

Dear Sir, Madam,

The German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce represents more than 3 million companies of any size and different branches.

Concerning question 1: To our judgement, in Germany the directive was implemented correctly but too late. That is why we are not able to estimate its impact on the further use of public information at this point.

Concerning question 2: Especially on their internet sites, the public authorities have provided more transparency regarding information. If as a result, their websites have been used more frequently because of that, can only be stated by the those concerned.

Concerning question 3: An extension of the directive to cultural, educational, research and other institutions seems to be premature at the moment. Furthermore, only governmental institutions could be bound, so that private ones were not covered.

Concerning question 4: The institutions named in question 3 do often not only consist of governmental ones. To our opinion, an obligation to make information accessible for a further use, would only be possible if these private institutions were (predominantly) financed by the government.

Concerning question 5 and 6: The directive did not have extensive impact so far as it has just been transposed into national legislation of the Member States. We therefore think it is sensible to hold a public consultation concerning the consequences for companies in the year 2010. That way we could find out how information of the public sector has been used and what new business models have emerged. It would be a pleasure to contribute to the implementation of such a consultation.

Viele Grüße

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