



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Information Society

Information Society Technologies: Content, Multimedia Tools and Markets
Electronic Publishing

Luxembourg, 2 July 2002

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MINUTES **MEETING GROUP TO PROMOTE DIGITAL PUBLIC DATA** **BRUSSELS, 21 JUNE 2002**

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman *Role and Mandate of the Group*

The Chairman welcomed the delegations and outlined the role and function of the Group. The Group will be an informal forum for discussions and exchanges of information on issues related to Public Sector Information (PSI). This will include the issue of access to the information. By exchanging best practices and solutions to facilitate the re-use of information, Member States can look for new ways to deal with their data-resources and tackle the challenges of the Information Society.

2. Role of Digital Public Data in the eEurope Initiative *Government Online: Electronic Access to Public Services* *European Digital Content for Global Networks*

A brief presentation was made by the Commission (Jens Matthiessen) of the eEurope policy framework. It was underlined that the issues discussed in the Group are part of the eEurope objectives (and in particular the issues related to eGovernment and digital content). The delegations were also reminded of the working methods applied in the context of eEurope (ranging from legislative action to an exchange of opinions).

3. Experiences and Practices in EU Member States *Online Licenses in the United Kingdom*

One of the aims of the Group is to exchange good practices. In this first meeting, a presentation was made by Mr. Wretham, UK, explaining the UK “click and use” system of online licenses for re-use of public sector information.

Questions were raised on how personal data was dealt with (Belgium), whether decisions of courts were available for re-use and to what extent the system could be used by other levels of government to license their data-assets (the Chairman, Mr. Forster).

Mr. Wretham replied that personal data is one of the restrictions applied to the system. For example, census information is not available for re-use. Court decisions are in principle covered but this is an issue in the UK because judges are not Crown servants. Her Majesty's Stationary Office is in contact with other parts of government about the "click and use" system such as Parliament and local authorities.

Further questions concerned where the notion of added value information starts (Denmark, Commission) and how quality and validity of data is assured (Austria). Mr. Wretham acknowledged that the definitions of value added data is one of most difficult issues. Elements that make up value added data is when data is collected from different sources, when core information is added and when the data are not essential to government. Raw data should be made available for adding value both by the private sector and by other government bodies. On quality of data, licenses always refer to the official government versions of documents, but there is no monitoring of how the data is used and no assurances to end users. Re-users are not asked about how the data is used. Copying from products of other licensees can give rise to problem of accuracy. Careless use of information should backfire through loss of markets and customers.

4. Re-use and Commercial Exploitation of Public Sector Information *Commission Proposal for a Directive of 5 June 2002, COM (2002) 207*

The Commission (Yvo Volman) presented the proposal for a Directive on the commercial exploitation of public sector information. It was underlined that the role of this Group is to discuss the proposal for a Directive but not to redraft the legal text. The negotiations of the draft Directive text will take place in the Council working group. Furthermore, the Group to Promote Digital Public Data should exchange views on re-use policies and tackle issues not dealt with by the draft Directive, such as access regimes and inventories of data resources.

In the following discussion, the UK delegation raised the point of the quality of data. The mapping data in the US may be much cheaper, but there may also be a difference in quality. The US pricing regime may lead to a lack of incentive for improving the data.

5. Definition of Working Methods *Exchange of Good Practices* *Web Presence and Newsletter?*

Questions on this point were about the differences between the role of the Council working group and the Group to Promote Digital Public Data (the Netherlands), the added value of this Group, also in relation to the eContent Management Committee and the IDA TAC Committee (Sweden), and its time horizon (Spain).

The Chairman replied that the Council working group and this Group will re-inforce each other, the first being the forum for negotiations between governments, the latter for more technical discussions, also drawing on experts. As for the time perspective, it should be dependant on the Directive process. Yvo Volman added that the work of

this Group will feed into the Council working group but that it will cover issues going beyond the scope of the Directive. The eContent Committee would not be sufficient to cover the agenda proposed for this Group, and in relation to other groups there is no likely duplication of work.

The French delegation proposed an approach of splitting the work into different sectors, on the grounds that the conditions for data can vary substantially between sectors: in some you pay for the data, in others not. If the discussions are too general it will be unsatisfactory for the market. As relevant sectorial information, the French delegation listed the following: legal; administrative; economic (accounts, patents, statistics); meteorological; geographic (incl. for fiscal and traffic purposes); culture; environment; tourism.

Portugal added education and academic information to this list.

The Chairman said to be open to using subgroups for looking at different topics. Yvo Volman stressed that cross-sectorial information becomes more and more important and will, therefore, certainly be looked into when identifying topics for subgroups.

The Chairman raised the issue of inventories of public information. It would be useful if the Group could contribute to the understanding of what public sector information is available and what the conditions are for its re-use. It is not a question of a European asset list of public sector information, but to look at sectors or across sectors in a European perspective. A starting point could be lists of information assets that exist in some countries.

Several delegations (Belgium, Sweden) said that this was a big task

The UK proposed the following breakdown of aspects relating to the re-use of PSI:

- what information is available,
- how is it known what is available,
- how is the information supplied,
- how is re-use authorized.

