The ESCom Standard: phrases and XML
Current status and future developments

4th Meeting of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES4)
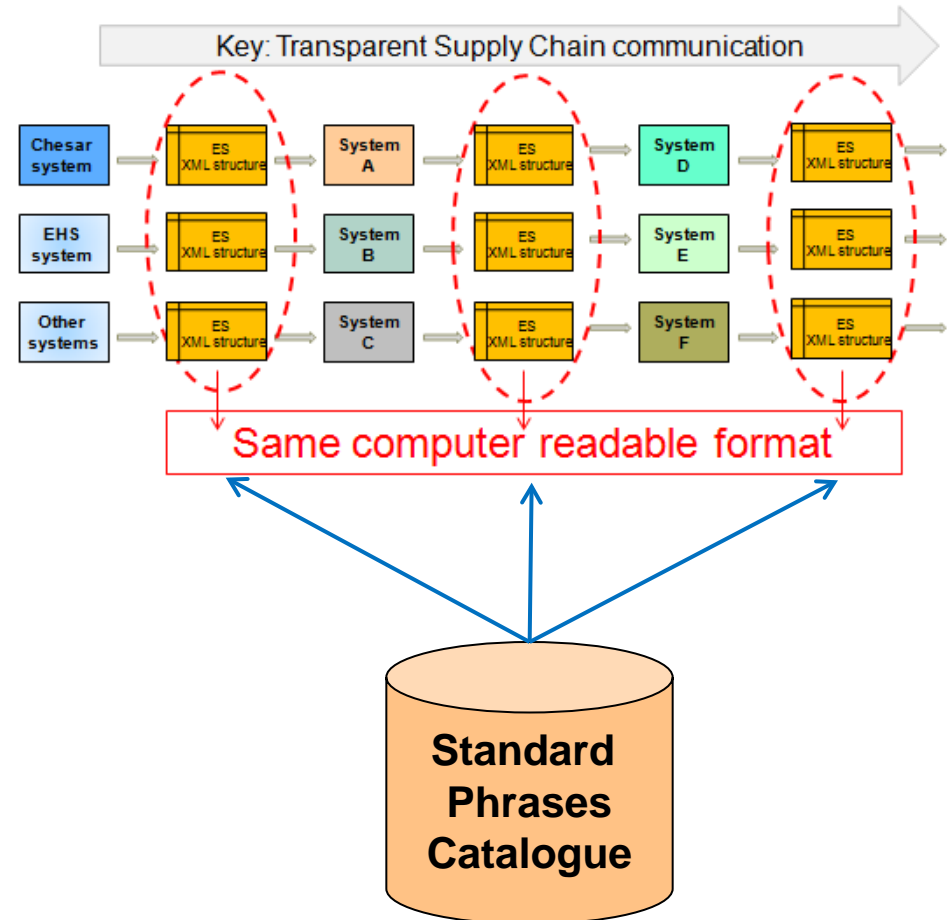**Helsinki, 16 – 17 May 2013**

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What is the ESCom Package?

- **ESCom XML standard:**
  - An IT communication standard to harmonize ES data exchange between computer systems in the supply chain
  - Developed by IT providers in consultation with industry

- **ESCom Phrase Catalogue:**
  - A catalogue with standard phrases for ESs for communication
  - Developed by industry sectors, associations and companies

Key: Transparent Supply Chain communication

Same computer readable format

Standard Phrases Catalogue

Main benefits of the ESCom Package

- Avoids manual handling; reduces resources needed for communication of ES in the supply chain

- Increases consistency in the supply chain communication by using standard phrases

- Allows efficient processing of ES information at company level

- Facilitates translation of ES

- Reduces likelihood of misinterpretation of ES information in the supply chain

- Contributes to meeting the requirements of REACH

Current status of the ESCom Package

- **ESCom XML Standard:**
  - ESCom XML version 1.1 released in October 2011
  - An updated ESCom XML version 2 (Chesar compatible) has been developed; will be made available free of charge (based on an XML User Licence) by end of 2013

- **ESCom Phrase Catalogue:**
  - Has been updated and released in March 2013 (version 1.1)
  - Can be downloaded from the Cefic website, next to a Chesar import file (enables import of all phrases into Chesar 2.2)
  - Features:
    - Contains over 1900 standard phrases
    - Fully aligned with EuPhraC ES phrases (identical phrase ID)
    - Metadata assigned to phrases to enhance searching
    - Includes phrases for all currently available SPERCs
    - Includes all „plugged-in" phrases for assessment with CHESAR

Sustainability of the ESCom Package

Requirements to succesfully sustain the ESCom Package in the years to come

- ESCom XML: IT providers
  - Agreement on IP rights and licensing IP rights for all IT providers contributing to the development of ESCom XML
  - Alignment with ECHA (Chesar XML)

- ESCom Phrase Catalogue: Chemical industry
  - Phrase team resourced with industry experts
  - Financial resources for maintaining ESCom Phrase Catalogue
  - Further implementation of phrase management work processes
  - Administrative support for phrase management work

- Interface XML – Phrase Catalogue: liaison IT providers and industry
  - Agreement with IT providers on licencing IP rights for industry
  - Future modifications that may impact XML structure and/or Catalogue structure/content

ESCom Package: building for the future

Securing the ESCom Package for 2013 – 2015:

- Memorandum of Understanding between the main parties to continue the development and maintainance of the ESCom Package as a minimum until end 2015

- Exposure Scenario Collaboration Working Agreement between IT providers (arranges further development of ESCom XML, including IP rights and licensing of IP rights to industry)

- License Agreement for industry organisations to enable publication/use of ESCom XML by industry

- Establishing a Project organisation for the ESCom Package

Timing for completion: June 2013

Project organisation ESCom Package

- Aim of the project:
  - Maintain the ESCom Phrase Catalogue
  - Liaise with IT providers regarding development and availability of ESCom XML
  - Promotion and communication of project deliverables
  - (Development /maintenance of ESCom XML: responsibility of IT providers)

- Project partners/stakeholders: Cefic, DUCC, IT providers, ECHA, BDI

- ESCom Steering Committee:
  - Overseeing the full project (progress, budgetting, communication)
  - Ensuring sufficient resources and support for the ESCom Phrases Working Group (maintaining the Phrase Catalogue)
  - Communication with ESCom stakeholders

Maintaining the Phrase Catalogue: next steps

- Re-establishing the ESCOM Phrases Working Group:
  - Additional resourcing of the phrase group with industry experts, ensuring balanced representation
  - Review and improve current workprocess for phrase management (including system for phrase management and cooperation with contractor for administrative support)
  - Review and improve current rules for phrase approval/rejection
  - Review and agree on Guidance for standard phrases (with EuPhraC)

- Selection of contractor for administrative support
  - System/database for phrase management
  - Administrative management of the phrase catalogue

Timing for completion: August 2013
System fully operational: September 2013

Deliverables next release Phrase Catalogue

- Fully updated according to the new rules for approval/rejection and the Guidance for standard phrases (structure)

- All phrase submissions by companies/sector organisations reviewed and processed

- Inclusion of phrases for all SPERC/SCEDs available at that point in time

- Ensuring continuation of alignment with the Chesar tool

- Additional standard phrases to facilitate the generation of systematic short titles (Table of Contents: refer to presentation by S. Lemoine)

Questions???