



INSPIRE 2007/1/EP

**1st MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
SPATIAL INFORMATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
(INSPIRE)**

BRUSSELS, 26 JUNE 2007

DRAFT MINUTES

DATE : 1/7/2007

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The chairman opened the meeting welcoming all the participants to the first meeting of the committee. He reminded the principles and objectives of the INSPIRE directive, as well as the formal role of the committee: to express an opinion to INSPIRE implementing rules submitted to the committee by the Commission.

The chairman informed on the linguistic regime adopted for the interpretation of the first meeting: interpretation will be provided to and from DE, EN and FR.

Two delegations complained on the chosen linguistic regime for interpretation, and asked for the addition of other languages. The Commission promised to try to include other languages for the interpretation of the next committee meetings; however, due to logistic and budgetary reasons no firm commitment could be taken to extend the current regime.

2. Presentation of the members of the committee

The chairman reminded that INSPIRE is a joint initiative of DG Environment, Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre, whose roles and responsibilities have been defined in a specific Memorandum of Understanding; the meeting will therefore be co-chaired by representatives of these three DGs. The roles and responsibilities of each Commission DG, as well as their representatives in the meeting, were introduced.

During the following *tour de table* each delegate shortly presented her/himself and the organisation she/he belongs to. Many delegates reminded their previous involvement in the preparatory phase of INSPIRE, some of them having made part of the Inspire Expert Group. The list of participants is annexed to this document.

Item for approval – Rules of Procedure for the committee

3. Rules of procedure for the committee

a. The role of the committee in the overall decision making process

The Commission presented the main aspects of the general comitology procedure, as well as the specificities applicable to the INSPIRE committee.

b. Rules of procedure for the committee

The Commission shortly presented the points contained in the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the committee, submitted to its approval. It was reminded that the committee, as well as points on committee agenda, would deal both with the formal adoption of opinions on IRs submitted by the Commission (“items for opinion”, for which a vote by qualified majority will be required), and with discussion on issues submitted for an exchange of views (“items for information and exchange of views”).

The Rules of Procedure submitted for approval are based on a standard model, agreed with the Council and published on the Official Journal in all languages. The only proposed modifications, beyond the obvious inclusion of appropriate references to the INSPIRE directive, concern the inclusion of the references to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (Art. 2(b)) and the participation as observers of the EFTA countries (Art. 8(1) and footnote 4).

Discussion

Some delegations asked to extend the deadline of 14 calendar days set in article 3(1) for the Commission to send an invitation and provide the committee with the agenda, working papers and draft measures for which the committee is asked to give an opinion. The Commission proposed to leave the formal deadline set in article 3(1) at 14 calendar days, but to endeavour a working arrangement committing the Commission to submit documents as much as possible in advance, and no later than 20 calendar days before the meetings.

Several delegations required clarifications on the interpretation of Article 14, in particular a clear interpretation of the requirement set at Article 14(2), "The committee's discussions shall be kept confidential". The Commission specified that the provisions set at Article 14(2) on confidentiality mainly refer to the opinion of individual delegations, and requested to keep the proposed Rules of Procedure unchanged. However, recognizing the need to provide further information and guidance to delegations, the Commission agreed to check with its Legal Service to obtain further guidance on the extent to which the same Article has to be applied.

Vote for adoption of the committee rules of procedure

1. All Member States voted in favour. In favour: 254.
2. The EFTA/EEA countries were in favour.

c. Practical arrangements

The envisaged average frequency of the committee meetings is twice a year. Documents will be exchanged and made available to the committee members *via* a specific Interest Group on the CIRCA site (<http://circa.europa.eu>)

Items for information and exchange of views

4. Implementing Rules development

a. Workprogramme 2005-2006

The Commission presented the activities implemented in order to prepare the organizational structure necessary for the definition of the INSPIRE implementing rules. These activities, during the so-called "preparatory phase", parallel to the co-decision process leading to the adoption of the directive, were structured in a publicly available Workprogramme 2005-2006 through which the foundations of the current and future work on the implementation of INSPIRE were set up.

