

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on e-invoicing / e-governance

Having as an objective a shift towards paperless public administration, especially in its cross border dimension, a Directive is proposed on electronic invoicing in public procurement. The legal basis of the proposal is Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union since the proposal will remove market access barriers in cross border public procurement and obstacles to trade; as a result the conditions for the functioning of the internal market will be improved.

Additionally, since actions taken by the Member states are not sufficient to ensure e-invoicing in cross border procurement, then action is need to be taken by the European Union. The proposal is based on the principle of proportionality to the proper function of the internal market. There is a number of co- existing different standards across Member states, thus a common European Standard for the semantic data model of the core electronic invoice shall be developed. Also, the goal of interoperability is to be achieved since information is to be present and processed in a consistent manner between business systems.

The Directive does not place any additional cost or burden to enterprises, rather the administration burdens will be reduced. Electronic invoice is defined in the Directive as an 'invoice that has been issued and received in any electronic format' and semantic data model as 'a structured and logically interrelated set of terms and meanings that specify the content exchanged in electronic invoices'.

Based on the Directive a technologically neutral semantic data model of the core electronic invoice, that guarantees personal date protection is to be established. Member states shall ensure that contracting authorities and contracting entities do not refuse electronic invoices.

Finally, Member states shall comply with the Directive within 48 months following the entry into force and the Commission will review the effects of the Directive on

internal market and on the uptake of electronic invoicing in public procurement in 2023.