CIO Session I – Enterprise Architecture in the EU Public Sector

The first session of the meeting began with opening remarks from a Polish government minister, followed by an update from the European Commission highlighting major EU challenges, such as:

- **Simplification of regulations**
- **Digital sovereignty**
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Presentation Highlights:

The core of the session focused on **enterprise architecture (EA)** as a tool to support digital transformation across EU Member States. The session included a series of country presentations and survey results shared by CIOs.

- **Latvia** shared key lessons from its experience implementing EA:
  - **Key needs:** strong engagement of domain stakeholders and alignment with investment portfolio planning.
  - **Challenges:** limited institutional capacity (even in centers of excellence) and legacy system complexity.
- **Czechia**, with a mature EA ecosystem, emphasized its benefits:
  - A **unified vision** across government departments.
  - Better **planning, efficiency, and accountability**.
  - Promotion of **system and data reuse**.

Poland presented its 10-year journey in EA, supported by detailed diagrams of national architecture layers. The country's EA approach has recently been codified in a new legal act defining **State Information Architecture** as a methodology for digital government transformation, rooted in architecture models, standards, and recommendations. Poland also showcased several practical EA tools.

Discussion Highlights – Focus on Strategic Blue Sections:

Participants explored the practical and strategic dimensions of EA adoption through several guiding questions:

1. **How feasible is enterprise architecture for public sector bodies?**
   - EA is relevant but must be adapted. It doesn't solve all problems—**business strategy and agility often take precedence**.

- EA can still support transformation by selecting the most impactful elements, without full-scale implementation.

2. **What is the value of EA in digital government transformation?**
    - EA supports better planning, collaboration, and efficient resource use.
    - Its value extends to **citizens, businesses, and administrations** by improving public service delivery.
3. **How can EA contribute to interoperability in the context of the Interoperable Europe Act?**
    - EA can play a significant role in **interoperability assessments** and cross-border digital collaboration.
    - The **Interoperability Board** may serve as a key platform for advancing this goal.
4. **What must happen for EA to become the EU's "lingua franca"?**
    - EA adoption varies across Member States.
    - A **gap analysis** is needed to:
        - define the current "as-is" state,
        - envision the "to-be" ideal,
        - identify blockers,
        - plan a realistic **transition path**.
    - **Common terminology, shared tools, and aligned legal frameworks** are critical to making EA a common language across the EU.
5. **What challenges remain?**
    - Even the European Commission, despite two decades of work, still faces hurdles.
    - Public sector EA must account for **agility**, **business needs**, and **external influences**, including private sector insights.

Conclusion:

The session confirmed broad support for EA as a key enabler of digital transformation, though its implementation must be flexible, context-aware, and value-driven. Ongoing collaboration—through forums like the Interoperability Board—and strategic alignment at both national and EU levels will be essential to realize the full potential of enterprise architecture as a unifying framework for public sector innovation across Europe.