



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

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



Brussels, 2 March 2012
DG JUST B2 / SKT

Summary report of the 22nd Experts group meeting – European e-Justice Portal Brussels – 2 March 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 second release of the Portal went live in November 2011 and received in general very positive feedback so far. COM reminded participants of the fact that the main part of the third release – the migration of the content of the EJM website – is delayed due to the fact that the EJM contact points needed more time to update their content. For this reason, the scope of release 3 has been extended to further enhancements to the back office. It is foreseen to go live with the full release in June 2012. This release will also include the reorganisation of the content structure / taxonomy as agreed in previous meetings.

COM informed participants about the current state of play of the interconnection of insolvency registers. Work within the subgroup is on track and in accordance with the initially agreed planning; the go live of the first group of interconnected insolvency registers can be expected for June 2012.

3. CONTENT ISSUES

COM emphasized the fact that keeping the content of the Portal up to date is of utmost importance. Therefore, Member States will receive an e-mail with detailed instructions on how to either "republish" content which does not require amendments (in this case, the "last update" date on the respective content items will automatically be adjusted in all language versions) or update obsolete content according to the regular procedure.

The updating of the fact sheets on victims' and defendants' rights will follow a different approach given that the content has been prepared by external contractors who also engaged to keep the content up to date for three years. The contractors will contact Member States directly in order to seek Member States' approval of the changes to the text. If Member States have comments, the contractors are asked to take them on board. In the case of disagreement between Member States and the contractors, COM will intervene in order to find a compromise version (currently the case regarding the Swedish fact sheets on defendants' rights). National bars can mention the fact that they have contributed to the fact sheets on defendants' rights (through CCBE) but should be asked to include a link to the Portal and the respective page.

The general information on ECLI of all Member States except for Italy will be published in English and national language(s) as soon as translations are ready.

Pages on fundamental rights of 7 Member States have been finalised and put online; the other Member States will follow shortly.

COM will prepare additional content on judicial training.

4. PROMOTION OF THE PORTAL

COM informed participants that the Portal had 50.000 visits in February 2012. The most visitors come from RO, PL, DE, BE, CZ.

Outcome of a "tour de table" on past and possible future promotion activities:

- **COM** will work on a communication strategy.
- **UK** presented the Portal to the Scottish Law Society and the Scottish Parliament. For the time being, there is a stronger focus on legal professionals given that citizens are harder to target in a multicultural society such as the UK.
- **FI** has been promoting the new content of the Portal and is currently preparing a separate web page on e-Justice (both for national and European e-Justice information). In addition, information about the Portal has been included in the lectures and information sessions of the ministries and the Parliament.
- **SK** provides a link to the Portal on the website of the Ministry of Justice and spreads information within the Ministry of Justice as well as other departments.
- **SI** sent out information about the Portal to universities, ministries and other governmental institutions and provided information to the press and other media through interviews.
- **RO** launched a new national portal on business registers which includes a banner to the European e-Justice Portal on every page.
- **PT** included a link to the Portal in every e-mail and encourages content managers of every Member State to work on search engine optimisation in order to direct traffic to the Portal.
- **PL** launched an information campaign in the context of the go live of the defendants' rights fact sheets and will use the go live of the next release as an occasion to further promote the Portal.
- **AT** links to the e-Justice Portal on the website of the Ministry of Justice and will increase promotion activities as soon as dynamic functionalities (such as the interconnection of insolvency registers) have gone live.
- **NL** does not have a separate website of the Ministry of Justice and therefore has no possibility to include logos or banners. However, the website of the Dutch Council for the Judiciary contains a link to the Portal. Promotion of the Portal needs to be enhanced, e.g. through consumer organisations or a more widespread use of the "news" section, in particular as new functionalities will be added to the Portal which will generate a lot of interest to the users. COM should also take every opportunity to advertise the Portal (one opportunity was missed at the conference on access to law in civil and commercial matters which took place in February 2012 in Brussels – the Portal was only mentioned by CCBE, but there was no presentation of the Portal as such although the conference was co-financed by COM).
- **MT** raises awareness of the Portal by lectures at the University of Malta.
- **HU** will increase promotion activities as soon as content updates have been finalised. There are plans to inform notaries, lawyers and law schools at post-graduate level.
- **LU** published the banner to the Portal on the first page of the website of the Ministry of Justice and included a link to the Portal on the general website

www.justice.public.lu. In addition, the Portal is mentioned at information events for students. Further activities will be discussed within specialised task forces on LU e-Justice activities.

