

**Raising the awareness of the
Democratic Process
related to the
proposed
EU INSPIRE Directive**

**A consolidation of emails submitted to the
European GI Policy forum
By
Chris Corbin**

Research Document 1/2006

Author: C.E.H. Corbin
Date: 31st August 2006
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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

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The emails consolidated within this report have been disseminated on the European Geographic Information Policy forum during 2006. <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/> As such they may be reproduced providing all references are made to this document or the original email submitted to the EGIP list, or the EGIP list itself.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Introduction

This report contains a collation of the submissions to the European Geographic Information Policy (EGIP) forum on items of reference and information regarding the state of play with respect to the INSPIRE Directive within Europe. This report also provides a single source of references to relevant public sector documents and web sites related to spatial data infrastructures and in particular INSPIRE. Responses to the individual emails have not been included unless they were reflected to the EGIP forum on the basis that the individual has not expressly indicated that they do not wish their response to be in the public domain.

In collating the submissions small typographic errors in the original emails have been corrected.

The collation covers the period 1st January 2006 through to 31st August 2006.

Summary of interventions included within this document.

Name	Country	Number of Submissions	Number of Primary Submissions	Number of Secondary Submissions
Christopher Corbin	UK	51	37	17
Robert Barr	UK	2	-	2
Pasquale Di Donato	Italy	1	-	1
Andrew Frank	Austria	4	-	4
Michael Gould	Spain	3	-	3
Frank Hoffman	Germany	2	-	2
Jojn Leonard	UK	2	-	1
Roger Longhorn	Belgium	5	-	5
Dave Lovell	UK	2	-	2
Martin Malliet	Belgium	3	-	3
Anders Ostman	Sweden	7	-	7
Mark Probert	UK	1	-	1
Carl Reed	US	1	-	1
Robin Waters	UK	1	-	1
Total (14)	8	85	37	57

Time distribution for submissions made by Christopher Corbin

Month	Number of Primary Submissions	Number of Secondary Submissions
August	2	1
July	6	-
June	10	10
May	4	3
April	-	-
March	6	1
February	7	2
January	2	-
Total (8 months)	37	17

This document comprises of 136 pages in total.

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Update 37/2006, 29th August 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 29 Aug 2006 09:28:33 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 37/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 37/2006

In case you need some examples of how the proposed INSPIRE Directive may help Europe (or you interested in FP7) and you did not attend the Early Warning Information Signals Science & Industry Lunch held in Brussels on 8th June 2006 (Reference: http://crosstalks.vub.ac.be/past_events/2006_ews&info/about_ews&infos.html#pics) or perused the presentation (66 slides) titled:

Future Challenges of European Disaster Research, given by Karen Fabbri DG Information Society and Media then a visit to the following URL may be of interest:

http://crosstalks.vub.ac.be/past_events/2006_ews&info/Karenfabbri_EWS.pdf

As a passing thought I wonder how many of the participants are subscribers to the EGIP forum and what they believe the importance of being able to find and retrieve data when a disaster occurs?

Regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 36/2006, 30th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Sun, 30 Jul 2006 10:40:00 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 36/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 36/2006

Just in case you have not spotted it, on the 13th July 2006 the European Environmental Bureau (<http://www.eeb.org>) published its Memorandum to the Finnish European Union Presidency. The memorandum (45 pages) maybe downloaded from the following URL:
http://www.eeb.org/publication/Memorandum_to_the_Finnish_Presidency_130706.pdf

On pages 37 and 38 the EEB makes recommendations with respect to INSPIRE which has been copied here for ease if you are short of time.

“5.9.2. INSPIRE

The Commission's proposal for an INSPIRE (INfrastructure for Spatial InfoRmation in the European Union) Directive is a highly-innovative attempt to mobilise the new technical possibilities provided by Geographic Information Systems, massive data storage and management and the internet for improved, better-informed environmental policy-making and implementation. If the Commission's proposals are adopted, it will oblige Member States to link their spatial environmental data to a common European infrastructure accessible to EEB Memorandum to the Finnish EU Presidency the general public. Its key function will be to support the understanding, implementation and control of environmental policies. It would considerably increase the benefits of the €10bn annual investment in data collection throughout the EU, ensuring that these data are used in the most efficient way, avoid double monitoring, reduce bureaucracy and support well-informed environmental policy-making.

The Council in its first reading, however, decided to give preference to the protection of intellectual property rights, thereby fatally weakening the Commission's proposal. The INSPIRE Directive will go into a conciliation procedure under the Finnish Presidency. Both the original Commission's proposal and Parliament's first and second reading consolidated text prioritised the need for access to information. The Commission has not supported the first Council agreement as it 'falls well short of the overall level of ambition that is essential for this Proposal'. Also, Parliament, in its second reading, in July, reinstated the Commission proposal's most important elements.

The EEB calls on the Finnish Presidency:

• To ensure that a conciliation agreement on INSPIRE will include the removal of existing barriers concerning public access to data, sharing data between public authorities and re-use by third parties. In this way also reinforcing the aims of Aarhus to guarantee the right of public access to environmental information by or for public authorities and more generally the availability and dissemination of such information, reducing bureaucracy and strengthening enforcement of EU law.”

Now I wonder whether this has been taken into account by the European Council in the INSPIRE document reference number 12017/06? (Reference EGIP Intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 35/2006, 28 July 2006 1701 hours)

If INSPIRE is to have an impact it needs to take into account the above, as confirmed by the European Commission in the original draft of the proposed INSPIRE Directive, the European Parliament and countless data users all across Europe.

There is still a need for lobbying to be taking place on INSPIRE!

Regards

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 35A, 28th August 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 28 Aug 2006 23:13:12 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 35A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 35A/2006

Further to EGIP intervention dated 28th July 2006 subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 35/2006.

It would appear that the Council of the European Union have made a rod for their own back, especially with respect to INSPIRE! It is interesting to note that democracy is unable to work with respect to INSPIRE as papers cannot be released as there is clearly something very sensitive about the matter!

If you have made a request for the below mentioned INSPIRE related document you may well have received the following response just as I did dated the 22nd August 2006:

Due to the heavy workload caused by a very large number of requests received, the time limit for the General Secretariat to reply to your application has to be extended by 15 working days, in accordance with Article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Official Journal L 145, 31.05.2001, p. 43).

Signed on the behalf of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Brussels.

With respect to the EGIP intervention requesting translations from Jo (Walsh) dated 26th August 2006 – the greater the number of translations the better – it is yet a further demonstration of the strength of feeling of many geo-spatial users all across Europe to those making the decisions at Member State level.

It is odd that that in recent days when the European Commission under the i2010 initiative makes announcements about digital libraries (where one can browse the meta data for no charge), one can download software on trial from software producers, etc.; that when it comes to data there seems to be a body of opinion that feels that searching for data is not a benefit to be enjoyed by all, nor is it a benefit to view the item one may wish to purchase and see whether it is fit for purpose. Some where someone has lost the plot with respect to spatial data infrastructures.

Lets hope the delicate negotiations going on behind closed doors across Europe result in the right outcome – otherwise we will be writing about this very same matter in 2015 just as we were in 1995!
By then the world will have moved on....perhaps the benefits to be derived from a spatial data infrastructure will have been obtained via other means by 2015.

Regards

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 35/2006, 28th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 28 Jul 2006 17:01:31 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@irc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 35/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 35/2006

Democracy at work!

You may have noticed that a Council document relating to the proposed INSPIRE Directive has been placed in the archive – however at this moment it is not generally available! Perhaps all subscribers should submit a request via the appropriate form!

Document Number: 12017/06
Title: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE)
Content: (!) [N/A](#)
Interinstitutional File: 2004/0175(COD)
Subject Matter: ENV 422
STATIS 60
RECH 199
CODEC 805
Document Category: NOTE
Originator: General Secretariat
Addressee: Delegations
Document Date: 26-07-2006
Date of Meeting:
Archive Date: 27-07-2006
Document Language: EN

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Response 1 to Update 34/2006: Martin Malliet 28th July 2006

From: Martin MALLIET mallietm@ngi.be

Date: Fri, 28 Jul 2006 10:43:01 +0200

To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: Defence Committee on Met Office (July 2006) - PSI commercialisation in a sandbox

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/823/823.pdf>

Conclusion 3 (paragraph 19): "We (House of Commons Defence Committee) found no suggestion that the Met Office's obligations to generate income and pursue commercial opportunities had an adverse effect on its public service role, or its service to the MoD and Armed Forces."

Either they haven't been looking very seriously, or they have a peculiarly narrow understanding of the Met Office's public service role, excluding such things as the global exchange of weather data, on which the adverse effects of government commercialisation are known since a long time: Weiss, Peter N., "International Information Policy in Conflict: Open and Unrestricted Access versus Government Commercialization," in "Borders in Cyberspace," Kahin and Nesson, eds., MIT Press 1997 (http://www7.nationalacademies.org/besr-publicprivate/International_Information_Policy.doc and http://www.ofcm.gov/sai/proceedings/pdf/02_panell_pt1-5.pdf).

Publishing conclusions that are so obviously WRONG can only be understood as a FAILURE of democratic control.

"True" commercial revenue is around £20,5m per year or 12,5% of total turnover, but they (Met Office) recognise that they "need people who have a very highly developed competence in that area [commercial] and they are not typically to be found within the Civil Service".

So they transformed themselves into a performance based Trading Fund in 1996, causing all sorts of serious trouble by making data and information artificially scarce because they needed the commercial revenue, and ten years later they're still not making more than £20,5m per year because they are admittedly not very good at it! And what is the ONLY justification for this, justification they repeat over and over again? A profit of about £4,5m per year "offsetting the cost to the taxpayer"! £4,5m! Because £20,5m is turnover, of which £16m are thus avoidable costs related to those commercial activities. The other £145m of annual turnover are "competed inside government (if you will)".

So we have an annual £4,5m profit "offsetting the cost to the taxpayer" on the one hand, and an incalculable deadweight loss of user value on the other hand due to monopolistic government commercialisation making data and information artificially scarce; a deadweight loss NOBODY even seems to care about, not the Met Office, nor the Defence Committee. (The trouble caused by government commercialisation within the WMO weather data exchange system may actually cost lives in Bangladesh, Peter Weiss one day explained to me, and I think James Boyle has more on it at <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/cd58c216-8663-11d9-8075-00000e2511c8.html>.)

Under 'private sector involvement' they (the Committee) examine the failure of a commercial joint venture "to provide brokerage, data and services to the global weather derivatives market", a market that "was considered to be particularly attractive because of its success in the United States", concluding that "the Met Office must do more to test the business case of commercial ventures, and seek to bring greater business acumen into the organisation"; but they are nowhere interested in understanding how this market actually works, nor why it is so successful in the United States. (Mind you, this is about a very specialised market of FINANCIAL derivatives from weather forecasts, not about the WHOLE market of weather data.)

When I wrote in an earlier message that "the detrimental effects of monopolistic government commercialisation are generally not very well understood", this appears to be a gross understatement: they are often not even recognised at all (nowhere in 99 pages of evidence)!

