



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

Directorate B: Criminal justice
Unit B.2 : Criminal law

Brussels, 16 May 2012
DG JUST B2 / SKT

Summary report of the 23rd Experts group meeting – European e-Justice Portal Brussels – 11 May 2012

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. with brief opening remarks by the European Commission (COM); the agenda was adopted.

2. EUROPEAN E-JUSTICE PORTAL STATE OF PLAY

COM gave an update on the current state of play of the Portal. The third release has been delivered 2 May 2012 to COM's test environment, the go live can be expected during the month of June 2012. It contains a number of fixes and enhancements, including

- A new version of JBoss
- Integration of ECAS - STORK
- New forms for the European Payment Order; as soon as these new forms have been published in the Official Journal, the old forms will be deleted from the European Judicial Atlas
- New link management; the responsibility for managing links on Member States' pages will be transferred to Member States

The migration of the EJN content is supposed to take place in August / September 2012 depending on the content availability (content is being prepared by the EJN contact points).

COM informed participants about the current state of play of the interconnection of insolvency registers. The implementation progresses as foreseen and will be finalised by the end of June 2012. A formal acceptance test event will take place in the afternoon of 11 May subsequent to which all other Member States will get the opportunity to test the system remotely. Integration in the Portal will take place during summer; the formal launch of the new functionality will most likely take place in September 2012. COM invited Member States to join the interconnection functionality. A maintenance and support contract will be put in place in order to provide assistance to all Member States joining the system.

As regards ECLI, a technical study for the ECLI search interface is about to be contracted. The next ECLI subgroup meeting will take place on 15 June 2012.

Work on the integration of the functionalities "find a lawyer" and "find a notary" will start in summer 2012.

Close cooperation is taking place between the responsible work package leaders of e-CODEX and the Commission given that a number of tasks (interface specifications, requirements etc.) need to be carried out within a very limited timeframe.

3. CONTENT ISSUES

COM thanked all Member States for their contributions on fundamental rights factsheets. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna intends to develop an interactive tool for citizens and will link to the pages on the European e-Justice Portal.

The updating of the fact sheets on defendants' rights is close to being finalised.

COM raised the fact that the pages on national videoconferencing facilities are the only pages that are managed by the Commission although they concern exclusively national content. According to the latest discussions in the Council Working Party on e-Justice, this system should change. In addition, it might be useful for citizens, judges and legal practitioners to have access to the national rules that apply to the use of videoconferencing. Currently, the manual and the booklet only refer to cross-border use. Member States agreed to add this kind of content. COM will prepare a short template to be completed by Member States.

Due to the migration of the EJM website, two pages of the Portal will have to be amended and supplemented by the EJM content. The Portal contact points will be asked to liaise with the EJM contact points in order to achieve a common result. For one different page, the EJM content will be migrated and subsequently complemented by the Portal content. Member States will receive an e-mail with detailed instructions.

The republishing exercise had to be postponed due to technical issues for the translation of the changes. It will now start in the week of 14 May. Member States will receive an e-mail containing instructions and a deadline (6 weeks).

4. RELEASE 3 OF THE PORTAL – DEMONSTRATION

COM presented the new features of the third release of the Portal. Member States will be responsible for the management of their links. COM runs a link check every night. Member States will receive no broken links when they take over this task.

In addition and as agreed in the previous meetings, Portal CMS administrators will receive users' questions regarding the EJM content,.

COM confirmed that the third release of the Portal is compliant with the advertised W3C standards (HTML 4.01 Strict DTD/WCAG 2.0 AA).

5. PROMOTION OF THE PORTAL

COM thanked Member States for their replies to the suggestions for law reviews and periodicals which will be addressed for an advertisement campaign. The contractor is now preparing an offer. New contributions from those Member States that have additional ideas can still be integrated. The exact timing for the promotion activities is still to be discussed.

In addition to that campaign, COM will launch more strategic promotion activities for the Portal. According to current plans, COM will prepare promotional kits which will be distributed to Member States and other possible multipliers. All major new

functionalities will be clearly communicated. In addition, the Portal will be advertised in social media platforms, and audiovisual materials (including a video message from Vice President Reding) will be prepared. Member States will be consulted on the full communication strategy as soon as it has been finalised.

ES announced that it would promote the European e-Justice Portal on the biggest national IT fair.

6. COOPERATION BETWEEN E-JUSTICE AND E-TRUSTEX

COM (DIGIT) presented e-TrustEx (see attachment) and confirmed that close cooperation is already taking place between e-TrustEx and the Large Scale Pilot Project PEPPOL. The cooperation with DG Justice for e-CODEX will formally start in June 2012 in order to prepare for the go-live of the pilot use cases in January 2013. Moreover, DG INFSO is working on a new pilot project A on basic cross-sector services. In the context of this project e-TrustEx will provide a solution for a consolidated e-Delivery service.

COM (DG Justice) emphasised the potential use of e-TrustEx for all e-Government initiatives given that it provides a customisable middleware solution that is sectorally agnostic and provides a number of out of the box services such as structured data transformation, archiving etc.

7. COURTS DATABASE

COM presented the discussion paper on the migration of the European competent court database from the European Judicial Atlas in civil matters to the European e-Justice Portal and confirmed that discussions would focus on the best technical approach to follow. The result of the discussions will be reported back to the Working Party on e-Justice which would take the subsequent decisions.

Participants agreed that as a first step, the new database would focus on the European civil law instruments like the current database on the Atlas. For this first step, Member States are not expected to provide information on all of their courts. Consequently, the "rules engine mechanism" mentioned on page 3 of the document would only cover cross-border instruments. However, the database should be constructed from the beginning in a way that it can be expanded in case it is decided to develop further functionalities which could make use of the database.

The information currently stored in the database on the European Judicial Atlas will serve as a starting point. However, it might be necessary to restructure certain fields in order to meet the business requirements. In case the current content is out-dated, COM will revert to some Member States in order to make sure that only valid content is migrated to the new database.

Participants agreed that the new database will allow Member States to update their content in two possible ways: via a tool for automated updating and via manual updates. The details of the automatic synchronisation will have to be agreed in order to find a solution that works for all Member States that would like to make use of it. It will be assured that the manual updating task can be assigned to different persons than the current CMS administrators if Member States so wish.

The multilingual authority table mentioned in point 6 of the discussion paper will be drawn up on the basis of information that already exists (e.g. at the EJN or the

Publications Office), making sure that information is precise and up to date. Most likely, the name of the court will always be provided in national language(s) and a short definition in brackets will be added given that court names are difficult, if not impossible, to translate. In any case – as stated in the document – the list will be established in close cooperation with Member States.

COM announced that it would inform the Presidency and the Chairman of the e-Justice Working Party on the agreement reached, and invite them to ensure that a final decision on this issue could be taken shortly.

8. AOB

Next meetings:

- Subgroup on ECLI: 15 June 2012
- Stakeholder Conference for the legal instrument on e-Justice: 27 June 2012
- Subgroup on the interconnection of insolvency registers: end of June (tbd)
- 24th meeting of experts on the European e-Justice Portal: September 2012 (tbd).

An updated meeting schedule will be uploaded to CIRCA in due course.

Cc: Meeting participants, Ms Lotte Knudsen (JUST Director B), JUST 01, JUST A1, JUST LIST B2