



ΕΕΛ/ΛΑΚ

Εταιρεία Ελεύθερου Λογισμικού /Λογισμικού Ανοιχτού Κώδικα

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Athens, March 15th, 2013

**To: DG Connect Commissioner, Mrs. Neelie KROES
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium**

**CC: DG Connect Director-General, Mr. Robert MADELIN
European Commission
DG CONNECT
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium**

Subject: Letter of Endorsement

Dear Mrs. Kroes,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Greek Free / Open Source Software Society (GFOSS, en.eellak.gr), a non-profit organisation, that was founded in 2008 and consists 29 Greek Universities and Research Centres. Our goal is to promote the use and development of Open Technologies in Education, Public Administration and the private sector. Leading Open Technologies developers play an active role in the implementation of our initiatives. GFOSS coordinates [Creative Commons Greece](#), is a founding [member of COMMUNIA](#) and member of the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) Network](#).

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Board of GFOSS, and as Partner of the European project HOMER "Harmonizing Open Data in the Mediterranean through Better Access and Re-Use of Public Sector Information", I would like to highlight the crucial importance for our institution of the next European programme period, with a view to improve Europe's infrastructures and digital networks.

GFOSS is strongly committed to Open Source, Open Content and Open Data policies and infrastructure, to make Public Sector Information (PSI) available and exploitable, and to identify tailored ICT legal and political standards for unlocking the full potential of PSI. Moreover, our goal, through our participation in the HOMER project, is to raise the awareness of the benefits of making public data open and reusable and ensure the achievement of the necessary legal, technological and political standards for the next programme period 2014-2020, enabling the MED area to fully exploit the benefits of the Single Digital Market, by promoting a correct revision of the PSI Directive.

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) represents an essential tool to promote Europe's economy and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at the European level. Given its commitment to validate good practices for Open Data, to develop digital infrastructures and to link different national systems at the European level, GFOSS welcomes funding opportunities provided within this framework, with particular regard to open data digital infrastructure.

I am fully convinced that investments in projects giving EU citizens and businesses access to high-speed broadband networks, open source, open content and open data services will make Europe more competitive, will allow the important achievement of the Digital Single Market initiative, and will save money and create new job opportunities. Funding broadband and digital services through the CEF will complement the efforts carried out in this field by GFOSS and will create new synergies at the national and EU levels, bringing forward and integrating successful initiatives established with the contribution of structural funds and carried out as part of public-private partnerships.

I would therefore like to strongly endorse the European Commission budget proposal for funding pan-European broadband and digital services for the next multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theodoros Karounos', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Theodoros Karounos
Chairman of the Board