The general impression I get from this is that the Met Office Trading Fund is actually more like a

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SANDBOX, a sandbox for civil servants and members of Parliament alike to toy with the idea of "pursuing commercial opportunities", while being totally unaware, as they express it themselves, of its "adverse effects on the public service role" (the provision of weather data and information as a public good), nor, as they admit it themselves, very good at it.

As I also wrote in an earlier message, something must be SERIOUSLY WRONG when things can get so far out of line without the Treasury stepping in (supposing the Treasury still has the essential task of guarding economic orthodoxy).

[You may wonder why I'm putting in all this effort to deconstruct bureaucratic fallacies in the UK. The answer is simple: I've been doing this for over 15 years now inside my own Belgian PSB, to no avail. Government commercialisation of PSI in the UK is something like the "Shining Path" to many PSBs in Europe. Whereas I KNOW that it is nothing else than TR, and has never been anything else than TR for all those years. And this may very well be the MAIN OBSTACLE for a campaign such as 'free our data': you can only WIN by exposing very official policies, that have been conducted for many years, as what they are, namely TR, exposing many people in the process, people with influence, pride and €150.000 salaries. In 1999 (I think it was), Geoffrey Robinson resigned as DG of OS after only one year in the job. I never knew why: he never told me, and his friends said he didn't want to make it public. I know how OS people saw it: captain abandoning ship. I tend to think myself that he just came to the conclusion that he had made a mistake when accepting the job, because he could not see himself managing a Crown Copyright monopoly as a 600-pound gorilla dominating the market place, in a sort of permanent and complicated struggle to maintain the balance between all those antagonistic customers, antagonistic struggle that must then be glossed over in an endless repetition of unconvincing public performances by himself, when deep down he knew that it was just plain wrong for government to go beyond the minimalistic approach towards the provision of data and information as a public good.]

PS: It doesn't look to me as if the story of weatherXchange was particularly 'scandalous'. The other 'partner' didn't invest any cash into the joint venture, they just brought 'market expertise', of which one may wonder what it was really worth, when the Met Office could so quickly learn how to do without it. The investment of £1,5m into the joint venture they then decided to write off, may even have been offset by the proceeds they didn't have to share anymore with the other 'partner'. What it does show though is that these 'joint ventures' or 'partner relationships', which play such an important role in the commercial exploitation of a government monopoly on PSI, are INEVITABLY MURKY, because the abuse of a DOMINANT POSITION in the market can never lead to anything else but murky deals.

--

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Update 34/2006 27th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 27 Jul 2006 08:14:24 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 34/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 34/2006

Further to EGIP interventions INSPIRE Democratic Process 18A/2006 dated 29th May 2006 at 2051 hours and EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 18B/2006 dated 1st June 2006 at 1316 hours regarding the UK Parliament House of Commons Defence Select Committee inquiry into the operation of the UK MET Office (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).

The House of Commons Defence Select Committee published on the 26th June 2006 its report on the inquiry which can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/823/823.pdf>

The House of Commons Defence Committee report (99 pages in length) has the title: **Tenth Report: The work of the Met Office**, Reference HC 823

The report makes interesting reading! A wealth of information contained within it.

Regards

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Update 33/2006 27th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 27 Jul 2006 06:46:04 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 33/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 33/2006

The UK Guardian Newspaper Technology section (<http://technology.guardian.co.uk>) this week carries an article on the proposed INSPIRE Directive and how the UK position seems to be parochial and focussed on a potential impact rather than focused on the real objectives behind the proposed INSPIRE Directive. The article titled *UK fights against tide on data directive* Michael Cross, Thursday July 27, 2006 is yet another example that supports the Guardian campaign to Free Our Data (<http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/>)

The article can be read at URL: <http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/story/0,,1830466.00.html>

If you have comments on the above mentioned UK Guardian newspaper article then besides sharing them with other EGIP subscribers you may wish to make an entry on the Free Our data blog at

<http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/blog/index.php> as there will be a summary on the article which enables interactive debate.

If you are based in another European country that would benefit from the implementation of the proposed INSPIRE Directive as originally intended then here is an opportunity to voice your view as to the benefits that can be derived from INSPIRE especially those related to European Citizens.

If you are interested in the background to the Guardian Newspaper campaign on Free Our Data (FOD) then perusing the interview recently published at *Meme Therapy: Life from a science fiction point of view* would be worth your while

http://memetherapy.blogspot.com/2006/07/guardians-charles-arthur-on-free-our_26.html

As the above mentioned interview with Charles Arthur of the Guardian Newspaper indicates there is a constant flow of examples being raised by a broad spectrum of people within UK Society related to the UK Governments policy on charging for some categories of public sector data and how these issues can have a detrimental effect on society.

There is still much to be learnt about how to adapt to the global Information Society and Knowledge Economy.

What ever your views on the proposed INSPIRE Directive why not join in the debate either here on the EGIP forum or the Guardian blog – it is not often that the mass media pick up interest in INSPIRE – exercise your democratic right!

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Update 32/2006 26th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Wed, 26 Jul 2006 17:38:56 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 32/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 32/2006

The UK Ordnance Survey of Great Britain (<http://www.ordnancesurvey.gov.uk>) has highlighted the potential risk of the proposed INSPIRE Directive to its business under the heading risk management on page 19 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 that were published on the 25th July 2006 following approval to be printed by the UK Houses of Parliament on the 24th July 2006 (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>). See below for copies of the text and parliamentary approval.

The annual report can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/aboutus/reports/annualreport/05-06/docs/annual-report-and-accounts-2005-06.pdf>

The Ordnance survey press release can be browsed at URL:

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/media/news/2006/july/annualreport.html>

Following extract from the Ordnance Survey Annual Report page 19 column 1

Risk management

Most risks to Ordnance Survey are mitigated effectively through monitoring the market and the technological, political and social environments in which we operate and implementing proactive strategies to sustain the business.

A number of risks fall outside immediate management control. These presently relate to:

- Potential changes to European legislation that could impact on Ordnance Survey's ability to set appropriate prices to cover costs and generate a surplus sufficient to meet return on capital targets. In particular, the outcome of the proposed legislation to harmonise the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) may have a significant impact; and
- Increasing competition, much of this arising from global players, along with significant technological developments.

The following copied from the UK Parliament web site

House of Commons 24th July 2006

33 Government Trading Funds — Report and Accounts of Ordnance Survey for 2005-06, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed [No. 1277] [Clerk of the House].

House of Lords 24th July 2006

5. Report and Accounts for 2005-06 of the Ordnance Survey, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General, laid under the Government Trading Funds Act 1973;

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Update 31/2006 24th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 24 Jul 2006 22:00:12 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 31/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 31/2006

The UK Geographic Information Panel (<http://www.gipanel.org.uk>) has published the minutes of the panel meeting held on the 27th June 2006. The minutes contain under 2 Matters Arising (d) set out the points made with respect to INSPIRE.

The minutes state that a briefing paper had been circulated – there appears to be no visibility of this paper on the Panels web site! A lack of transparency is not the best way to carry a broad spectrum of stakeholders that have an interest in the proposed INSPIRE Directive within the UK.

The following is the relevant extract from the minutes available from URL
<http://www.gipanel.org.uk/docs/GIPanelMinutesJune06approved.pdf>

d INSPIRE

A briefing paper had been circulated. In discussion, the following points were made:

- The reasons for the Directive were summarised as the provision of geographic information to allow cost-effective European Commission grant making & response to environmental situations such as flooding.*
- The Scope of the Directive is initially environmental information, but is expected to be extended to other sectors, such as agriculture and transport. Implementation of the Directive is expected in 2009/10.*
- The emphasis of the Directive has been on data sharing, rather than focussing on the economic impact of its implementation. The fit of the Directive with existing legislation such as the Public Sector Information Regulations and Access to Environmental Information Regulations is still to be determined.*
- The effect of the Directive could be to compromise investment in information management.*
- UK Government supports the principle of the Directive of supporting data harmonisation and efficient data sharing, but does not support the setting of data licensing policy by the Commission.*
- NS (NS: Nick Starling (Association of British Insurers)) said that EU wide initiatives should not cut across good work being done in the UK: unlike much of the rest of the EU, the private sector in the UK shares flood risk (via insurance). The Secretariat will arrange for a briefing on Inspire for NS and relevant ABI colleagues.*

Regards

Chris

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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 30/2006 10th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 10 Jul 2006 23:27:13 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 30/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 30/2006

In a letter to fellow Environment Ministers within each Member State the Finnish Environment Minister Jan-Erik Enestam wrote:

I would also like to draw your attention to a number of challenging second readings. We hope to reach an agreement on LIFE+, INSPIRE and the groundwater directive. Needless to say, these will require a lot of work and spirit of compromise on all sides.

The letter dated 3 July 2006 and which was published on the Finnish Presidency web site (<http://www.eu2006.fi>) on the 8th July 2006 can be downloaded (English version) from URL:

http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/other_documents/vko27/en_GB/1152292126706/_files/75516634049217638/default/enestam_letter.pdf

OR http://www.eu2006.fi/eu_and_policy_areas/policy_areas/en_GB/environment/

The above comment on the need for compromise is the same message given by the Austrian Presidency representative at the Gävle Conference back in April 2006.

It will be interesting to observe whether the Informal Environment Ministers Meeting scheduled to be held in Turku in southwest Finland on the 14th to 16th July 2006 will consider how to reach a conciliation agreement on the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

The Finnish Environment Minister Jan-Erik Enestam statement above reconfirms the statement included at page 34 of the Operational Programme of the Council for 2006 submitted by the incoming Austrian and Finnish Presidencies. The programme was published in Brussels, 22 December 2005, Reference: 16065/05, POLGEN 51 that can be downloaded from URL:
http://www.eu2006.fi/the_presidency/en_GB/work_programme/ (all languages) OR

http://www.eu2006.fi/the_presidency/en_GB/work_programme/_files/75197089060421975/default/st16065.en05.pdf

Page 34 is copied here for ease of reference:

ONGOING LEGISLATIVE WORK

The Council intends to conclude work on the financial instrument for the environment (LIFE Plus Regulation), the Directive on an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) and the Groundwater Directive. Work will be finalised on the Regulation of certain fluorinated greenhouse gases, the Batteries Directive and the Regulation of the Aarhus Convention.

Regards, Chris

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 29/2006 6th July 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 06 Jul 2006 18:18:56 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 29/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 29/2006

The proposed INSPIRE Directive utilises the European Union Comitology procedure for implementing INSPIRE.

The European Parliament has endorsed by a majority the compromise reached with representatives of the Commission and the Council.

Once endorsed by the Council the new procedure will come into force and as such the European Parliament has the power to block decisions taken by the Commission when implementing Directives.

For further information please see below.

