JB began by discussing the background and detail of the paper produced by the UK Office of the e-Envoy on the subject of workflow. JB detailed the background of the new Workflow project, where it was required because two separate departments wanted to build an e-service for their customers. Workflow for the backend system was required to control the overall system. The two departments approached the OeE for advice. The OeE subsequently researched into various workflows and the conclusions are described in the document.

The paper describes the current standards and strands of activities that already exist at the moment. From the existing activities, there are none which dominates the market, as each has a variety of factors affecting them in different ways. In some cases, many overlapped and in others many were independent (refer to Figure 3 in Workflow paper).

The OeE ran a workshop in the UK as a result of the paper, and the general consensus that was met pointed to the use of WFMC as the preferred choice for use in the specific context.

JB hoped that this TC could unravel the issues surrounding the differences between the numerous standards and strands, to seek convergence, or if not, a harmonisation or roadmap. The end result would ideally be a TC recommendation.

JB described the feedback received from the TC on the paper. JB reported that Monica Martin questioned the paper in great detail. MM questioned what workflow meant, and what needs to be the focus of the next steps in developing the paper.

Workflow historically involves humans, but in today's world, this has changes. Workflow is not just an IT system, but a business system, and MM stressed that the TC can only make recommendations once the concepts are understood, and therefore more groundwork would be needed.

At present, JB emphasised the importance of workflow in government. AW agreed and added that it is crucial to the work in specific areas, and would like to have a well defined recommendation as to which standard/strand to adopt.

Although the work of HR7 in this area is in its early stages, the implementation of it would have to eventually use workflow.

AW requested for further explanation of the terms used by MM, for example ‘choreography’ and ‘control flow’.

JB proposed further collaboration with MM, and also re-work the existing paper, exploring the explanations further and possibly approaching other standards bodies if necessary. The project will work to coordinate different frameworks, identify which belong to business level or implementation level.
It was noted that semantic interoperability would be the umbrella layer above this area. AW suggested that designing transactions for e-services could be a linked area.