Three clusters were selected for this issue because the configuration reflects the primary themes that were discussed in the consultation. Though somewhat informative, the top ten list does not precisely reflect the key issues noted below (the keywords were somewhat more general). The first two clusters were extremely robust across the three configurations with almost no variation. The first cluster deals primarily with *where* the particular information should come from. Some argue that the supranational framework is desirable, others that the private sector already provides this information, and some who argue for the use of additional frameworks. Cluster 2 turns on a few issues, including a desire for a more transparent system and one that can ease the flow of information and an assurance the any new scheme ensures the rights and protections of individuals, including legal rights. Cluster 3 deals with a relatively heterogeneous set of issues, including: (1) a recognition that the proposed scheme should provide for greater cross-border procedures; (2) a belief that the scheme might encourage trade and investment; and (3) a debate as to whether the system would actually reduce administrative burdens and whether the scheme should be mandatory or not. It should be noted that while the three cluster configuration indeed contains a heterogeneous set of issues, the other two possible configurations (i.e. four and five) do not neatly separate the issues such that the selection of either would have been justified.

1: Debate as to whether the supranational framework, the private sector, or some other scheme should provide the requisite information for business registers.

2: Desire for greater transparency and the easing of information flows as well as a greater emphasis on the protection of rights of interested parties.

3: A recognition of the ability to foster greater cross-border procedures, a belief that the new system might encourage trade and investment, and a debate surrounding whether the new scheme should be mandatory/will reduce or increase administrative burdens.