Regards

Chris

Chris (Corbin)

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Telephone: +44 (0) 1273 553110
email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

Copied from URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-9495-186-07-27-901-20060629IPR09380-05-07-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm

New deal on comitology: Parliament can block Commission decisions

The European Parliament endorsed, by an overwhelming majority, the compromise reached with representatives of the Commission and the Council on the so-called comitology procedure. The new agreement allows MEPs, for the first time, to block implementing decisions taken by the Commission. It also means Parliament will be informed of these decisions in all official languages and extends the time available for Parliamentary scrutiny.

In the debate held on Wednesday 5 July, rapporteur Richard **CORBETT** (PES, UK) said: "with this agreement, there is a transformation of the situation". According to him, the new compromise improves "accountability and transparency of the whole Community system."

After five months of negotiation, undertaken on behalf of the Parliament by Mr Corbett and Joseph **DAUL** (EPP-ED, FR), the three EU Institutions agreed to reform the current comitology system, which gives no real blocking power to MEPs. The agreement also improves Parliament's rights to be informed, by ensuring that the Commission provides detailed information on all comitology activities in all official languages.

The new compromise: main achievements for the Parliament

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

The main accomplishment of the new agreement is the new article 5 of a Council Decision modifying the 1999 act on the implementing rights of the Commission (1999/468/EC). This introduces a new Regulatory procedure with scrutiny. According to the new procedure, Parliament will be able to block, by an absolute majority of MEPs (i.e. 367 votes are needed for the resolution to pass), quasi-legislative implementing measures under co-decision legislation by simply saying "No". If this happens, the Commission cannot enact the measures and has to propose either a new comitology decision or a new legislative act under the co-decision procedure.

The system of transmission of information from the Commission to Parliament has been improved. At present, documents are delivered in one or up to three languages. The Commission has now agreed to set up a detailed information system on all comitology committees' activities in all Parliaments' official languages. The time limit for MEPs to scrutinise the proposed decisions is increased from one month to three, extendable to four for the most complex issues. The clock will start ticking only when the EP has received full documentations in all official languages.

The EU legislator - when the co-decision procedure is used, this means the Parliament and the Council - often delegates powers to Commission to adopt the detailed measures need to implement legislation. The comitology system enables the Council to scrutinise the work of the Commission and, in most important cases, to block its decisions. The comitology procedures have been criticised since their introduction, mainly because Parliament does not enjoy the same rights as the Council, despite its role as co-legislator. At present, the Commission, when exercising these delegated implementing powers, can proceed with decisions, even if the Parliament opposes them. With the new agreement, Parliament and Council are now put on equal footing for all comitology procedures related to co-decision acts.

The agreement and the associated Joint Declaration must be ratified by all three institutions to come into force. The Commission formally approved the texts on 22 June.

REF.: 20060629IPR09380

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 28/2006 30th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 30 Jun 2006 11:46:11 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 28/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 28/2006

The second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive recently passed through the European Parliament plenary.

For those interested in how the Members of the European Parliament (MEP) vote, why people especially Rapporteurs have their hand up with either their thumb pointing up or down when voting and the connection with the Greeks in days gone past then a quick read of the European Parliament news item at the following URL maybe of interest:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/009-9320-171-06-25-901-20060628STO09319-2006-20-06-2006/default_en.htm

It is then worth contrasting the above with what indication do we as citizens of Europe gain with respect to how the European Council votes and whether the Council is abiding by its own agreement to be transparent in the interests of the wider Europe especially in the context of the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

It is interesting to note that the Finnish MEP's consider one of their key roles during the Finnish Presidency will be to improve transparency. Peruse the news item at the following URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-9345-184-07-27-901-20060629STO09344-2006-03-07-2006/default_en.htm

A visit to the Finnish Presidency web site also confirms the above: visit URL

http://www.eu2006.fi/news_and_documents/front_page_news/en_GB/front_page/

The democratic process related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive process could be much improved if the European Council were in fact more transparent including the Rep's (Ambassadors) a document has been recently published by the European Council on the 23rd June 2006 which can be downloaded from the following URL: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10372.en06.pdf>

It basically is reporting to the Ambassadors (REP's) on the outcome of the European Parliament plenary outcome on the proposed INSPIRE Directive – gold star to anyone spotting the Council's position on this as a result!

Regards

Chris

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 27A/2006 26th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 11:12:34 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 27A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 27A/2006

Clearly the answer mentioned below to a question in the UK Houses of Parliament did not allay those concerns over the submarines! So another question was raised.

It seems that it is not only submarines that lurk silently – a visit to the European Parliament web site at the following URL which maybe of interest:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/064-9222-170-06-25-911-20060622STO09221-2006-19-06-2006/default_en.htm

The news item mention above demonstrates that providing the strength of feeling is there the European Parliament will stand its corner – hence the need to keep on supporting the MEP's in their work. It also raises the interesting issue, which the Rapporteur has also mentioned and that is the viewing of the data by citizens and others is free as it is in the interest of Society.

If you are puzzled by the UK's fascination with submarines then a visit to the following URL maybe of interest

<http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk/general/intro.htm>

EU INSPIRE Directive

Dr. Julian Lewis: *To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the European Union's INSPIRE directive on the security of Royal Navy vessels (a) in port and (b) on deployment. [77794]*

Des Browne: *I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2006, Official Report, columns 1384-85W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).*

16 Jun 2006: Column 1525W

Raising the profile of the proposed INSPIRE Directive how ever it is done seems to be in vogue at the current time – I wonder who else will join the train or bandwagon?

Enjoy your swim!

Chris

On 26/6/06 09:46, "Christopher Corbin" corbinceh@ntlworld.com wrote:

INSPIRE questions still being raised in the UK Houses of Parliament following concern over the presence of submarines!

EU INSPIRE Directive

Mr. Gerald Howarth: *To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's national security of the EU INSPIRE directive; and whether his Department has made representations to the European Commission on this matter. [76681]*

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has been fully involved in scrutinising the evolving INSPIRE directive for any possible impact on defence and national security. The INSPIRE text adopted as the Common Position on 23 January 2006, was acceptable in this respect. We will, however, maintain our scrutiny in relation to any proposed amendments to the Common Position emerging from the ongoing European parliamentary process.

As the lead Department within Government, DEFRA officials have met with the European Commission on a number of occasions to discuss a

15 Jun 2006 : Column 1385W

wide range of issues, including the British Government's clear and well-known position that INSPIRE should not jeopardise national security, defence and international relations.

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 27/2006 26th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 26 Jun 2006 09:46:23 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 27/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 27/2006

INSPIRE questions still being raised in the UK Houses of Parliament following concern over the presence of submarines!

EU INSPIRE Directive

Mr. Gerald Howarth: *To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's national security of the EU INSPIRE directive; and whether his Department has made representations to the European Commission on this matter. [76681]*

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15 Jun 2006 : Column 1385W

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 2 to Update 26/2006: Frank Hoffmann 19th June 2006

From: FH <Doz.Dr.Frank.HOFFMANN@t-online.de>

Date: Mon 19 Jun 2006 - 17:25:44 MEST

Roger Longhorn wrote:

> More on INSPIRE and the Ordnance Survey (and other) UK agency 'trading > fund' model. > >
> Until the UK Treasury changes its attitude which requires certain UK > government agencies to
> recover much, most or all of their operating > costs from commercial activities, which range from
> data/information > sales to use of specific models (UK Met Office, another trading fund) > and
> specialist services, and even provide a return on investment (ROI) > to the Treasury, then
> organisations such as OS, UK Hydrographic Office > and UK Met Office (the "big three" UK
> government geospatial data and > services providers) will continue to be targeted as in some way >
> operating outside the "common good" by not making their information and > services free to all. > >
> As the author of the forthcoming study mentioned below (Giles Lane) > says, "*I agree ... that the
> Treasury is the only real arbiter of change > for the OS licensing set-up.* This was my point at last
> year's open > geodata forum." Several members of this list will remember the Open > Geodata Forum
> held in London in 2005, and there have been several > similar events held in the UK and Europe over
> the past 18 months, > sponsored mainly by the "open geodata" community, who have also been > very
> proactively involved in lobbying European MEPs in the run-up to the > 2nd vote on INSPIRE held last
> week. > > Unfortunately, as long as different government agencies apparently > continue to refuse to
> accept responsibility for INSPIRE (a draft > Directive, *not* yet a "law" as stated in the article from
> The Telegraph > recently refered to in Chris Corbin's e-mail), then one wonders just who > *is*
> "advising" government representatives who are supposedly > responsible for geospatial data in the
> UK and in other countries, as well.

#####

Roger, i hope you will enlighten us a bit more based on your COAST paper at INSPIRE'ing workshop in INNSBRUCK next days... btw, i think that this The Telegraph message can be neglected as it is mostly a journalistic speculation rather than a serious geoscientific news report...

--

btw, the real UK troubles are NOT the navy (does someone ever have seen that a MIL organization w'd open its secret data silos...?) or its lobbyists, but there are simple geographic UK dataset needs which could help to give an imagination -as example- about landcover and landuse for sustainability of regional development across Europe of Regions... or monitoring the EU subsidies policy may be...

--

see figure below, it's one of examples from NNR to be presented in the poster session of the forthcoming 12th EC GI&SDI workshop how INSPIRE could look like already next year at a true European scale factor... why Europe should follow an OSGB business model in the globalization era...? i don't assume that EU needs an UK land cover in a cadastral scale...

--

EGIP'lers attending the GI&SDI workshop...you are invited to look at poster session how an ESDI could work in 2007, based on EU-X-border-GeoPortal of NNR project team, and some more lessons learnt by CAGI-CZ & (NNR) & IGN-SN at crossborder Bohemia<>Saxonia REGION...

regards, fh / 17:30
[info@GDI-SN.de]

#####

>

> Note that, in the UK, the UK Hydrographic Office comes under the
> Ministry of Defence - which could lead to some further interesting
> "homeland security" issues being raised in regard to INSPIRE in the

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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> future, as opposed to the (mainly) "we need to sustain our ability to
> maintain the quality of our data" arguments put forward by Ordnance
> Survey GB in regard to the charging issues for government collected GI.
>
> Regards
>
> Roger Longhorn
> ral@alum.mit.edu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> Subject: Re: [geo-discuss] Texts adopted by Parliament: INSPIRE
> Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 13:09:44 +0100
> From: Giles Lane <giles@proboscis.org.uk>
> To: Rufus Pollock <rufus.pollock@okfn.org>
> CC: geo-discuss@lists.okfn.org

snipp...

ESDI =>>> CLC2000 ... etc.

[Image]

> [Institute for Public Policy Research, UK]
> IPPR Public Sector Information
> Case Study: Ordnance Survey
>
> ##### snipp ...

--

#####

<ZITAT> des Monats:

"Die Konsolidierung in der deutschen GIS-Branche findet im Wesentlichen durch Insolvenzen statt. Die wenigen Success-Stories werden dagegen nicht ad?quat vermarktet." - Ein Geodaten-Experte...

