1. Welcome and administration

Mr Bryan and Mr Bialecki welcomed all participants to the joint meeting of the ECIMF and MULECO project groups.

The agenda was approved. The presentation on Ontoweb and Ontoclean was cancelled due to illness of Mr Nicola Guarino, who sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

The minutes of the ECIMF last meeting were approved.

Ms Gatti, WS/EC Secretary, offered to take the minutes of the meeting.

2. Presentations - ECIMF

3.1 Revision of the current ECIMF CWA drafts, the POC example

Mr Bialecki made the state of art of the ECIMF project.

ECIMF is in the middle of the duration – the project kicked off in May 2001 and is planned to last 18 months.

The project investigates three levels of mapping: semantics, dynamics and syntax.

Four deliverables will be produced by the project:
i) a gentle introduction to ECIMF
ii) general methodology
iii) technical specifications
iv) a proof of concept

The draft deliverables – updated in November 2001 (version 0.3) - are available at the URLs (doc. 01/18-19-20-21 respectively):
http://www.ecimf.org

i) Introduction

It has been added upon request; it written in a non technical language.

ii) General Methodology (GM)

A fourth layer – Business Context Matching - has been added on top: a set of rules to apply to see if the business models in framework A and B match. REA is used. Different classification schemes, ontologies, context in which these rules are applied.

Lowest layer: syntax mapping – transfer protocol.

Framework Integration Guideline (Chapter 4): this session has been merged with the General Methodology document and split in four parts – it describes the procedures.

In Annex 1 additional supporting materials for the Frameworks Integration Guideline has been added.

This part still needs development and thought; comments are welcome.

Part 4.1 on Business Context Matching has been expanded.

Part 4.2 Business Process Mediation Model - still to be expanded

Lack of overall concept how to model this area How to analyse problems.

In general, the document is still too technical.

An initial attempt of meta-model for semantic translation has been attempted with NADA/CID of the Royal Academy of Stockholm, Sweden

Mapping with reference to existing ontologies.

Need to consider the context where translating the concept from one language to another.

On the whole, aim of the ECIMF project is not to develop new things but to produce a summary of the state of the art and to provide guidelines on that.

iii) Technical Specification (TS)

The document contains three proposed diagrams, respectively for Business Context, for Process Mediation and Semantic Translation.
The diagram on syntax mapping is still missing, because the methodology issue needs to be solved first.

iv) **Proof of Concept Documentation (POC)**

It has been significantly changed from the first draft.

As suggested, some real-life examples have been added: company and a shipping agency

Use of RosettaNet and PIPs.

It is a complex issue and it is difficult to come up with a single representation. Process Mediator model (figure six) is still complex and it is perhaps to be deleted.

Also for this part, suggestions on how to improve the document are welcome.

EbSCC document Chapter 9 core components/ebXML specifications

Interoperability schemas between ebXML and EDI

EbXML/EDI: the general idea is to end with a general standard that each partner must adopt. ECIMF: the idea is different – each partner has a different standard.

Mapping between ebXML and EDIFACT – EDIFRANCE has done a trial and confirms that it is working.

3.2 Business Context Interoperability and eBTWG Business Objects

Mr Bialecki reported from the discussion held within ebTWG at the UN /CEFACT meeting

Communication between business partners in the value chain is crucial.

An e-business transition working group has been set up. Within it, two teams are important for the scope of ECIMF:

- Business Information Objective Types
- Business Collaboration Patterns and Monitored Commitments

The concept of Business Object is central.

State of Business Object processed by each partner.

There is a time constraint issue, enforced by business diagram in business object.

Mr Fletcher attended the kick-off meeting of the ebTWG in San Francisco. He could not attend the meeting in Seattle but he wishes to be in a position to attend the next meetings of the group.

3.3 Creating RDF models in Conzilla, Protégé plugin – demos

Conzilla is the navigator used so far in the model. It is an open source tool written in Java, based on XML developed by CID/NADA. The Conzilla tool has to be combined with Protégé plug-in.

A comparison between the two models: metadata diagram can not be stored as Protégé model, while Conzilla is useful to navigate graphically for complicated metadata.

More work has to be undertaken to evaluate potentialities of Protégé.
Even if partners use the same standard, they may disagree on details of implementing the standard.

Mr Bialecki said that the Conzilla tool was too ambitious and that ECIMF is looking for a new tool to support the methodology.

5.1 Entish - agent communication language for web service integration

Prof. Ambrosziewicz presented Entish, a new simple minimum language for automatic web service integration.

The integration is done by autonomous software agents. The new language is fully declarative although it corresponds functionally to WSFL, XLANG, XAML, and DAML-S that are procedural languages. This is achieved by separating the essential data of the integration process (agent) from execution and reasoning machinery (that must be realized procedurally), and moving it outside Entish to a dedicated service (i.e. BodyService). The essential data are expressed in Entish and serve as control data of the agent process responsible for web service integration.

Entish is implemented on HTTP+SOAP. However, it may be also implemented on the top of SOAP+WSDL+UDDI stack if the syntax of WSDL is adopted. More details can be found at the URL: http://www.ipipan.waw.pl/mas/

6. MULECO

Mr Brian presented MULECO CWA draft v.3. His presentation was divided in three parts:

a) Aim of the project
b) State of art
c) Way forward

a) Aim

Aim of the project is to develop an upper level ontology that will be recorded in a way that allows each entry to be addressed from other ontologies and applications by means of a Uniform Resource Identifier or an XML Path/Query.

A list of 15 functionalities for ontologies not currently found in e-commerce ontologies is listed at page 2.

Five objectives for this project are listed at p3:
 i) to develop a methodology
 ii) to develop an open source tool
 iii) to populate the ontology with Internet-addressable terms
 iv) to input draft specifications into standardization process.

b) State of art

Mr Bryan showed a brief proof of concept, built upon ISIC standard classification revision 3 (at p18) – a short list based on basic definitions. The ISIC listing is only available in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

Example:
The fact that the English language uses only two terms and the Spanish three is due to the fact that different communities use different conceptualisations.

Mr Bialecki introduced the concept of conceptual neighbourhood, that means to assess for what a concept is used for; i.e. in the example at page 32 you use drinks for French “boissons” and not beverages.

The basic thing is to know if the project wants to stick to the ISIC classification or if the project shall identify a classification specifically developed for its purposes.

A number of queries need to be solved:

- What kind of classification is possible?
- What is the master definition? In which language?
- Should it be tree structured or not? There are different paths of classification, which may lead to the same thing.
- How many levels in the hierarchy you do need?

**c) Way forward**

The scope of the project is ambitious – sponsors and contributions are seek; in case of no strong input of work the Chair will consider the possibility of ending the project.

**7. Next meeting**

Next meeting is fixed on 11/12 June in Paris, by kind invitation by AFNOR – exact day and timing to be confirmed by the ISSS Secretariat.
## Annex 1

### ECIMF

#### Actions list

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<td>01</td>
<td>To search a new tool to support the ECIMF methodology.</td>
<td>Mr Bialecki</td>
<td>Asap</td>
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<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>To find out more about agents in LEAP, and the relevance of ontologies to the use of agents</td>
<td>Mr Bialecki in liaison with Motorola</td>
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<td>To prepare suggestions for an XML representation of diagrams in the semantic correspondence section</td>
<td>Mr Bialecki</td>
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### MULECO

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