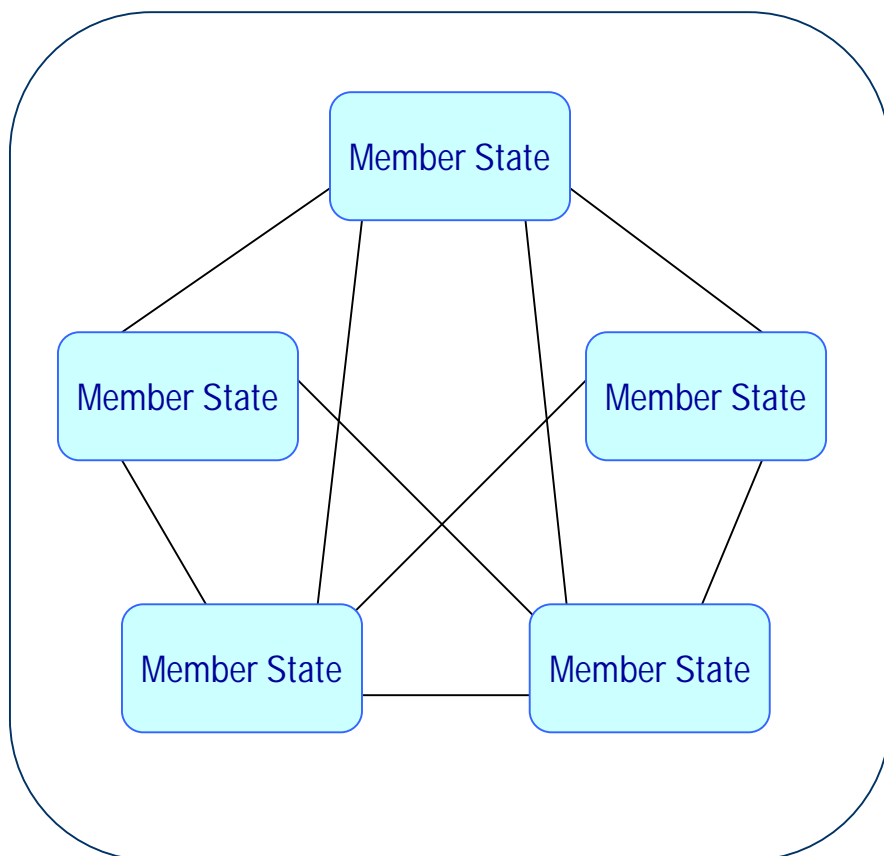- 379 Mio. Citizens
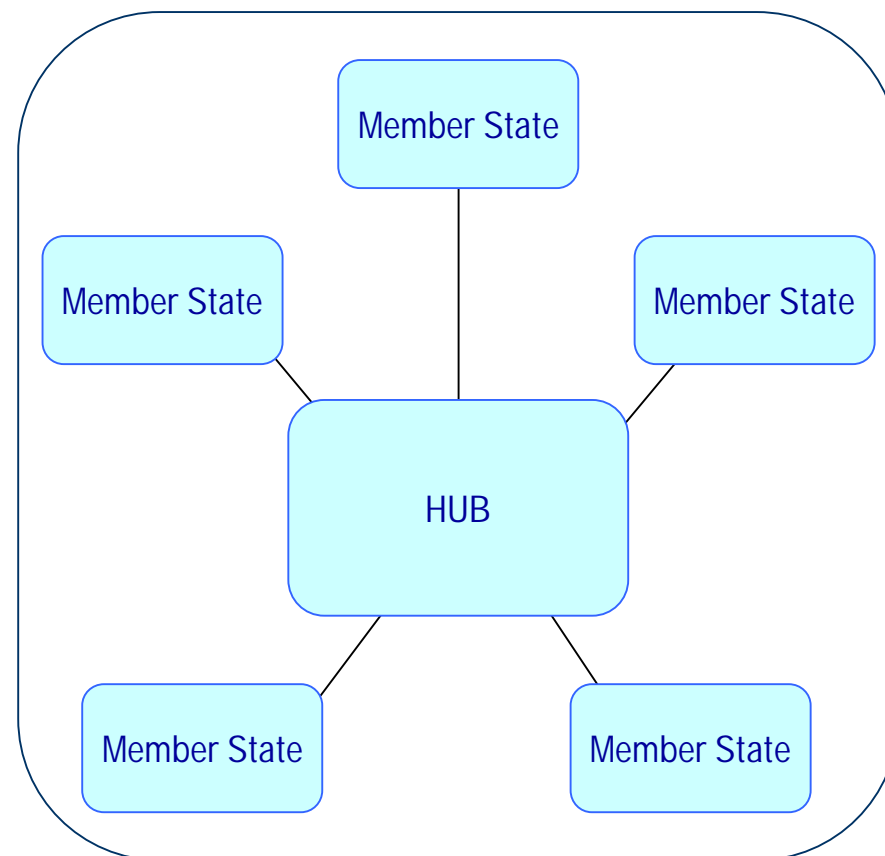- 168 Mio. Internet Users