</ZITAT> - [http://www.ingeforum.de/cms/front_content.php?idcat=3

#####

GI2006-Symposium / 5. S?chsisches GI-Strategie-Forum / EU-Projekt-NNR
A cross-border/cross-sectoral cooperation of [CAGI-CZ<>NNR-EU<>IGN-SN]
for the (Enlarged) GeoINSPIRE'd Bohemia<>Saxonia<>Silesia Euro-Regions
DRESDEN, 11. /12. 05. 2006, 110 pp. =PrePrint=

--

Rural@Work / ISAF2006-Conference, Praha, 15.-17.05.2006/

The "Praha Declaration" of EFITA (Rural@work) -

[<http://www.praguedeclaration.eu>]

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***** [www.NATURNET.org] *****

**** [www.IGN-SN.de] ***** [www.CAGI.cz] *****

=>[<http://www.GDI-SN.de>] <==<<WebMetaCatalog (C) by FH [IGN]<<<==

Globally to be aware, but locally to act sustainable...!

=>[<http://www.DEKADE.org>] <==<<<EDU for SustDev 2005-2014<<<==

Global informiert sein, lokal jedoch nachhaltig handeln...!

=>[<http://inspire.jrc.it>] <=====<<to get INSPIREd<<<==

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

[The paradigm change -from GeoData to GeoService- Infrastructures!]

[<http://www.GDI-SN.de>] - WebCATALOGUE (open)

[<http://www.NATURNET.org>] - EU-Project-NATURNET (open)

--

GeoWeb-ICT-Services provided by [IGN]

and hosted by [KBX7.de] free of charge:

--

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=13692&c=list>]- IGN e.V. (limited access)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=11265&c=list>]- GDI-SN-L (open registration)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=15016&c=list>]- EURASIA-L (open registration)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=11342&c=list>]- OpenDOOR-C (limited access)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=14242&c=list>]- NATURNET-L (limited access)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=15074&c=list>]- CZ-CBC-SN-L (open registration)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=16377&c=list>]- ENERGIS-L (open registration)

[<http://www.kbx7.de/?lid=16378&c=list>]- PL-CBC-SN-L (open registration)

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EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 1 to Update 26/2006: Roger Longhorn 19th June 2006

From: Roger Longhorn <ral@alum.mit.edu>

Date: Mon 19 Jun 2006 - 14:51:17 MEST

More on INSPIRE and the Ordnance Survey (and other) UK agency 'trading fund' model.

Until the UK Treasury changes its attitude which requires certain UK government agencies to recover much, most or all of their operating costs from commercial activities, which range from data/information sales to use of specific models (UK Met Office, another trading fund) and specialist services, and even provide a return on investment (ROI) to the Treasury, then organisations such as OS, UK Hydrographic Office and UK Met Office (the "big three" UK government geospatial data and services providers) will continue to be targetted as in some way operating outside the "common good" by not making their information and services free to all.

As the author of the forthcoming study mentioned below (Giles Lane) says, "*I agree ... that the Treasury is the only real arbiter of change for the OS licensing set-up.* This was my point at last year's open geodata forum." Several members of this list will remember the Open Geodata Forum held in London in 2005, and there have been several similar events held in the UK and Europe over the past 18 months, sponsored mainly by the "open geodata" community, who have also been very proactively involved in lobbying European MEPs in the run-up to the 2nd vote on INSPIRE held last week.

Unfortunately, as long as different government agencies apparently continue to refuse to accept responsibility for INSPIRE (a draft Directive, *not* yet a "law" as stated in the article from The Telegraph recently referred to in Chris Corbin's e-mail), then one wonders just who *is* "advising" government representatives who are supposedly responsible for geospatial data in the UK and in other countries, as well.

Note that, in the UK, the UK Hydrographic Office comes under the Ministry of Defence - which could lead to some further interesting "homeland security" issues being raised in regard to INSPIRE in the future, as opposed to the (mainly) "we need to sustain our ability to maintain the quality of our data" arguments put forward by Ordnance Survey GB in regard to the charging issues for government collected GI.

Regards

Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu

. Original Message ----- Subject: Re: [geo-discuss] Texts adopted by Parliament: INSPIRE Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 13:09:44 +0100 From: Giles Lane <giles@proboscis.org.uk> To: Rufus Pollock <rufus.pollock@okfn.org> CC: geo-discuss@lists.okfn.org References: <86782b61060615030015c47441uf790c311773cf1ed@mail.gmail.com> <44913696.2010008@okfn.org> <20060615111434.GA3962@localhost> <44914699.6060408@okfn.org> <20060618221228.GE30029@vishnu.tridity.org> <20060618231825.GC5496@localdomain> <44968F17.5010009@okfn.org>

Dear All,

I recently wrote a case study on the OS for the IPPR's Public Sector Information project. Its due to be published sometime this summer, but I'm sure they wouldn't mind me posting some relevant sections here. It's a pretty dry (and unpartisan) picture of the OS which attempts to set out the situation and inform a discussion of wider issues of access to public sector info. The IPPR report will also contain a more juicy policy proposal for accessing public geodata.

Also, I agree with Rufus that the Treasury is the only real arbiter of change for the OS licensing set-up. This was my point at last year's open geodata forum. I've been trying to explore these issues with people in the Home Office and Treasury through our work with local communities over the past year or so, but I suspect it will take much longer to get the message through.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

best, Giles

[Institute for Public Policy Research, UK] IPPR Public Sector Information Case Study: Ordnance Survey

Domestic Picture The Ordnance Survey is a non-ministerial government department responsible for the collection, maintenance and provision of national geographical information for Great Britain (the National Geographic Database or NGD). The OS became an Executive Agency in 1990 and then acquired trading fund status in April 1999 under the provisions of the 1973 Government Trading Funds Act. It employs around 1,500 people, including about 300 surveyors and has an annual turnover of around £115 million (source: Annual Report 2004-05, Ordnance Survey).

Trading Funds are part of government, but do not seek general funding from Parliament each year (like other parts of the Civil Service). The OS reports to Parliament through a minister in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Other Trading Funds include the Meteorological Office, United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Land Registry, Driving Standards Agency and Patent Office. Trading funds are not public private finance initiatives, but arms-length trading organisations monitored and responsible to the Treasury. They are expected to deliver value for money in providing key services and supplies according to quality standards and fitness for purpose in line with government policy. The Trading Fund model is designed to give the OS responsibility for its own finances and planning along with more freedom to develop new initiatives. It can reinvest profits and plan for the longer term rather than on a year-to-year basis - operating along business lines, but with public accountability.

Although it is required as a trading fund to be self-financing through the licensing of its crown copyright material (geodata and products) and the sale of traditional paper maps, there is another side to the OS' work which is covered by the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement (NIMSA). This was set up at the same time as the trading fund status and is re-negotiated every two to three years to help fund specific mapping activities that are vital to the national interest but which cannot be justified on purely commercial grounds. This is identified as keeping the detailed mapping of remote areas up-to-date where such mapping is 'vital for public administration but where there is little other demand'. The NIMSA agreement currently covers around 10% of the OS's costs of maintaining the NGD and is costed on a not-for-profit basis (source: NIMSA Annual Report 2004).

Private Interests: investment and revenue model The Ordnance Survey is required to generate its entire income from exploitation of the National Geographic Database. HM Treasury and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have determined that the Ordnance Survey Trading Fund should aim to achieve a return of at least 5.5 per cent (averaged over the period 1/4/2004-31/3/2007) in the form of a surplus on ordinary activities. It is estimated that 95% of the OS's total revenues are dependent on formal intellectual property (IP). As all users must acquire licenses before using OS geodata technologies such as digital rights management for controlling informal IP are not applicable to the OS (source: OS Discussion).

The Ordnance Survey receives finance from the public purse in two ways: it receives direct subsidy in the form of NIMSA (currently around 12% of operating costs), but its largest channel for public money (around 47% of its total income) comes from licensing revenues from other public sector agencies (such as the NHS), central government departments and local authorities.

The OS derives no revenue from other, non-IP-related activities.

Public Interests The Ordnance Survey defines its primary focus as the maintenance and development of the National Geographic Database, not the maximisation of revenues. The National Interest Mapping Services Agreement (NIMSA) agreement provides essential support for non-commercial mapping activities. This alone provides about 12% of the overall revenues and 13% of the cost of maintaining the NGD.

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

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Proboscis
2 Ormonde Mansions, 100A Southampton Row, London WC1B 4BJ T: 020 7209 4042
M: 07711 069 569
IM: gileslane (Skype)
W: <http://proboscis.org.uk>

>

> geo-discuss mailing list
> geo-discuss@lists.okfn.org
> <http://lists.okfn.org/mailman/listinfo/geo-discuss>

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/> Received on Mon Jun 19 14:52:01 2006

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 26/2006 19th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com

Date: Mon, 19 Jun 2006 12:23:38 +0100

To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 26/2006

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 26/2006

Further to EGIP interventions INSPIRE Democratic Process 24/2006 following the second reading in the European Parliament last week you maybe interested to read an article that appeared in a UK National Newspaper on Saturday

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/06/17/wmaps17.xml>

If the content of the article is to be believed it appears that it is not only the UK Government and Austria that has concerns about the proposed INSPIRE Directive but also Denmark, Finland, France, and The Netherlands.

Interesting times ahead – no mention of nuclear submarines in the UK partial Regulatory Impact Assessment on INSPIRE – but then perhaps I might be dyslexic!

Based on the above mentioned article I best check out the bookmakers to see what the odds are currently on the Finnish Presidency of the EU bringing forward INSPIRE as requested by the European Parliament, the European commission and the many European experts that responded to the 2003 online INSPIRE consultation.

It seems that INSPIRE reached the headlines for reasons one may not have thought of!

Chris

PS Just a thought for those of you at the GI-GIS workshop this week in Austria – beware of security devices and personnel that will be present monitoring – as history shows there are often agents seeded and some play both sides of the game – have fun!

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 25/2006, 15th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com

Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 13:59:18 +0100

To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 25/2006

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 25/2006

An open transparent democratic process is key if one is to arrive at a policy which will be implemented and bring benefit to Europe and the world at large.

An open and transparent debate is beneficial as it assists with understanding the various positions European organisations, Citizens, Member States for example adopt.

In the context of INSPIRE - if the process operates correctly then one is able to correlate to a certain extent the different positions to establish the potential benefits and impacts of a European Spatial Data Infrastructure and to disentangle positions that are protecting a current position and as such may not be working for the benefit of Europe as a whole – put it another way dealing with the issue of *self interest* or the perceived need to *maintain the status quo!*

With respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive there is a deficit with respect to openness, transparency, evidence based reasoning, impact assessments to name but a few and this is where each of us can assist to fill this deficit and in the process improve the democratic process related to bringing forward a European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

With respect to impact assessments - the European Commission position on impact assessments can be browsed at http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index_en.htm and for a list of planned and completed EC impact assessments visit URL: http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/practice_en.htm

As an example where is the Austrian impact assessment on the proposed INSPIRE Directive?

