



## Health Level Seven® International

*For Immediate Release*

Contact: Andrea Ribick  
+1 (734) 677-7777  
[andrea@HL7.org](mailto:andrea@HL7.org)

### **Health Level Seven International Releases Comments on European Union's Public Open Consultation on the Review of the European Standardization System**

**Ann Arbor, MI – July 9, 2010** - Health Level Seven® International (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability and standards in healthcare information technology, has submitted comments to the to the European Union's recent public open consultation on the review of the European Standardization System.

The aim of the open consultation is to gain an understanding of stakeholders' view on the review of the European Standardization System and to gather opinions and suggestions on the potential avenues the European Commission should explore in order to shape concrete proposals. While the use of standards remains voluntary, the European Union has, since the mid-1980s, increasingly made use of open standards in support of its policies and legislation. The European Union consultation document is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/public-consultation>

The response of HL7 International highlighted the need for robust standards against which conformance can be tested and asserted. In its comments, HL7 International notes the importance of widely and consistently adopting standards for health informatics and identifies the major barriers to the adoption of these standards published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) below:

- Cost of obtaining the standard
- Lack of supporting education
- Lack of conformance criteria to test against
- Lack of relevant standards

- Limited engagement in standards development, especially by small and medium sized businesses

HL7 recommends that ISO, European Standards Organizations (including CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI) and National Standards Organizations work in partnership with the member states and the standards development organizations with domain specific expertise, such as HL7 International and IHTSDO. This form of public-private partnership is likely to have the capacity to both develop and publish standards suitable for large scale adoption throughout the market. Additionally, such collaboration would likely promote the quicker development of robust standards without duplication of efforts.

To see the full document detailing HL7 International's comments, please visit:

<http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/public/newsroom/HL7%20EU%20response%20FINAL.pdf>

### **About HL7 International**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare Information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7's more than 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Abbott; Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute (DTMI); Eclipsys Corporation; Epic Systems Corporation; European Medicines Agency; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; Lockheed Martin; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.;

Siemens Healthcare; St. Jude Medical; Thomson Reuters; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

For more information, please visit: [www.HL7.org](http://www.HL7.org)

# # #