



**SENAAT**

**Recent developments in the Senate of Belgium**  
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**ICT-director**

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1. At the Copenhagen meeting Mr Flement and myself gave a short presentation of a Workflow application. May I remind you that the aim of the application consists in realising a bilingual version – ready to print – of most of the parliamentary documents (bill proposals, proceedings of standing committees, reports of committees etc.).

You will also remember that as a result of the tender regarding the introduction of a Workflow, Open Office was introduced as the entire development is based on Open Source products. As a result, Swriter is gradually promoted for the entire administration, as the unique text processor, supported by the ICT department.

Perhaps, even more important, was the choice for .ODT as the standard format.

The introduction of a new text processor and the shift of tasks formerly carried out by a private printing firm to the administration, the difficulties proper to the numerous exchanges with incoming text made with a Word version etc. have given way to resistance and resentment within the users community.

That's why Mr. Flement has developed so called extensions and templates in order to facilitate the migration process for the users.

All information is available on a specific website [ooo.senate.be](http://ooo.senate.be)

2. Database applications

They run currently on Solaris systems.

A migration project towards Red Hat Linux is under way, due to end towards february 2010.

3. ICT infrastructure

An audit of existing infrastructure was carried out this year by a private firm.

As a result, ICT engineers are invited to develop an ICT architecture, including the definition of a framework and the standards that will be supported or upheld in procedures to tender.

In fact, a major overhaul of the data center has become urgent. Besides, major technical choices regarding software have to be made.

Either now or during our informal meetings, I'm eager to learn who among you have some experience with auditing of ICT systems, ICT Architecture planning and ICT/Business Alignment.