The reason I ask this question is that the BEV - Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen (BEV - Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying) (http://www.bev.gv.at/fr_4_org.html) recently hosted in Vienna the *Joint meeting of the Cadastral and Land Registry Expert Group of EuroGeographics and the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC)* on the 7th to the 9th June 2006. The agenda can be obtained from the following URL:
http://www.eurocadastre.org/pdf/agenda_Vienna_meeting_PCC_CadExG.pdf

The opening speech made by Mr. August Hochwartner (http://www.eurocadastre.org/pdf/Speech_President.pdf) - the current President of *The Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union* (<http://www.eurocadastre.org/index.htm>) (As Austria hold the Presidency of the European Union at the current time) makes interesting reading with respect to the comments made on the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

According to Mr Hochwartner the INSPIRE Directive is considered to be *economically interfering*.....uhmmm.....the basis of this statement (in part) appears to be related to the work undertaken in Austria on the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Directive with respect to the licencing model. That has been developed and adopted well that is interesting as Austria has not fully implemented the Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive and if the evidence collected by Austrian researchers that are monitoring the implementation of Re-Use of PSI Directive there are a lot of issues arising within Austria. (Refer to EGIP intervention PSI Progress Report 11/2006 9th June 2006 that refers to the OECD meeting in Paris)

As an example of correlating information - if one considers the UK and the following:

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- the UK partial regulatory impact assessment on the proposed INSPIRE Directive (http://www.iggi.gov.uk/assets/downloads/files/INSPIRE_partialRIA_May2005.pdf?PHPSESID=18da18a1d3f30ab43bb14119b504d2e8);
- the UK Environment Agency (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>)
- the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) (<http://ieep.org.uk/index.php>)
- The Aldersgate Group report published in May - (12 pages in length, which was a topic on the BBC on the 6th June and mentioned in the UK Houses of Parliament on the same day in debates on Environmental policy) titled *Green Foundations: Better regulations and a healthy environment for growth and jobs*. For information on the background to the report, the press release and the full visit the following URL: http://ieep.org.uk/press/7_06_06.php

What is interesting here is that when one compares the Aldersgate Group report and the UK partial impact assessment on INSPIRE which both processes involve and reference the UK Environment Agency one can observe different positions being taken with respect to the UK Environment Agency yet both processes relate to Environmental policy.

The Aldersgate Report provides some interesting facts and figures which have been referenced and views on the quality of impact assessment undertaken in a number of European countries including the UK. The Aldersgate Group believes (page 4 of the report):

1 Our long-term economic success depends on a healthy environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.

2 More immediately, at a company level, good environmental performance and efficient use of resources make good business sense.

3 Environmental regulation presents new business and employment opportunities, not just in the high-growth environment sector, but in other sectors too.

4 Policy appraisals and regulatory impact assessments should be balanced and objective. They should neither undervalue the benefits nor overplay the costs of regulations.

5 Better regulation means having a regulatory environment which is proportional, accountable, consistent, transparent, targeted, efficient and effective.

Bullet point 4 above, second sentence is a good summary of what is not right with the UK partial regulatory impact assessment related to INSPIRE.

The above two examples demonstrate there is room for improvement. We all can assist by providing input into the INSPIRE democratic process – which by the way in case it has slipped your mind will continue for many years once the proposed INSPIRE Directive enters onto the European statute books.

It is time for YOU to get involved – not just technically but holistically if Europe is to benefit from such an initiative as INSPIRE.

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 24D/2006 15th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 12:10:31 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24D/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24D/2006

The provisional version of the text adopted by the European Parliament at the end of the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive can be browsed at the following URL:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?TYPE-DOC=TA&REF=P6-TA-2006-0252&MODE=SIP&L=EN&LSTDOC=N>

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EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 24C/2006 14th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin <corbinch@ntlworld.com>

Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2006 06:21:43 +0100

To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>

Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24C/2006

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24C/2006

A press release on the outcome of the European Parliament's INSPIRE second reading can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-8891-164-06-24-911-20060608IPR08821-13-06-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm

Note the emphasis in the press release on *Ensuring free public access to environmental data*

A press release announcing the votes within the European Parliament on the 13th June 2006 can be perused at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/tous_les_epvotes/default/default_en.htm

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

(A6-0081/2006)

Rapporteur: Frieda Brepoels (EPP-ED, BE)

Common position declared adopted with amendments

A further analysis of the vote on the proposed INSPIRE Directive in the European Parliament on the 13th June 2006 follows which adds to that provided in EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 24B/2006

Roll Call Vote

Amendment	Outturn (Majority)
13	395
14	398
18	401
19	366
21	375
23	400
24	399

There are 732 MEP's in the European Parliament – not all were present during the plenary session.

However if one was to express the percentage that caste votes during the INSPIRE roll call vote expressed as a percentage of the 732 is as follows:

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Amendment	Percentage Voting	Majority as % of total
13	89.48	53.96
14	87.98	54.37
18	89.4	54.78
19	89.07	50
21	89.48	51.23
23	88.8	54.64
24	88.93	54.51

A further update on the debate that took place on the evening of 12th June 2006 in the European Parliament:

Mr John Bowis MEP London (Political Party: Conservative) also mentioned a second concern regarding the proposed INSPIRE Directive which was that of security. The example quoted was that of the UK Royal Navy whose concern was that free viewing of data would enable people to ascertain where the Royal Navy was currently surveying.

Visit the following URL for the position the UK Conservative party related to the above mentioned concern.

http://www.conservatives.com/meps/story.cfm?obj_id=130258

http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=europe.news.story.page&obj_id=130258

Chris

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 24B/2006 13th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 11:38:14 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24B/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24B/2006

In case you did not watch the vote of the European Parliament on the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive. The vote went as follows:

Block vote on 29 amendments (simple majority vote – show of hands) Carried

Roll call vote (electronic)

Amendment Number	Votes Caste	Votes In Favour	Votes Against	Abstentions	Result
13	655	525	125	5	Carried
14	644	521	117	6	Carried
18	655	528	118	9	Carried
19	652	509	133	10	Carried
21	655	515	129	11	Carried
23	650	525	107	18	Carried
24	651	525	106	20	Carried

The overall result is that the Common Position of the European Parliament on the proposed INSPIRE Directive has been carried.

Ms Brepoels thanked

The next stage in the democratic process now commences and there is a need for all across Europe interested in the proposed INSPIRE Directive becoming engaged – more another time

Chris

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 24A/2006 13th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2006 08:48:50 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24A/2006

In case you did not view the European Parliament debate on the proposed INSPIRE Directive live on the evening of Monday 12th June 2006, then the following rough summary maybe of interest (at times parts of the debate were lost due to the streaming fracturing).

The debate commenced about 2114 hours and lasted for approximately 30 minutes.

Ms Fredericka Brepoels the EP ENV Committee Rapporteur introduced the second reading on INSPIRE and emphasised the importance of Environmental policy and used four examples to support the statement:

- Floods
- Forest fires
- Fisheries
- Avian flue

Ms Brepoels explained the relevance of INSPIRE and the added value of GMES and INSPIRE.

Summarised the outcome of the first reading and Council Common position

Summarised the position of the Environmental Committee's position on matters such as Search engines, Services, Click-use-licences, endless feasibility studies, exchange of data within the public services, financial viability of some public bodies within some Member States.

In conclusion Ms Brepoels stated that the INSPIRE Directive was very technical and difficult but there as a need to act in the Common good of European Citizens.

This was followed by an introduction from the Environment Commissioner Mr Stavros Dimas who thanked the Rapporteur and went on to describe how the INSPIRE Directive addressed issues confronted by those involved in Environmental Policy who needed proper information. The handicaps mentioned at the current time included data coming from different sources about the same real world entity, the need for interoperability.

Mr Dimas reported that the Commission did not accept the Common position from the Council in a number of areas which included the extent of public access and common use.

The debate was then opened up to the various political groupings spokes persons.

John Bowis MEP London (Conservative) stated how the proposed INSPIRE Directive would damage the UK Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and that the Parliament should adopt the Common Position of the Council in full and that this would now need to be resolved in conciliation.

María Sornosa Martinez MEP Spain then spoke and supported the Rapporteur's amendments and set out why there was a need for a Community Infrastructure and the the need for good information and for more support.

Northern Ireland MEP (James Nicholson?) spoke and endorsed the position taken by Mr Bowis regarding the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and the Directive would also have a similar impact on

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the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland.

Richard Seeber MEP stressed that one area of the Union has been the environmental policies and mentioned the issues of liability and responsibility and the possible loss of income to local and regional authorities. There was a need for a degree of homogenisation and harmonisation.

The streaming broke up at this point and missed the next MEP's opening remarks who supported the Rapportuer and the amendments and stressed the need to move away from secrecy and that there was a need for more consultation and involvement in environmental policy making. The final remark was that INSPIRE must be allowed to hit the ground running.

Following the debate the Environment Commissioner outlined the Commissions views on the European Parliaments amendments which in summary were stated as:

Amendments 13 and 14 accepted in full.

Amendments 18 to 22 Accepted in full except for Amendment 21 which was agreed in principle.

Amendments 23 to 27 accepted in full except for amendment 24 where only part one was accepted in full.

Amendment 15 could not taken on board.

All the other amendments made improvements and made the Directive tidy.

The commissions views on the European Parliaments amendments would be provided to the Parliament.

The debate was closed with the statement that the vote on the INSPIRE second reading will take place at noon on the 13th June 2006.

If you wish to follow the proceedings live then visit the following URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/freetext_page_webstreaming/default/default_en.htm

If the above summary is not correct please provide improvements

Thanks

Chris

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Update 24/2006 12th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2006 18:22:11 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 24/2006

If you wish to follow the European Parliament debate visit the following URL now:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eplive/public/freetext_page_webstreaming/default/default_en.htm

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 23/2006, 11th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Sun, 11 Jun 2006 12:38:30 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 23/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 23/2006

It was good to see the publication of the first INSPIRE Newsletter on the 28th April 2006 a very useful addition to the information available on the development and implementation of the European spatial data infrastructure - my congratulations to the members of the of the EC Joint Research Centre that contributed and produced the newsletter.

The INSPIRE Newsletter Issue No. 1 (http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/reports/newsletters/INSPIRE_Newsletter_issue1.pdf) helps address the lack of transparency on policy issues across Europe and the European Union. It is interesting to observe the imbalance with respect to whether organisations are transparent especially with respect to policy matters that require a very large number of European Citizens and organisations to be involved in, in order to bring forward a policy and ensure it is delivered in the interests of all within Europe. There is a constant demand for the public sector to be transparent (and yes they have to strive to be much more transparent than they are at all levels) yet so many of the representative organisations both at the pan European level and the National level that articulate the need for spatial data infrastructures and transparency are not themselves transparent as they see the release of any information as detrimental to recruiting members and the provision of membership services. Rather odd to say the least! Perhaps this is why some are tending to be marginalised.

The INSPIRE Newsletter Issue No. 1 highlights the above quite nicely on several counts:

First on Page 7 of the Newsletter under Community news item there are several brief reports on the INSPIRE Seminar in the Czech Republic and the INSPIRE seminar in the UK. The Czechs in this example come out well on operating transparently as all the presentations from that seminar have been published at the following URL:

http://www.cuzk.cz:80/Dokument.aspx?PRARESKOD=999&MENUID=0&AKCE=DOC:999-SEM_INSPIRE1

Although most of the presentations are naturally in Czech they are comprehensible, and it is the principle of openness that is key. (I have often pondered why within the EU where we have mobility of EU citizens (no internal borders) as to why there is not more content on EGIP that is not in the English language!)

