QUESTIONS TO SPEAKERS

1. **"Although our EKIS supplier gives us the option to receive e-invoices in both European formats (UC/CEFACT and OASIS UBL 2.1) already programmed, we have not been able to test the functionality yet – there are no training invoices (in line with these norms) available which would be issued by other subjects but the supplier´s staff.**

   All we have is the link below:

   https://eeiplatform.com/18838/first-ublpdf-demo-invoices-based-en-16931-1-e-invoicing-standard-now-available/ used by the EKIS supplier. "

   TC434 is using the Github service for maintenance and publication of validation rules and some other resources. On the first page you will also find links to the OASIS UBL and UN/CEFACT Cross industry invoice standards: https://github.com/CenPC434/validation

   Under the folders UBL/examples and CII/instances you will find sample files.

   Also the syntax binding specifications have sample xml as annexes.

   Another resource which can be used is sample files developed by the Swedish standardisation organisation Single Face To Industry. Even if some documentation is in Swedish, the sample files could still be of interest.
   http://sfti.se/download/18.384f86211668d140b354a504/1540376570234/Arkiv_BIS_Billing_30_Exempelsamling_2018-10-17.zip

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2. **What are the exact file extensions for the following formats (EU-UN / CEFACT XML and OASIS UBL 2.1)?**

   The standard does not prescribe rules for file extensions. Most common is however *.xml. There is no naming convention for filenames which can be used to identify the type of format.

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3. **Is it possible to get a test invoice in an EU format (UN / CEFACT XML and OASIS UBL 2.1) to verify correctness of our process setup?**

   Yes, see answer to first question.

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4. **Your experience in working with EU formats (working directly with them as opposed to a conversion to another format)?**

Many systems use inhouse/internal formats when importing/exporting the invoices. So conversion is sometimes necessary. However, conversions can be tricky and it is important that the actual semantics/meaning of the invoice data values are not lost or changed in the process.

With a European standard now available, many ERP-systems find it worthwhile to build native support to the format.

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5. **Which EU format converting SW would you recommend?**

There are many mapping tools available on the market. We can't give recommendations to any given tool.

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6. **Which SW to open files in EU formats (UN / CEFACT XML and OASIS UBL 2.1) would you recommend?**

This depends very much on how one wants to use the electronic invoice. If you are looking for a tool for merely presenting the xml, then any XML-editor can be used. If you want to present it in a visual human readable manner, then stylesheets can be used in combination with a transformation software. One example of a validation and display tool is https://open.validex.net/. It is free to use and you can display uploaded invoices.

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7. **Archiving in PDF/A or without conversion?**

The legal document is the XML-format as it was received.

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8. **It is necessary to save invoices received in an electronic form in a paper form, too? (for the purposes of archiving, auditing, etc.)**

You should verify this question with national rules on archiving but in most countries, document which are received electronically are also archived in that format.

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9. **What exactly does it mean to "process an electronic invoice" (storage, filing, extraction)**

Good question but hard to give a clear answer. I'm going to add some extracts from the EU-directive which maybe can give food for thought:

From the preamble:

The benefits of electronic invoicing are maximised when the generation, sending, transmission, reception and processing of an invoice can be fully automated. For this reason, only machine-readable invoices which can be processed automatically and digitally by the recipient should be considered to be compliant with the European standard on electronic invoicing.

From the defintions:

'electronic invoice' means an invoice that has been issued, transmitted and received in a structured electronic format which allows for its automatic and electronic processing;

I can also give a few different examples of electronic processing of an invoice:
- The received invoice has an order reference and the receiving system automatically verifies that the invoice is correct based on an electronic order. If the invoice corresponds to the order and what has been delivered, then it automatically gets approved.

- The received invoice has a reference to the person who did the purchase. The receiving system automatically forwards the invoice to that person who are to assess if the invoice is correct.

- The received invoice is presented to a person in an administrative role who manually forwards it to the person/department for where the purchase originated.

I can't say if printing a received invoice and to process the paper-copy can be considered to be in line with the directive but I don't think it is the long term intention.

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10. **Which free web browser can be used to open an electronic invoice in UBL 2.1 and UN/CEFACT formats?**

Any web browser can be used to open xml-files. For visual presentation of the invoice data in a "form", the xml-file first has to be transformed in to a html/image or pdf. There are many transformation tools available.

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11. Which official website contains information about the above mentioned formats and other relevant information?

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12. Any additional information regarding export in .xsd for .xml of these formats?

Please feel free to contact us or CEF support if you have additional questions.