General Introduction
The workshop focused on Peter Brown’s (PB) proposed project on Semantic Interoperability. The paper is was described as being very detailed down to the technical layer. What was identified as a requirement was the business layer so that the business community could be more involved.

A greater understanding between systems and organisation is needed, and XML can not do this all on its own. PB makes the case for the need for process so that businesses get involved early on. The definitions and terminology used must be clarified at an even earlier stage.

The project intends to produce guidelines and best practice. With the ownership of deliverables shared between CEN and OASIS.

Work in this area ties in well with Harmonising Taxonomies, as well as others.

The next step was this workshop session, where the project team hoped to gain a formula for a business case to go to CEN to agree a work-plan and timetable.

The workshop stressed the important to get the business leaders involved at the early stages, focussing at the business implications.

Discussion
MC confirmed that similar work is being carried out, but this existing work focuses on the technical side.
PS agreed, projects to date have yet to look at the business implications in depth.
JB questioned how to approach the representatives from the business sector.
FN proposed that the project team would be split into two, one focusing on the technical aspect and infrastructure, and the other focusing on applying it by providing business expertise.
AW believed it was important to see the business level requirements for harmonising/reconciling vocabularies, similarly for workflow and core components.
FN expressed concern as to the separate activities within the project.

The project requires a detailed business case for the business sector to understand why their involvement is necessary.

SN will be leading a workshop in Washington on the April 28, involving US agencies regarding this area. It is apparent that the US government requires more information about this area as currently there is a shortage of understanding of it.
Such a workshop has never been done before and therefore it is difficult to know what the outcome will be.
The project would be keen to pick up on any work that may be asked to do as a result from the workshop in Washington.
AW suggested reference models in HR7, however there may be problems transposing them into the technology side. AW stressed the need to have a good balance.

**Actions**
AW to give detailed feedback to PB.
Then JB and PB will approach CEN once comments on the proposed project have been collated.

It was agreed not to disconnect the work from the technical aspect of semantic interoperability. Harmony is needed in approaching this project, and technology must inform the business decision making process, and visa versa.