Now contrast this with the joint UK AGI/IGGI INSPIRE seminar – there is little that has been published openly on this seminar. The only item that has been published is the DEFRA presentation that can be downloaded from the IGGI web site at URL:

<http://www.iggi.gov.uk/initiatives.php?PHPSESSID=d1460957552c71e4d0389ec6ce435925>

As for the AGI web site one can find the announcement at URL:

http://www.agi.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_EVENTART/view.asp?Q=BF_EVENTART_180410

And at URL:

http://www.agi.org.uk/POOLED/articles/bf_techart/view.asp?Q=bf_techart_161090

So in this first example if one was to award points for transparency then I would award:

Czech Republic = 10 points

UK = 1 point and this point goes to IGGI for placing at least some information about this INSPIRE

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seminar in the public domain.

Second on page 8 of the Newsletter again under Community News there is a report on the INSPIRE Interparliamentary Conference that was held in Sweden on the 2nd to 4th April 2006.

The Swedish Parliament web site (http://www.riksdagen.se/default_56.aspx) has published the formal presentations and some of the speeches at URL:

http://www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_Page_9668.aspx

However there is no mention of the panel sessions that took place at this event.

The day 1 panel had representatives from Department of Surveyors, Vienna, Austria, National Land Survey Sweden, EuroGeographics, Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, ESRI, Environment Agency, EUROGI and perhaps others so one would naturally expect a report to appear at least on the pan European Organisations web sites that sat on the panel and or attended the event overall.

EUROGI (Old web site – assume current) http://www.eurogi.org/index_1024.html no mention
EUROGI (New web site – assume underdevelopment) <http://eurog.vbnlive.com/default.asp> mention
can be found referring to the Swedish Parliament web site

http://eurog.vbnlive.com/POOLED/articles/bf_newsart/view.asp?Q=bf_newsart_195097

EuroGeographics – no mention found

ERTICO – no mention found

EuroRoads

http://www.euroroads.org/newsletters/newsletter2_2006.htm?PHPSESSID=7244dbfdcfef2633aa5ec0a43ee66f9b

So in this second example if one was to award points for transparency then I would award:

Swedish Parliament 8

EUROGI 1

EuroGeographics 0

ERTICO 0

EuroRoads Project 1

It would appear that all involved at the event in Sweden are keeping their powder dry on this one!

Even the Moderator for these panels that consulted the EGIP list (see below copy) for input on the 17th February 2006 at 1649 hours has not responded back to the EGIP forum as to how the panel sessions went on what were the key topics that arose and debated.

From the above two examples it would seem that the European Geo community needs to improve with respect to transparency – I am sure many can come up with some ancient proverbs and advise from our long lost ancestors - if we expect the public sector to be transparent then the representative bodies should be as transparent also. It is worth reminding our selves that individuals and organisations can not be members of every organisation, nor can they attend every event but they are interested in learning from others and what is going on in and around Europe.

AGILE was a shining example recently of how to do it when they published the URL on the EGIP forum for the papers at their annual conference, and the JRC has for many years has published the EC GI & GIS workshop presentations fairly quickly after the event. Perhaps more should follow these good examples.

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

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Copied from EGIP URL: <http://egip.jrc.it/200602/1520.html>

From: John Leonard johnleonard2@ntlworld.com

Date: Tue 07 Feb 2006 - 16:49:19 MET

Dear All,

I have been invited to chair the two Panel Sessions at this event, the first of which involves a number of Chief Executives of National Mapping, Environmental, and Transport Agencies etc, while the second is billed as "Negotiations between the participating parliamentary representatives". I understand that a large number of nations will be represented.

I am delighted that the Swedish Parliament has taken the initiative to raise awareness of the INSPIRE issue in this way.

If any of you have burning issues you feel should be raised, do let me know so that I can consider if / how they might be introduced. I would appreciate them as soon as possible and certainly earlier than All Fools Day (April 1st)!

John Leonard

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 22/2006 10th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Sat, 10 Jun 2006 08:47:53 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 22/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 22/2006

On the eve of the European Parliament plenary voting on the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive it is worth mulling over why the European Council position on the proposed INSPIRE Directive seems to be at odds with the European Council conclusions on *eGovernment for all Europeans* that can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/trans/89938.pdf (EU Council Conclusion on eGovernment 4 pages)

The Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council met in Luxembourg on the 8th and 9th June 2006 and the press release for the meeting can be perused at the following URL:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/trans/89954.pdf (Full Minutes 52 pages)

The background papers to the above mentioned press releases that relate to eGovernment and the i2010 programme can be obtained at the following URL:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/i2010/index_en.htm

If one was to transpose the word *eGovernment* with the word *INSPIRE* within the text of the four page Council conclusions on eGovernment (and adjust the references) the document would read very much the same due to the commonality! The objectives of the European Spatial Data infrastructure are very closely related to eGovernment.

If one then drills down into a Member State such as the UK on these two initiatives one finds that the difference persists.

The UK Minister prior to attending the above mentioned European Council meeting made the following written statement to the UK Parliament which setting out the position the UK would take. The text can be perused at the following URL: (also copied in below in this email under transcript 1)

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/i2010/index_en.htm

The UK Parliament European Scrutiny Select Committee considered the Commission Communication; *i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: Accelerated eGovernment in Europe for the Benefit of All* and published its conclusion on the 24 May 2006 in the Committees 30th Report. The conclusions can be found at the following URL: (also copied in below in this email under transcript 2)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmeuleg/34-xxx/3408.htm>

If it is correct that the eGovernment and the spatial data infrastructure initiatives have a large amount in common then why does a Member State such as the UK and the European Council not have a consistent view on the two initiatives? (Refer to EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 21/2006 for the UK position on the proposed INSPIRE Directive). Both initiatives heavily involve the public sector, are complementary and both include data. Many of the base or core data sets that are involved in both initiatives are the same. As an example of this it is worth perusing the web site (<http://www.kada.lt/regno2006/programme.php>) for the REGNO 2006 Conference that was held in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 7th to 9th June 2006. (This event is also listed on the eTen web site along

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with others at URL:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/eten/newsroom/events/index_en.htm)

It would appear that somewhere along the line there is a disconnect – now I wonder why that is?

Regards

Chris

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Transcript 1

Copied from URL: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm

Trade and Industry

EU Telecoms Council

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I will be representing the UK at the Telecoms

6 Jun 2006 : Column 20WS

Council in Luxembourg on the afternoon of 8 June 2006. This is the only Telecoms Council under the Austrian presidency of the EU.

The first item on the agenda will focus on EU e-Government policy. In response to a recently published Commission e-Government action plan, the presidency have prepared a set of Council conclusions looking at the priorities that need to be considered in the area of e-Government policy. I intend to endorse these Council conclusions which are compatible with the UK Government's Transformational Government Strategy.

The presidency will then introduce a policy debate on the future challenges for the electronic communications regulatory framework. This anticipates the Commission's forthcoming review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications markets. A Communication on this issue is expected in July and negotiation will formally begin under the German presidency. I will highlight some of the specific challenges that the UK would like to see addressed in the review of the framework. In particular, I plan to stress the need for effective implementation of the existing regulations and the importance of striking the right balance between maintaining competition, encouraging investment and protecting consumers.

The Austrian presidency may also informally ask for the views of Ministers on the Commission's forthcoming International Mobile Roaming Regulation. If they do, I will present the UK's initial views on this dossier, that we support the objective of reducing charges to consumers but have reservations about the Commission's approach on the regulation of retail prices.

There will then be a short exchange of views on network and information security issues. If time allows, I may intervene under this agenda item to highlight the importance of discussions on this key issue and the need to consider carefully the most effective and proportionate way to address security concerns.

Finally, under "Any Other Business", the Commission will provide some information on the first annual report on the i2010 strategy and on their recently published Communication on the World

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Summit on the Information Society. I do not expect to intervene under either of these items.

Transcript 2

Copied from URL: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmeuleg/34-xxx/3408.htm>

6 eGovernment in Europe

(27451)
8688/06

+ ADD1

COM(06) 173

Commission Communication; i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: Accelerated eGovernment in Europe for the Benefit of All

Legal base —

Document originated 25 April 2006

Deposited in Parliament 2 May 2006

Department Cabinet Office

Basis of consideration EM of 22 May 2006

Previous Committee Report None; but see HC 34-xxiii (2005-06), para 12 (29 March 2006)

To be discussed in Council June 2006 Telecommunications Council

Committee's assessment Politically important

Committee's decision Cleared

Background

6.1 According to the Cabinet Office website, the Prime Minister has set information technology (IT) professionals in Government the mission of "ensuring that IT supports the business transformation of Government itself so that we can provide better, more efficient, public services", with the Cabinet Office e-Government Unit (eGU) taking the lead. Now the largest unit in the Cabinet Office, eGU is responsible for

*formulating IT strategy and policy;
developing common IT components for use across government;
promoting best practice across government; and
delivering citizen-centred online services.*

6.2 It gives its mission as: "ensuring that IT supports the business transformation of Government itself so that we can provide better, more efficient, public services". At the instigation of the Prime Minister (to whom the mission statement is attributed), it has developed a strategy — "Transformational Government—Enabled by Technology" — which it says "is about transforming public services as citizens receive them and demonstrating how technology can improve the corporate services of government so more resources can be released to deliver 'frontline' services".[18]

6.3 According to the Commission website, IDABC stands for "Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens", and "uses the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies to encourage and support the delivery of cross-border public sector services to citizens and enterprises in Europe, to improve efficiency and collaboration between European public administrations and to contribute to making Europe an attractive place to live, work and invest".[19] It goes on to explain that, to achieve its objectives, IDABC:

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"issues recommendations, develops solutions and provides services that enable national and European administrations to communicate electronically while offering modern public services to businesses and citizens in Europe.

"The programme also provides financing to projects addressing European policy requirements, thus improving co-operation between administrations across Europe. National public sector policy-makers are represented in the IDABC programme's management committee and in many expert groups. This makes of the programme a unique forum for the coordination of national e-government policies.

"By using state-of-the-art information and communication technologies, developing common solutions and services and by finally, providing a platform for the exchange of good practice between public administrations, IDABC contributes to the eEurope[20] objective of modernising the European public sector."

6.4 The IDABC programme includes both Projects of Common Interest, which implement European eGovernment services in specific policy areas (e.g. education) and Horizontal Measures (HMs), which implement infrastructure services and European eGovernment services not linked to specific policy areas and perform strategic and support activities. HMs are grouped under four main headings:

Technology Solutions: addressing basic, common requirements of many European eGovernment projects: currently network and hosting services, middleware, security and interoperability guidelines;

Business Applications: providing specific solutions for the particular needs or "business" of different policy areas, including eProcurement, Interactive Policy Making and the "Your Europe" portal to Services of Public Administrations;

Spreading Good Practice: including the eGovernment Observatory and Promoting Open Source Software and OSS-related activities; and

Programme Management: activities aimed at improving the execution of the IDA I and II programmes and preparing the successor IADBC.

