Athens, January 2nd, 2017

To: Head of Content Programme of the Estonia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Mr Kristo Põllu

Cc: Head of the EU Presidency organising team of the Estonia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Ms Piret Lilleväli
Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology, Ms Urve Palo

Dear Mr Põllu,

I am contacting you on behalf of GFOSS with the proposal to organise and host events concerning openness and open technologies during the period of the Estonia's Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS — www.gfoss.eu) is a non-profit organisation, founded in 2008 by the major Greek Universities and Research Institutes. Our main goals are to promote openness through the use and the development of open standards and open technologies in education, public administration and business. We are a platform for Open Standards, Free Software, Open Content, Open Data & Open Hardware. Thirty Greek universities and research centres are shareholders of GFOSS, while leading members of the Greek community of developers play a key role in the design and implementation of our initiatives.

In the last years the use of open source software has increased in European countries and also has been encouraged by the European Union because of the multiple advantages it creates for innovation in all sectors of the economy. In October, the European Parliament called "for the systematic replacement of proprietary software by auditable and verifiable open-source software in all EU institutions, and for the introduction of a mandatory open-source-selection criterion in all future ICT procurement procedures." In addition, the European Parliament says free and open source software is instrumental to reinforce 'trust

and security in digital networks, industries, services and infrastructures and in the handling of personal data'.

Also in the fourth global OGP Summit that took place in Paris, from December 7th to 9th, the Paris Declaration was introduced which entails the creation of policies on open data and open source software. Open source software, open data and open standards contribute to fostering transparency and collaboration and thus they are considered high priorities for Governments and Public Administrations internationally.

In this framework we would like you to consider organising or hosting events around openness and open technologies during the period of the Estonia's Presidency of the Council of the EU. We at GFOSS in cooperation with our European colleagues the Free Software Foundation Europe and OpenForum Europe can contribute in the organization of initiatives for openness.

Sincerely,

Diomidis Spinellis
Chairman of the Board