Complex Interactions

Member State A

Member State B

Businesses

Citizens

A2C

Administration B

Administration A

A2A

A2B

Administration A

A2A

A2C

Citizens

A2B

Businesses

A2C

A2A

A2B

European Administration

Hub Architecture

Bilateral Solutions

Multilateral Solutions

Dimensions of Interoperability

₡ **Organisational Interoperability** is about streamlining administrative processes and information architecture to the institutional goals we want to achieve – and to facilitate the interplay of technical and organizational concerns. It requires the identification of "business interfaces", and coordination throughout MS and EU.

₡ **Technical Interoperability** is about knitting together IT-systems and software, defining and using open inter-faces, standards and protocols. It relies on cooperation as well as on technical infrastructures.

₡ **Semantic Interoperability:** is about ensuring that the meaning of the information we exchange is contained and understood by the involved people, applications, and institutions. It needs the know how of sector institutions and publication of its specifications.

Interchange of Data between Administrations

EIF – Open Standards Definition

EIF / OSSOS - OLD (01/2004)

To reach interoperability in the context of pan-European eGovernment services, guidance needs to focus on open standards. The word "open" is here meant in the sense of fulfilling the following requirements:

¡ The standard is adopted on the basis of an open decision-making procedure (consensus or majority decision etc)

¡ The standard has been published;

¡ The costs for the use of the standard are low and are not an obstacle to access to it;

¡ The intellectual property rights to the standard are vested in a not-for-profit organization, which operates a completely free access policy; there are no constraints on the re-use of the standard.

EIF Definition – NEW Version (10/2004)

(…)The following are the minimal characteristics that a specification and its attendant documents must exhibit in order to be considered an open standard:

¡ The standard is adopted and will be maintained by a **not-for-profit organisation**, and its ongoing development occurs on the basis of an **open decision-making procedure** available to all interested parties (consensus or majority decision etc.).

¡ The standard has been published and the **standard specification document is available either freely or at a nominal charge**. It must be permissible to all to copy, distribute and use it for no fee or at a nominal fee.

¡ **Intellectual property** – i.e. patents possibly present – of (parts of) the standard is **irrevocably made available on a royalty-free basis**.

¡ There are no constraints on **the re-use** of the standard.

n IDABC Architecture Guidelines

(revised Version 8.0)

IDA AG – harmonized with EIF

Content for version 8.0:

¢ **Part I: Enterprise Architecture for pan-European services** è **targets IT policy + decision makers**

¢ **Part II: Integrating pan-European Projects into IDABC architecture and environment** è **targets heads of project + other technical people**

¢ **Part III: Specifications and standards / glossary / IDA tools and applications** è **targets the implementers**

Interchange of Data between Administrations

n Content Interoperability Strategy:
A feasibility study on a pan-European
XML clearinghouse

(to start in December 2004)

Content Interoperability

Project Goals:

¢ **IDA working paper on a content interoperability strategy for pan-European services**

¢ **Feasibility study for a European XML clearinghouse (=broker with registry + repository), providing concept and cost estimation**

¢ **New doorpage on IDA website: "Semantic Interoperability Center" (info platform)**

¢ **Workshop with Member States (fall 2005)**

Thank you
for your attention!

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Interchange of Data between Administrations