6.5 The Commission explains that the legislative framework for electronic public procurement adopted in 2004 will enter into force in 2006, at which time "procurement entities in Europe should be ready to perform procurement procedures electronically". It says that IDABC will contribute to:

*achieving interoperability in electronic public procurement;
facilitating electronic public procurement by providing functional requirements, common tools or generic services for the contracting authorities; and
promoting the use of eProcurement in Europe by creating awareness of transborder eProcurement benefits and opportunities.*

6.6 A Ministerial eGovernment Conference took place in Manchester on 24-25 November 2005, co-organised by the UK Presidency and the Commission.[21] One of the outcomes was a Ministerial Declaration with two objectives, for achievement by 2010:

*all public administrations across Europe to have the capability of carrying out 100% of their procurement electronically, where legally permissible; and
at least 50% of public procurement above the EU public procurement threshold will be carried out electronically.*

6.7 In his 22 May 2006 Explanatory Memorandum, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Mr Pat McFadden) recalls that the policy for eGovernment in Europe falls under the i2010 programme, which he summarises as an initiative developed from the Lisbon Strategy to "create an open and competitive single market for information society and media services within the EU, to increase EU investment in research on information and communication technologies, and to promote an inclusive European information society".[22]

6.8 He says that eGovernment plays a key role in making this agenda a reality, and that this Communication on the eGovernment Action Plan is the next step in achieving the goals set out in the Manchester Ministerial Declaration. The Minister says that the Manchester Declaration differs from

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previous ones (Brussels in 2001, Como in 2003) "both in the rigorous development process under the steer of the UK Presidency and its aims to set out concrete, measurable objectives, underpinned by the need to connect common efforts in order to achieve wider impact and promote take-up around the four key eGovernment policy priorities". It was approved by the Telecoms Council in December 2005.

The Commission Communication

6.9 The Minister explains that, during the UK Presidency, the eGovernment Unit worked with the Commission's Information Society and Media Directorate-General and Member States' eGovernment policy officials to agree the new political direction of European eGovernment policy, resulting in agreement that the focus of eGovernment policy for the next five years should be on four areas:

*Inclusive eGovernment;
Efficient and Effective eGovernment;
High Impact Services; and
Key Enablers.*

6.10 The Action Plan, outlined in this Communication, formally commits the Commission to the goals outlined in the Manchester Ministerial Declaration. It has five major objectives for eGovernment in 2010:

*No citizens left behind - Advancing inclusion through eGovernment so that by 2010 all citizens benefit from trusted, innovative services and easy access for all;
Making efficiency and effectiveness a reality - Significantly contributing, by 2010, to high user satisfaction, transparency and accountability, a lighter administrative burden and efficiency gains;
Implementing High impact services for citizens and businesses - By 2010, 100% of public procurement will be available electronically, with 20% actual usage, with agreement on co-operation on further high-impact online services;
Putting key enablers in place - Enabling citizens and businesses to benefit, by 2010, from convenient, secure and interoperable authentication across Europe to public services; and
Strengthening participation and democratic decision-making - Demonstrating, by 2010, tools for effective public debate and participation in democratic decision-making.*

6.11 The Action Plan outlines practical ways forward by means of roadmaps and strategic monitoring in the five priority areas, providing focal points for Commission programmes, initiatives and policy making for the next four years and emphasises the importance of collaborative working between Member States and the Commission. The Minister says that the Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated by the eGovernment Subgroup (where the eGovernment Unit will represent HMG and the devolved administrations), which will in turn give advice and report on implementation to the i2010 High Level Group[23] (where the Department of Trade and Industry will represent HMG and the devolved administrations). He says that "the Subgroup has already proved to be an effective mechanism through which strong political support has been secured (Bloomsday Recommendations,[24] CoBrA Recommendations,[25] Signposts, and the Manchester Declaration) and it has proved to be a very effective framework for European co-operation".

The Government's view

6.12 The Minister says:

"In collaboration and consultation with other UK departments, the Cabinet Office eGovernment Unit, under the UK Presidency, worked hard to get the right balance of achievable targets and goals in these areas and continues to be an active participant in the developments of the i2010 eGovernment initiative. The UK has earned favour with the European Commission and our European colleagues as a result of its hard work under the UK Presidency and it continues to be a strong and active participant".

6.13 He hopes to see the Action Plan endorsed in the Conclusions of the June 2006 Telecommunications Council, and goes on to say that:

"Plans for UK and European eGovernment policies appear to be highly compatible. The UK Government's Transformational Government Strategy and subsequent Implementation Plan along with a range of devolved administration strategies have natural parallels with the spirit of the Manchester

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Declaration and the European eGovernment Action Plan with the direction of i2010; by focusing on the delivery of good, efficient services driven by IT and with the transformation of public services at its core, the UK Government and the devolved administrations strategies will be a continuing contributing factor in forthcoming European eGovernment policy decisions that evolve from this Action Plan. We are committed to working in partnership with UK Government Departments and Devolved Administrations to ensure that the significant work already underway across the UK is fully taken into account as we move to address the more challenging cross border areas".

6.14 Finally, the Minister says that although the Cabinet Office is responsible for leading and supporting the transformation of government, enabled by the use of Information Technology across the public sector, the objectives outlined in the European eGovernment Action Plan have implications for other areas of public sector, including those in the Devolved Administrations, whose officials have been consulted in the preparation of this Explanatory Memorandum.

Conclusion

6.15 When we considered the earlier Communication on the interoperability of pan-European e-Government services, we noted that eGovernment will become increasingly central to the efficient, effective and economical delivery of both national and European policies and services, and will increasingly touch everyone's business and private lives; with the picture, in the UK at least, mixed, and in a context where improving delivery will be crucial to the attainment both of governments' aspirations and business plans and of customer satisfaction.[26]

6.16 This Communication is likewise a "next step" rather than a radical departure, which we are also reporting to the House because of the intrinsic importance of its subject matter.

6.17 We look forward to scrutinising the i2010 annual reports, in the hope that the Minister will be able to report the successful attainment of the Action Plan targets. In the meantime, we clear the document.

18 See <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-government/strategy/> for further details. Back

19 <http://europa.eu.int/idabc/en/chapter/3>. Back

20 For further details of eEurope, see http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm. Back

21 <http://www.egov2005conference.gov.uk/>. Back

22 "i2010: European Information Society 2010" aims to foster growth and jobs in the information society and media industries and is described by the Commission as "a comprehensive strategy for modernising and deploying all EU policy instruments to encourage the development of the digital economy: regulatory instruments, research and partnerships with industry", within which the Commission will "in particular promote high-speed and secure broadband networks offering rich and diverse content in Europe". Back

23 With the adoption of the Commission Communication on i2010, the Commission set up a High Level Group of Member States representatives, at Director General level, meeting thrice-yearly to monitor and advise the Commission on the implementation and development of the i2010 Strategy. Back

24 Recommendations of the eGovernment subgroup of the eEurope Advisory Group following the

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meeting hosted by the Irish Presidency on 16 June 2004 in Dublin. Back

25 Recommendations put forward by the eGovernment subgroup of leaders or representatives of the national eGovernment initiatives to the eEurope Advisory Group following the meeting hosted by the Dutch Presidency on 27-28 September 2004 in Amsterdam at the CoBrA museum and two previous meetings in Brussels and Dublin. Back

26 See head note. Back”

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Update 21A 9th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 09 Jun 2006 09:56:22 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 21A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 21A/2006

Further to EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 21/2006

The Intra-government Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) new web site has now gone live at IGGI's normal URL: <http://www.iggi.gov.uk/welcome.php>

The UK Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment on the proposed INSPIRE Directive can be obtained under the TAB In Touch – GI Initiatives

If you choose to visit the new IGGI web site then you may wish to consider the entries under the Pan Government Agreement as this has been mentioned as a solution to the issue of charging for data within the public sector with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive. It is worth keeping in mind when viewing the Pan Government Agreement EU Directives on public sector procurement, EU Single market Directives, Competition law, EU position on PPP (whether they be public public partnerships OR public private partnerships), EU position on eGovernment – the solution of pan government agreements may not be as straight forward as one may think!

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Response 21 to Update 18/2006: Andrew Frank 5th June 2006

From: Frank <frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at>
Date: Mon, 5 Jun 2006 17:07:03 +0200
To: 'Anders Östman' <Anders.Ostman@hig.se>, 'michael gould' <gould@lsi.uji.es>, <pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>, 'EGIP' <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Anders

The question is not simply different pricing schemes - it is a large number of different procedures and individual contacts that are necessary for a company to put together a pan-european GI product. As I said, it took at least 10 years longer in europe than in the usa till we have a pan-european road data set to produce car navigation systems.

The harmonised pan-european data sets produced are great - but last time I looked it was difficult to get access for commercial use (reselling)...i hope this has been achieved in the meantime.

It is not the technical issue, it is the policies!

Andrew

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Response 2 to Update 20/2006: Chris Corbin 5th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 05 Jun 2006 10:06:05 +0100
To: Mark Probert mark.probert@geolink-consulting.co.uk
Cc: owner-egip@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 20/2006
Subject: Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 20/2006

Mark

Thanks for the feedback and also for the update regarding the UK Geographic Information Panel (<http://www.gipanel.org.uk/gipanel/meetings.html>). It is ashame that the press release is not also published on the GIP web site along with the rest of the information.

Kind regards

Chris

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Update 21/2006 5th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com

Date: Mon, 05 Jun 2006 09:38:37 +0100

To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 21/2006

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 21/2006

Now that the UK INSPIRE Directive Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (PRIA) under taken by the UK's lead Department (Ministry) the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (<http://www.defra.gov.uk>) for the proposed INSPIRE Directive has been made publicly available and can be down loaded from the Intra-government Group on Geographic Information (IGGI) new web site (test):

http://www.iggitest.org.uk/dataClean/assets/downloads/files/INSPIRE_partialR_IA_May2005.pdf?PHPSESSID=3225a842ac2fd4e036f07733bd165dbe

one is able at long last to read and consider the case set out by the UK Government on the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

What a great pity that DEFRA did not follow the procedures set down by the UK Cabinet Office and also publish the PRIA far earlier. Had DEFRA done so perhaps a more balanced PRIA would have been produced and published and a debate could have taken place earlier. The UK position has certainly contributed to the slow progress of the proposed INSPIRE Directive through the European Union Co-Decision process.

The cost benefit analysis figures contained within the PRIA Section 12 *Summary and Recommendations* show that there are no benefits to be accrued from the implementation of the spatial data infrastructure within the UK but would instead be a drain on the tax payer!

