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The European Information Technology and Telecommunications (ICT) sector is working towards an e-Competence Framework applicable Europe-wide

A common European reference framework of ICT core competencies adopted by industry will bring major benefits to education, training, industrial and social partners across Europe. This European multistakeholder effort, co-funded by the European Commission and driven by ICT vendor and user industry's needs, will provide significant support to ICT skills development across the European Union. The framework scheduled to be ready for Europe-wide use by autumn 2008, addresses participants seeking to maximise effectiveness of IT/IS services and infrastructure through competence development.

International cooperation within Europe is central to the development and deployment of IT standards and reference systems. This initiative managed by CEN/ISSS on behalf of the European Commission will provide a significant boost to ICT Skills development across the European Union.

The ambitious programme is today's main project of the CEN/ISSS ICT-Skills Workshop, chaired by Mr Geoff McMullen, President of CEPIS (Council of European Professional Informatics Societies). The development of the European e-Competence Framework acting as a common reference for other national frameworks such as AITTS (Germany), CIGREF (France) and SFIA (UK), it is argued, will maximise the flexibility, mobility and cost-effectiveness of IT skills and human resource development across Europe.

The European e-Competence Framework, closely related to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), will provide an international human resources planning and development tool for a range of ICT participants including ICT practitioners, ICT managers in addition to higher and tertiary education and training providers.

CEN/ISSS Workshop Chairman Geoff McMullen commented: **"We are proud to be contributing our expertise and support to such an important development within the European e-Skills Strategy. This will help industry and education to ensure that Europe has the highly skilled and qualified ICT personnel it needs for ensuring our competitiveness world wide."**

Editors Footnote

The CEN/ISSS Workshop on ICT-Skills is a multistakeholder platform bringing together all players engaged in the European ICT sector – ICT Industry, vocational training, government, social partners and other institutions. CEN/ISSS undertake development work on human resources (HR) and competence development strategies for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Europe.