EUROPEAN ARCHIVES GROUP / EUROPEAN BOARD OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
JOINT MEETING  
VILNIUS, 9 OCTOBER 2013  

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The minutes of the previous meeting in Dublin were approved by written procedure on 15 August 2013 and are available on EUROPA: ec.europa.eu/archival-policy.

Point 2 of the draft agenda concerning a presentation on the EU Historical Archives was postponed till the following meeting. The adapted draft agenda was approved.

2. Draft General European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

State of play

Karel Velle (BE, chair of EURBICA) reported on the steps undertaken since the Dublin meeting on 3 April 2013.
- Karel Velle and Martin Berendse spoke with the chair of the Council Working Party DAPIX to explain the position of the National Archives. This led to a note by the Irish Presidency in early May.
- France proposed a specific exemption for data processing for archiving purposes.
- The French proposal served as a basis for a EURBICA proposal which was made available to the member states representatives in DAPIX.
- The Lithuanian Presidency proposed amendments to the provisions concerning processing for historical, statistical and scientific research purposes (art. 83) to the DAPIX meeting of 22 July. Member states were asked to submit their comments.

Peter Handley (COM) reported that at the 22 July DAPIX meeting the Commission underlined that the new data protection Regulation should not provide less protection for data subjects than the 1995 directive. It also warned that a possible exemption for private archives should not provide a general escape route from the provisions of the Regulation. Furthermore, it considered that derogations referring to national legislation could go against the core purpose of the Regulation to harmonise the rules across the EU and promote 'jurisdiction shopping'.

Hervé Lemoine (FR) stressed that the exception in the draft Regulation allowing the processing of personal data for historical purposes was insufficient because archives also serve other public interests which require that they preserve personal data. Michael Hollmann (DE) and several others stressed that archives have a long history of dealing with and protecting personal data. The ensuing discussion focussed on the...
public interest of archives and whether and to what extent private archives should be covered by the exceptions.

Martine Berendse (NL) called on his colleagues to be vigilant and to stay in contact with their representatives in the Council. A small working group of Karel Velle, Hervé Lemoine, himself and one or two others would continue to monitor developments and inform colleagues. The National Archivist representing the EU Presidency was asked to stay in contact with the chair of DAPIX.

*Development of a European code of conduct*

Further discussion on a code of conduct was postponed until there is more clarity on the Regulation, both with respect to the exceptions for archives and with respect to Codes of Conduct.

3. **Open data and re-use of public sector information – latest developments**

Carol Tully of TNA was unable to attend the meeting to present the G8 charter and UK action plan on open data. Peter Handley gave a short introduction to the subject which will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

He noted that open data is about recognising the value of public sector information both for economic activity and for the transparency and accountability of governments. The G8 has adopted an open data charter which promotes open data by default and calls for action plans from its members to make core data sets available via open data portals. The G8 is monitoring the process and will seek to extend the initiative to the G20. The Commission has submitted a paper on EU implementation of the open data charter. The co-chair reminded the meeting that the amended Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information extends the Regulation to cultural heritage institutions, including archives. Archives need to consider the implications of implementing the Directive.

After a short discussion the meeting agreed to have a more substantive discussion on open data and the consequences for archives at the next meeting in Athens.

4. **The e-ARK project**

Zoltán Szatuscek (HU) presented the E-ARK (European Archival Records and Knowledge Preservation) project, which will start in February 2014 with EU funding for a period of three years. The objective of the project is to harmonize processes for digital archival at the European level for a range of data from different types of source including record management systems and databases. It aims to develop standards for the acquisition, preservation and dissemination (including re-use) of archives, i.e. the SIP, AIP and DIP in line with the OIAS model. E-ARK brings together a core group of European national archives (Denmark, Estonia, Slovenia, Norway and Hungary), four leading research institutions, three private companies, two government agencies, the Digital Preservation Coalition and the DLM Forum, which will work on interfacing Moreq to Archives. Other national archives can contribute to the project through the Archival Advisory Board in order to ensure that E-ARK outputs remain compatible with international standards and existing tools/infrastructures. ZS promised to report on the progress of the project at the meetings of EAG/EBNA.
5. Progress reports

*The European Archives Portal*

Gerrit de Bruin (APEX project coordinator) reported that the signature of the content provider agreements (CPAs) was progressing well. Priorities for project management are to monitor content delivery to ensure that the objectives are met and to promote cooperation with other projects with a view to sharing infrastructure. GdB promised to report more fully on the progress with respect these objectives at the next meeting in Athens.

*DLM Forum*

Jon Garde (Chair DLM Forum) gave an explanation of the DLM vision on Information Governance. He reported on the projects that DLM will undertake in 2014, including participation in the E-ARK project, the completion of further MoReq modules and the organisation of a triennial conference in Lisbon in the autumn. The triennial conference will have strong Information Governance stream that will serve to launch an annual InGov conference. JG noted that the DLM Forum had reformed its finances but was still in need of funds to carry forth its activities. He therefore requested asked the National Archives to pay their contributions for 2014 as soon as possible and preferably even before the start of the new year.

*Disaster prevention and recovery*

Barbara Berska (PL) reported on the workshop hosted by the Czech Republic in Třeboň from 9 to 13 September 2013. Archivists from Slovakia, Poland, Germany and the host country participated. The workshop was funded by the participating archives. The purpose is to 'train the trainers' and create a core European disaster recovery training group.

6. AOB

- Jef Schram (COM) reported on the peer review of records management practice at the European Commission. Four NA and the European Central Bank had nominated volunteers for the review. The review group had started work and an onsite visit to the Commission in Brussels was scheduled for 15 - 16 October. The review exercise serves as a pilot project for EAG/EBNA.

- The meeting was reminded of the decisions and recommendation in the 2012 Progress Report to the Council and the consequences of those decisions are not always easy. He asked the Commission to circulate the report again and to have a more in-depth discussion on its implementation at the next meeting.

- Peter Handley announced that he will move to another post in the Secretariat General of the Commission in January 2014 and will be replaced by a colleague at the next meeting in Athens. He had enjoyed chairing the meetings of the EAG over the past five years and thanked the participants for their support.
Closing Session

Peter Handley thanked the Lithuanian EU presidency for hosting the meeting and Ramojuš Kraujelis and his team for their hospitality.

Mariette Minotos, Director of the General State Archives of Greece, invited the participants to Athens on 5 and 6 June 2014 for the next EBNA conference and joint EAG/EBNA meeting.