Against this background, the members of the Group were asked to think about how this issue could be addressed for the next meeting. Contributions should be sent in writing to Johan Bodenkamp (Johan.Bodenkamp@cec.eu.int) before the end of August.

Of relevance are also mechanisms of dissemination of the work carried out in this area (amongst others by this Group). It could be useful to set up a web site for the work of this Group and/or publish a newsletter. This issue will be addressed in more detail in the next meeting.

6. Online Public Services
Presentation results 2nd measurement

The results of the 2nd measurement (April 2002) of the survey of online public services were presented by Niko de Meester of Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, the contractor of the survey.

Belgium asked what the link was between the survey on online public services and the mandate of this Group. The Chairman said that this was a related topic that was put on the agenda to test the interest of the Group.

7. AOB

The Danish delegation indicated their interest in the further work of the Group and their willingness to give a presentation on a Danish good practice in the next meeting. The Chairman indicated that a second meeting of the Group would be organised mid-October. **The proposed date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 16 October 2002 in Luxembourg.**

8. FOR ACTION

The Group will ensure the best results if an interactive exchange between the members is taking place. Therefore, the Commission highly appreciates input and ideas on setting up an efficient European-wide information exchange in the field of Public Sector Information. **Contributions and suggestions on the following issues should be sent to Johan.Bodenkamp@cec.eu.int by the end of August:**

- Identification and distribution of good European practices in the field of re-use and commercial exploitation of Public Sector Information. Willingness to present concrete examples at forthcoming meetings;
- Identification of existing asset lists in Member States, including their methodology (i.e. according to what criteria these lists have been set up). Specification of relevant sectors to establish European-wide data inventories;
- Distribution policy: how could the information gathered in this Group be best made available to everybody, e.g. website, newsletter?;
- Level of detail of the draft minutes.

Enclosures: Agenda meeting 21 June 2002
List of participants meeting 21 June 2002



Group to Promote Digital Public Data

1st Meeting with Member States Representatives

Friday, 21 June 2002, 10:30 – 17:00 hrs.

Centre Albert Borschette, Room AB-1A

Rue Froissart 36, Brussels

AGENDA

Chair : H. Forster, Director, European Commission

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman
Role and Mandate of the Group
2. Role of Digital Public Data in the eEurope Initiative
Government Online: Electronic Access to Public Services
European Digital Content for Global Networks
3. Experiences and Practices in EU Member States
Online Licenses in the United Kingdom

COFFEE BREAK

4. Re-use and Commercial Exploitation of Public Sector Information
Commission Proposal for a Directive of 5 June 2002, COM (2002) 207

LUNCH

5. Definition of Working Methods
Exchange of Good Practices regarding e.g.:
Data Collection (Standards & Metadata)

Access Policies

Re-use Policies, including Pricing Policies

Copyright and other Legal Issues

Online Public Services

Frequency of Meetings and Date of Next Meeting

Web Presence and Newsletter?

6. Online Public Services

Presentation Results 2nd Measurement of April 2002 (Cap Gemini Ernst & Young)

Related Studies: Use & Quality and Back-Office Reforms

7. AOB



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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Group to Promote Digital Public Data

21st June 2002, CCAB, Brussels

Member State	Name	Organisation
AT	WILDER Birgit	Chief Information Office Austria
AT	GESEK Christian	Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Justiz
B	MOREAU Damien	Ministère de la Justice
B	DE VOS Dominique	Agence pour la simplification administrative
B	ROELANDS Marc	Ministère des Affaires économiques
B	UYTTENDAELE Caroline	Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap
B	SCHRAM Frankie	Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken
D	ROHM Jürgen	Permanent Representation of Germany at the EU
DK	HJARUP Søren	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
DK	MORTENSEN Søren	National IT and Telecom Agency
DK	FOG Aia Rebecca	National IT and Telecom Agency
E	ATORRASAGASTI Ignacio	Permanent Representation of Spain at the EU
EI	MADDEN Carmel	IS Polixy Unit - Department of Taoiseach
EL	PRIFTIS Anthanasios	Ministry of Economy and Finance
F	FERRAGNE André	Services du Premier ministre
F	DE BEAUREGARD Sophie	Délégué au développement et à la société de l'information

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Group to Promote Digital Public Data

21st June 2002, CCAB, Brussels

Member State	Name	Organisation
F	DE BILLY Aziane	Météo France
IT	D'AVINO Pasquale	Permanent Representation of Italy at the EU
LU	FELLER Luc	Ministère d'Etat
NL	GAINDA Rishma	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
NL	HOLLEBOOM Victor	Permanent Representation of the Netherlands at the EU
PT	LEITAO Federica	ANACOM
SE	LINDH Sören	ITC Commission
UK	BRAZIER Adrian	Department of Trade & Industry - CII4
UK	WRETHAM Jim	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
CEC	FORSTER Horst	DG Information Society, Director Directorate D
CEC	MALONEY Colette	DG Information Society, Directorate D
CEC	VOLMAN Yvo	DG Information Society, Directorate D
CEC	MATTHIESSEN Jens	DG Information Society, Directorate D
CEC	BODENKAMP Johan	DG Information Society, Directorate D
CEC	BERTELOOT Pascale	Office of Publications (OPOCE)