



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE

Directorate B: Criminal justice
Unit B2: Criminal law

Brussels, 10 June 2013
DG JUST B2 DH / AI / PV / MM

**Report of the
7th meeting of the subgroup on the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) of the
Group of technical experts on the European e-Justice Portal
Brussels – 5 June 2013**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The meeting started at 14:30 with brief opening remarks by the European Commission (COM). COM noted that a clerical error was made in the report of the previous meeting in its part concerning the state of play of the ECJ. The following sentence: "*The European Court of Justice (ECJ) informed the group that ECLI had been introduced to the new EUR-Lex in an internal database for every decision, published in the Court Reports or not.*" Should read "*The European Court of Justice (ECJ) informed the group that ECLI had been introduced to an internal database for every decision, published in the Court Reports or not.*"

The agenda was adopted.

2. NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ECLI – TOUR DE TABLE

COM invited all participants that have not yet provided feedback to the Roadmap to do so (the ECJ, ACA-Europe, BE, DE, IT, DA, SI, BG, RO, FI, LT). A brief "tour de table" regarding the state of play of the implementation of ECLI in the participating Member States / organisations had the following outcome:

- **Finland** noted that ECLI testing is on-going in the Finnish internal system. Work on Finland's web publishing tool will be finished in September 2013. Concerning the European e-Justice Portal integration, FI informed the group that integration is planned for November/December 2013.
- **Belgium** explained that its public database is not adapted to ECLI. ECLI will not be implemented in the internal database that is for internal use only by the judges. Belgium will further inform the group on progress.
- **Bulgaria** announced it was working on defining the ECLI format for Bulgaria. Also, Bulgaria noted that it was operating a database with all decisions from all Courts, but further financing is needed. Bulgaria does not have an implementation date planned yet, but clarified that implementation would not take place in 2013.
- **Italy** informed the group that there are two pilot projects in progress: one for the local courts to be completed by the end of October 2013 and one for the Supreme Courts which has not yet started. Both projects are on civil matters.
- **The Publication Office** offered to provide an updated version of the document uploaded by COM on the generation of CELEX numbers and noted it had remarks concerning the translation of Court names.

- **Germany** reported no major developments since the previous meeting.
- The **European Court of Justice (ECJ)** informed the group that a decision on the 5th part of ECLI will be made very soon. The ECJ's intention is to be ready for the 8 October 2013 deadline for integration testing.
- **ACA Europe** reported that it is currently implementing ECLI (planned to complete by the end of July) and integration is foreseen for the beginning of September. ACA Europe mentioned that as they were only a publisher of case law decisions the initial data payload would be low.
- The **Netherlands** stated that they aim to go live with their new case law system by the end of June 2013 (provisional date).
- **Spain** noted that all necessary software for the generation of the metadata has been developed. A discussion took place concerning the use of whitespace in the ECLI court code. COM and NL confirmed that this was indeed not allowed pursuant to the Council Conclusions. Regarding the Roadmap, the integration is foreseen by the end of September.
- **The Czech Republic** reported that a few problems have been reported by ARHS, but none of them are serious.
- **France** reported having three Supreme Courts and noted that it is not possible to set a date for integration at this stage as it had first to reach agreement with them
- **The European Patent Office** reported being in the development phase. ECLI could be displayed by the end of June, together with the rest of the decisions in their system.
- **Slovenia** reported that having implemented ECLI in a batch of 4 000 decisions they were now technically ready to go for full implementation.
- **The Network of Supreme Courts** confirmed their observer status in the group.

3. PORTAL IMPLEMENTATION

ARHS Developments gave a presentation on the state of play and the overall project planning, provided a review of the integration testing process and presented an initial system prototype based on real world test data from CZ, SI and DE.

Stakeholders were presented the search and advanced search user interface of the initial prototype system.

France asked to be provided with samples of data already integrated in the prototype. Other members of the group did not object to France's request.

The User Interface of the prototype was based on having a drop down list of countries and then the possibility to select a Court. This idea was endorsed by the group, but the group specified that it should be possible to select multiple countries, as well as categories of courts. All entries will be uniquely identified by their ECLI court code for each country. Belgium proposed linking the national code with the ECLI code. Germany noted using alternative names for one single Court and that this could be a problem. It was agreed that such alternate names can be provided between brackets.

It was agreed to limit the effect of the language selection to the availability of the following metadata elements in the desired language: title, abstract, description and the judgement text (if available). The possible use of CAPTCHA was also discussed and it was agreed not to use one for the purposes of the ECLI search interface in the Portal. It was also agreed that there should be a possibility to select multiple languages per search.

The group took the decision to introduce four categories of Courts (namely, 1st instance, 2nd instance, 3rd instance and others). After a proposal of Belgium, the group decided to take out the search option on "coverage", as this is not always relevant for every Member State. The "references" field will take its place.

COM communicated the recent decision of the e-Justice experts group to not have translations of national court names. COM stated that therefore court names will be displayed in the user's language if available. If the court name is not translated in the user's language, all available translations should be displayed (separated by a "/"). The category (ies) the court belongs to should also be indicated.

Several other features were raised by participants (export of results, print friendly version, saved searches, infinite scrolling) and the Commission stated that although these are beyond the scope of the initial release they will be tracked for implementation in a future version.

4. AOB

Under AOB, COM informed the group that there is a pilot project in the Court of Milano with the aim to implement ECLI and briefed the group on the use of ECLI aliases planned in Italy, which could pose a problem and needs to be considered. Italy explained the problems related to identifying the code of the region and of the authority.

COM asked the group to approve the list of translated decision types and fields of law as provided on CIRCABC prior to the meeting – the list was approved.

Finally, on the Court codes reference data, COM stated it will provide a revised template including the court categories classification and set a deadline for filling the table and sending it back by the end of June 2013.

In conclusion, COM thanked participants and informed them that the next ECLI sub-group meeting would take place in the last week of September 2013.

Cc: Meeting participants, e-Justice Portal expert group, Ms Lotte Knudsen (JUST Director B)