



Brussels, 12 October 2012
DG JUST B2

Summary report of the 24th Experts group meeting – European e-Justice Portal Brussels – 12 October 2012

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

2. EUROPEAN E-JUSTICE PORTAL STATE OF PLAY

The Commission informed the participants on the state of play of the projects which are currently being pursued: Release 3, e-Codex, FAL/FAN, ECLI, and IRI. Release 3 will go live on 23 October, after approval of the updated forms. E-Codex was dealt with later during the meeting (see agenda item 5), as was IRI (agenda item 4).

On ECLI, information was provided on the ongoing project to establish the technical requirements for the ECLI search engine, as well as the follow-up project for actual implementation of the search engine which will be taken forward in 2013. On FAL/FAN information was provided that the integration of these projects into the Portal will soon be contractualised. A tentative date for the integration to be finalised would be towards the end of 2013.

3. CONTENT ISSUES

The Commission stressed again the importance of ensuring that the content on the Portal is up-to-date, and pleaded with the Member States to ensure that they participate in the updating exercise, which will run from 23 October, when the new content management system will become available as part of release 3, and end November. It was stressed that the Member States are only responsible for 13 pages on the Portal, so the workload for updating that information should not be too high.

The Commission presented new enhanced features of the Content Management System and encouraged the Member States to get familiar with them by practising on the dedicated testing environment.

Subsequently, **the Commission** raised several content related items:

- amendment of the "addition of a new content to the Portal" procedure – **the Commission**, having in mind enhancement of the content addition process, suggested to replace the current obligation, to inform orally the Working Party about plans to amend so-called "Commission pages", with the written procedure (via email notification). No objections were raised by the Member States;

- migration of the Prejus website to the e-Justice Portal – the Member States were informed that the request to update two factsheets (certification and guardianship matters) will follow soon;
- news – the Member States were asked to provide content for the news section of the Portal;
- EJN migration exercise – **the Commission** presented state of play and informed that an email will follow to both e-Justice and EJN contact points with a request to cooperate on three content topics which are to be migrated to the e-Justice Portal;
- project led by Poland aiming at facilitation of civil/criminal mutual assistance between Eastern Partnership countries and the European Union – **the Commission** informed that the above project will kick off soon and that the Portal is considered to be the website which will contain the project's outcomes (multilingual forms);
- new content pages in the Portal – **the Commission** described latest developments concerning content of the Portal i.e. newly uploaded ECLI pages, new fundamental rights pages, upcoming revamp of the judicial training section and future link to the probation website;
- new Member States pages concerning EPO and small claims fees – **the Commission** informed that **the e-Codex consortium**, in the context of its pilots, came up with a proposal for new pages describing fees and payment methods for the EPO and small claims procedures covering Member States participating in the pilots. Having in mind usefulness of such pages from the citizens' perspective, **the Commission** suggested broadening the scope to cover all the Member States. It was agreed that a template for these pages will be transmitted to the Member States soon;

4. INTEGRATION OF INSOLVENCY REGISTERS - DEMONSTRATION

The Commission carried out a live demonstration of the Insolvency Registers Interconnection (IRI) project, explaining the key system features, functionalities and limitations. **The Commission** also encouraged non-participants to join.

SK asked whether there would be a possibility to utilise machine translations for non-structured insolvency-related data and files. **The Commission** explained that this is indeed on the table for future consideration. However use of machine translations in the scope of e-Justice is a horizontal item which depends on progress of the MT@EC (Machine Translations at the European Commission) project. The potential usage and benefit of machine translations will be assessed within the overall scope of all e-Justice projects and activities and Member States would be informed once the project is deemed to have reached sufficient maturity. **FI** inquired whether the current IRI implementation caters for registers which require payment and whether the issue of electronic payments would be resolved within e-CODEX to which **the Commission** replied that this [e-payments] is still a barrier not dealt with so far, but whether or not it would be within the scope of e-CODEX or its extension phase is not known at this stage.

PL informed the group that it intends to join the project in the short term – there are three separate registers or databases concerning insolvency information and ideally all of them should be gradually incorporated. **The Commission** welcomed this development and explained there is no issue to support several registers per Member States. **The Commission** promised to send all relevant technical documentation to **PL** and stated that further work will be taken on bilateral basis.

5. E-CODEX PILOTS AND THE E-JUSTICE PORTAL

The Commission informed the participants about the timeline, contractual arrangements and project governance arrangements of the integration of the e-CODEX project into the European e-Justice Portal and presented the high level technical aspects and user interface concepts developed during the first phases of this work.

LV asked about the scope of the applet developed by the Commission as part of this project, which will take care of e-signatures of the completed forms. The Commission replied that the applet is meant to cover as many of the solutions used by the piloting Member States as possible and that the decision will be made based on the results of an ongoing Gap Analysis that will be concluded by the end of November 2012.

6. COURT DATABASE

Following the green light given by the Working Party during its last meeting, **the Commission** presented its working document describing scope and planning of the implementation of the court database. The document is annexed to this report.

AT asked if the scope of the exercise could be extended to cover automated export mechanism of the national business rules and additional web-services from the database which could be reused by the e-Codex. The Commission replied that both items could be covered by the future extension of the project (subject to the agreement among the Member States).

PT supported the option to implement both suggested functionalities i.e. general search interface and the dynamic forms competent court functionality. Since some other Member States backed this position, the Commission concluded that both above items are to be covered by the scope of the project.

7. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION OF THE PORTAL

The Commission informed on the state of play of the e-Justice communication strategy, clarifying that this had been approved. However, it had been decided to wait with the start of the advertising campaign in legal periodicals until the Portal had been updated, as discussed under point 3 of the agenda.

This was followed by a *tour de table* where Member States indicated their activities in the area of promotion. Most MS made reference to including links to the Portal on their national e-justice sites/portals, with some indicating that their national web presence was being rationalised (e.g. **UK**). Many indicated that they would wait as well with additional promotion efforts until after the content update exercise.

Many MS also reported that they had held presentations to explain the e-Justice Portal at national events, e.g. at university events (**CZ, MT**). The **UK** offered to share a few slides, that had been used to promote the Portal, with the participants.

8. AOB

Annex: Commission working document on court database

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