The necessity to take into account the broader context within which INSPIRE will operate was underlined, and the appropriate synergies with ongoing initiatives as GSDI, GEOSS, GALILEO, GMES were determined. In order to take into account INSPIRE current and potential community of users and producers, the concept of Spatial Data Interest Communities (SDIC) was defined, with the objective of bundling the human expertise of users, producers and transformers of spatial information, technical competences, financial resources and policies around already existing or ad-hoc constituted geographical or thematic communities. The concept of Legally Mandated Organizations (LMO) was also created, specifically targeting data producers.

A call for expression of interests was launched in spring 2005 in order to collect SDICs and LMOs interested in taking part in the INSPIRE Implementing Rules process. The call is still opened and the current number of registered entities sums up to more than 200 SDICs and around 120 LMOs. The same call also targeted individual experts, associated to a SDIC or a LMO, available to voluntarily contribute to the development of the INSPIRE Implementing Rules. More than 200 individuals are currently registered, constituting a pool of experts contributing as members of the INSPIRE Drafting Teams or during the validation of draft Implementing Rules, as explained in detail at point 4b on the agenda, concerning the Workprogramme 2007-2009.

b. Workprogramme 2007-2008

The Commission presented the work made so far in preparation of the INSPIRE draft Implementing Rules, and the roadmap necessary to accomplish all the obligations of the directive, from its adoption until 2019.

A Workprogramme for the period 2007-2009 (transposition phase) was recently defined and made public. It is based on a roadmap taking into account the obligations explicitly set in the directive, combined with deadlines autonomously defined, obtaining an overall interaction between the different components of the infrastructure and at the same time a consistency for the overall approach.

The Workprogramme includes the definition of the Implementing Rules development cycle, addressing drafting and testing activities, consultations of stakeholders and the general public, as well as the formal Commission Interservice consultation and the adoption process through comitology.

Items for information and exchange of views

For each of the 5 constituted Drafting Teams the first activities and achievements, as well as the plans for the next years were presented, including a detailed list of milestones and expected deliverables for the next two years.

5. Planning issues

The Commission introduced the issue explaining that it was decided to concentrate the points on discussion of this first meeting of the committee on the INSPIRE workprogramme and on the rules of procedure. Organisational issues still remain to be addressed. A crucial point is the role of the National Contact Points. Further discussion is also needed on the interactions with and roles of SDICs and LMOs, and to the feasibility of the proposed roadmap.

The Commission is open to suggestions, and could provide after the summer break a draft agenda and a more precise timing, based on the evolution of the IR on metadata drafting.

6. Any Other Business

The Commission reminded that, concerning Data Specifications, once the work will start to address the individual data themes, then the input on user requirements will become essential and will be addressed mostly on a theme by theme basis. The Commission confirmed that questions concerning the transposition of the directive in Member States should be addressed to DG Environment. The same DG will also be in charge of formally monitoring its implementation.

Participants' list

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting on 26 June 2007

1ST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (INSPIRE)

Member States

Country	Organisation	No. of participants
BE	Ministère de la Région wallonne	1
BE	Administration générale de la Documentation patrimoniale	1
BG	Ministry of Environment and Water	absent
CZ	Czech Environmental Information Agency	2
DK	Danish Ministry of the Environment	1
DE		absent
EE	Ministry of the Environment	1
IE	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government	1
EL	Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization	1
ES	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transports	1
ES	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente	1
FR	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement et de l'aménagement durables	2
FR	Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances	1
IT	Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare	absent ¹
CY	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	1
LV	Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia	absent
LT	Ministry of Agriculture	1
LU	Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union	1
HU	Ministry for Environment and Water	1
MT		absent
NL	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment	1
AT	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft	1

¹ A member of the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU attended the meeting for points 1 and 2 of the agenda.

Participants' list

PL	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration	1
PT		absent
RO	Romanian Space Agency	1
SI		absent
SK	Slovak Environmental Agency	1
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	1
SE	Ministry of the Environment	1
UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1

EFTA/EEA Countries

Country	Organisation	No. of participants
IS	Icelandic mission to the European Union	1
NO	Ministry of the Environment	1

Experts

none