- **LT** provides the banner of the Portal on the websites of the Ministry of Justice and the national e-Justice website and encourages the notaries and bars to also provide these links. In addition, LT mentions the Portal at every suitable event / conference etc. and plans to issue an advertising booklet on e-Justice.
- **LV** aims to increase the visibility of the Portal in the governmental and non governmental justice sector.
- **CY** includes banners to the Portal on websites which target citizens.
- **FR** links to the Portal on the website of the Ministry of Justice and aims at promoting the Portal through articles as soon as new content is added.
- **ES** provides links and banners on the internet and intranet and mentions the Portal on social networks. In addition, a specific presentation was given to judicial secretaries on how to use the dynamic forms of the Portal. Similar events might be organised for prosecutors and other legal professionals.
- **EL** links to the Portal on the website of the Ministry of Justice and the national documentation centre website. There are plans to increase promotional activities.
- **IE** links to the Portal on the national justice website and promotes the Portal within the Irish government departments and legal professionals.
- **EE** provides banners to the Portal on the website of the Ministry of Justice and will also include the banner in the new website for citizens.
- **DE** provided information about the second release of the Portal in all 16 länder including some deep link to specific content items of the Portal. In the context of e-CODEX (which will be widely presented to the public at the CeBIT in the week of 5 March 2012) the Portal will be mentioned. In addition, the e-CODEX newsletter and the web-zine of DG INFSO which will explain e-CODEX also explain the role of the Portal. DE also prepared folders and USB-keys for distribution, and will share the folders (in EN) with the rest of the group.
- **DK** provides a link to the Portal on the website of the DK court administration.
- **CZ** has sent out an information letter about the second release to universities and judges.
- **BE** is working on a communication strategy in order to spread the word horizontally.

5. FUTURE OF THE PORTAL

COM informed participants that at some future moment COM pages of the Portal will have to migrate to the new visual identity of the Commission part of which mandates the use of a new logo:



Member State pages will retain their visual identity; there might be some slight cosmetic changes which will be communicated in due course (timeline: 2013).

COM announced its plans to tackle work on the indexation of external websites after the migration of the EJM content, but due to contractual and organisational constraints there might be the need to postpone work on this issue. Member States will be informed in the next meeting of the experts group.

Some changes to the Portal will be needed in order to accommodate for the piloting phase of e-CODEX and will mainly concern the dynamic forms of the European Payment Order and Small Claims regulations.

Work on the functionalities "Find A Lawyer" and "Find A Notary" will start in summer 2012.

COM is currently in the process of contracting out an initial study on building a search engine for ECLI which might be the basis for a front office search facility on the Portal. Work will continue within the ECLI subgroup; the next meeting of that group will take place in April.

BE and NL highlighted the need to make the Portal more convenient for mobile devices given that mobile devices such as iPads are increasingly used by legal professionals. COM took note and said that development of a mobile version of the Portal is presently on, but not high on the agenda.

DE mentioned the new directive on the interconnection of business registers and the future role of the European e-Justice Portal as the central European access point. COM replied that DG MARKT will start work on the implementing and delegated acts to this directive shortly; Member States will be informed and consulted whenever necessary (timeline: 2013).

For the development work planned for 2012 COM asked Member States to provide any specific requests regarding enhancements or bug fixes by the end of March 2012 at the latest to the functional mailbox just-e-justice@ec.europa.eu

6. VIDEOCONFERENCING – OUTCOME OF THE DK PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE

DK informed participants about the outcome of the seminar on videoconferencing that took place on 16 and 17 February in Copenhagen which aimed at an in depth exchange of views on the use of videoconferencing. It provided valuable input on the setup of updated guidelines which will help to increase the use of videoconferencing in cross border judicial proceedings. The European e-Justice Portal should be the place to share knowledge and best practices.

7. E-CODEX STATE OF PLAY

DE gave an update on the current state of play of e-CODEX (see presentation) and invited Member States to consider joining the project for the extension phase.

8. AOB

Next meetings:

- subgroup on the interconnection of insolvency registers. 11, 12 or 13 April 2012
- subgroup on ECLI: April 2012
- testing subgroup: May 2012
- experts group meeting: May/ June 2012

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