Implementation Options	Cost (Euro)	Benefit (Euro)
1 Business as usual	420,761,447	0
2 Adopt as proposed by EC*	1,657,567,154	55,325,035
3 Adopt as amended by UK*	442,600,277	55,325,035

* mean of the range quoted in the RPIA

The figures used in the PRIA for estimating the costs are based on the Annual Reports of a number of public sector bodies in the financial year 2003/04.

A rough and ready analysis indicates that the cost figures used have been over estimated.

According to footnote 21 of the RPIA the following organisations financial costs have been taken into account.

Office of National Statistics
UK Met Office
British Geological Survey
UK Hydrographic Office
Ordnance Survey of Great Britain
Registers of Scotland
HM Land Registry
Companies House

Of the above list four organisations are statutory registers either in whole or in part, which would exist irrespective of the SDI as they are present to serve another need for the society and the UK economy.

Office of National Statistics (in part)

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Registers of Scotland
HM Land Registry
Companies House

Of these four statutory registers three have had their complete income included within the cost figures.

Registers of Scotland	£ 56,629,000	
HM Land Registry (Reg of Title)	£389,225,000	returned a profit of £36,272,000
HM Land Registry (Land Chges)	£ 10,068,000	returned a profit of £ 6,327,000
Companies House	£ 37.600,000	returned a profit of £ 3,400,000
Total	£493,522,000	returned a profit of £45,999,000
Total (Euro's)	Euro 718,529,519	returned a profit of Euro 66,970,954

Note: the above totals for profit do not include Registers of Scotland profit on handling the statutory registers as this is not discernable from the published annual reports.

If these are deducted from the Option 2 totals contained in the PRIA then the Option 2 figures are:

<u>Option</u>	<u>Cost (Euro)</u>	<u>Benefit (Euro)</u>
2 Adopt as proposed by EC	939,037,626	55,325,035

If one then follows the line of reasoning contained within the PRIA that the data will be provided to the public sector at no charge and standard licences will be used (as the UK Local Government is now adopting under the UK Re-use of PSI Regulations 2005 where they are adopting the Office of Public Sector Standard licences) then there will be no need for the large teams of sales and marketing personnel, solicitors that are currently employed within the Trading Funds. The size of the Trading Fund management teams could all be scaled back.

Taking the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain (OSGB) 2003/04 Annual report as an example:

The total number of staff deployed 1583 (excluding temporary personnel) at a cost of £50,613,000 an average cost per person deployed of £31,973.

The OSGB staff break down is quoted in the annual report as:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Operations	1107	70	£35,393,930
Sales and Marketing	207	13	£ 6,618,377
Corporate services	269	17	£ 8,600,693

Savings all of the Sales and Marketing personnel and 20% of Corporate Services estimated total saving in the region of £8,338,516 (Euro 12,140,228).

The OSGB Management team costs in 2003/04 were in the range of £805,000 to £845,000 which rose in 2004/05 to £885,000 to £925,000. Reducing the size of the Management Team by 25% would result in a saving of £206,250.

Based on the above the total saving would be Euro 12,440,512 (accepted that there would need to be a one off charge for restructuring).

If then one takes into account the costs incurred under the modernising government initiative (e-Government) which have been included, removal of competition with the private sector and also other parts of the public sector, removal of the contractual overheads across the public sector of handling the pan public sector agreements it is clear that the costs per annum are far less than the adjusted Euro 939 million.

If one then takes into account the efficiency gains within the public sector then there would be an increase in benefits from Euro 55 million.

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The PRIA did not address local government where most of the data resides hence the cost-benefit figures would need adjustment.

It is clear that even with a rough and ready estimating process as outlined above the figures contained in the PRIA are not correct and as a result one could consider the UK position as extremely pessimistic – the sad thing is that this has had an impact on the progress of a spatial data infra-structure within Europe.

The PRIA if analysed in other areas demonstrates that it time that DEFRA carried out a full RIA in the way that the UK Cabinet Office has set out and also as set out by the European Union.

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 20 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 2nd June 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se
Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 16:25:40 +0200
To: 'Frank' frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at , 'michael gould' <gould@lsi.uji.es ,
<pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: SV: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Andrew,

It is obvious that we need harmonised pan-European data sets for a variety of business. And there have been some attempts in this direction such as EuroRoadS and EuroSpec. Some pan-European datasets has also been generated (SABE etc) while other themes seem to be more problematic. The question we might ask ourselves is if this approach with quite large harmonisation projects is optimal. Are we making things too complicated? Can we create pan-European data sets by using other procedures? Although investment costs are important, I am not so sure that pricing of information has been the main bottleneck. But perhaps people involved in these pan-European projects can correct me if I am wrong here.

Then about the quoted proposed legislation. Yes, this formulation opens up the possibilities of different pricing principles for similar data sets across Europe. Can we anticipate that the data providers also harmonise the pricing principles, not only schemas, semantics, quality etc?

Kind regards

Anders

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Response 1 to Update 20/2006: Mark Probert 4th June 2006

From: Mark Probert mark.probert@geolink-consulting.co.uk
Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2006 13:29:49 +0100
To: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Cc: owner-egip@jrc.it
Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 20/2006

Chris,

You make some interesting points here, and the table showing NIMSA v Parliamentary vote is particularly interesting especially, as you say, if you then add Pan-Gov agreement funding - and other Gov payments arriving indirectly such as Local Gov.

But Ordnance Survey will do the best it can within the remit it has been given (although this was arguably part-defined by OS). The “bigger picture” question is a political one - whether the remit OS has been given (and the other Gov players in the GI sector) is in the best overall interest of UK. Perhaps the first question you quoted in your email should have been “*To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government has to allow Ordnance Survey to make public data freely available to the public*”.

You probably know that the UK GI-Panel (chair and secretary OS) has recently commissioned a study for a UK GI Strategy (nothing on the GI-Panel website yet but a press release can be found on the OS website <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/media/news/2006/june/giinformation.html>) It will be interesting to see how wide the terms of reference are, or whether it will just consider the existing status quo as the framework within which it has to report i.e all Gov Agencies carrying on under their current remit / existing copyright conditions etc? I hope it will be an imaginative study looking at ALL options.

Sorry to look at the UK position only but it is quite significant in the ongoing INSPIRE debate.

Mark Probert MSc MRICS

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Update 20/2006 4th June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Sun, 04 Jun 2006 09:55:38 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 20/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 20/2006

Hardly a day goes by here in the UK when the UK Parliament (both chambers) mentions geographic information in some shape or form. Geographic Information arises in questions and answers (both oral and written), debates, enquiries as well as in research reports. It clearly shows that in the UK at least the national politicians are aware of geographic information and the associated technologies. What is evident however is that the value of data infrastructures (including spatial) are not yet appreciated and raising the awareness with politicians on the benefits of data infrastructures should be the focus rather than just raising the awareness on geographic information and the associated technologies.

Most of the European Union Member States can be described as mixed economies where both the public and private sector are trading on the open market. At times there is little to differentiate the behaviour of a public sector body that is trading from that of a private company that is trading, the key differentiator however is that the public sector trading organisation tends to be a monopoly by nature. The issues of the European Union internal market set the conditions within which a data infrastructure will operate and as such the competition issues need to be addressed. Clearly everyone is finding there way as the information society and knowledge economy continue to develop and advance.

Here in the UK Parliament the probing of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, the UK Met Office and other UK trading funds continue to raise questions and answers related to the competition issues such as the following:

Question 66389 3rd May 2006 regarding Ordnance Survey of Great Britain

“Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans Ordnance Survey has to make public data freely available to the public. [66389]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ordnance Survey has been making mapping and geographic information available to the public for over 200 years.

As a government trading fund focused on the collection, maintenance and dissemination of geographic information, it is a core component of Ordnance Survey policy to ensure that its data is readily available to all who wish to use it. In recent years, there has been a steady growth in the use of such data in commerce, government and leisure activities.

Ordnance Survey, like all trading funds, is charged with delivering a financial return to government. Consequently it charges for the provision and maintenance of its data. It is also expected to invest for the future to meet the increasingly sophisticated requirements of its customers and partners. Ordnance Survey does not receive any funds voted directly by Parliament. Instead it generates its revenue from the licensing of its data into the market place. This business model has helped underpin the efficiency, quality and service improvements that ensure the sustainability of the organisation.”

Comment:

The above is an interesting answer as it neatly side steps the income that arises from the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement (that came to an end at the beginning of April 2006 and no announcement has been made as yet that is in the public domain) and the number of public sector agreements that are entered into that are not open to competition. If one considers the figures contained in government documents that are publicly available then the in flow of monies into the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain have hardly changed from when the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain received parliamentary vote funds.

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Financial Year	Amount GB Pounds	Source
1993/94	£ 17,000,000	Voted
1994/95	£ 14,200,000	Voted
1995/96	£ 13,200,000	Voted
1996/97	£ 12,000,000	Voted
1997/98	£ 2,900,000	Voted
1998/99	£ 13,000,000	Voted
1999/00	£ 14,616,800	NIMSA
2000/01	£ 13,454,136	NIMSA
2001/02	£ 15,987,245	NIMSA
2002/03	£ 12,546,480	NIMSA
2003/04	£ 12,820,427	NIMSA
2004/05	£ 13,179,461	NIMSA

The above then raise some interesting issues related to competition law and the need for transparency in financial accounts.

NIMSA has often been a topic due to the potential cross subsidisation as well as a conflict of interest at the Departmental level which is the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain shareholder (was the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) but as part of the recent UK Government Cabinet reshuffle the Department is now named the Department of the Communities and Local Government DCLG - <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1015390>) hence there is an interest in NIMSA as the following example shows:

Question 56954 9th March 2006 NIMSA

National Interest Mapping Service Agreement

Mr. Arbuthnot: *To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the use of mapping products and services that have been wholly or partly funded under the National Interest Mapping Service Agreement in public procurement competitions. [56953]*

Mr. Woolas [holding answer 8 March 2006]: *The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has both customer and shareholder relationships with Ordnance Survey. These are dealt with separately.*

The current National Interest Mapping Service Agreement (NIMSA) has supported the provision by Ordnance Survey of a number of services in the national interest. NIMSA contributes to the maintenance of the National Geospatial Database and the provision of other uneconomic activities in the national interest. NIMSA supports the maintenance of databases; it does not support the creation of products nor the dissemination of products derived from the databases.

The services provided by NIMSA are typically available at no cost, not only to Government but also to professionals and the general public. They include formal education, providing information on geographic datasets, and provision of mapping in the event of emergencies.

Comment:

The following question provides an example on the flow of money within central government to the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain. (this is not discernable from the published annual accounts) Monies flow into the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain via other non competed agreements such as the pan Government Agreement and the following question and answer provide an example.

Question 70727 22nd May 2006 Valuation Office Agency and the OSGB data

“Mr. Pickles: *To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency has paid in each of the last five years for (a) products and (b) information from Ordnance Survey. [70727]*

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22 May 2006: Column 1406W

Mr. Woolas: *The Valuation Office Agency pays for access to Ordnance Survey's digital mapping products. This is the only material purchased by the Agency.*

The total amounts paid by the Valuation Office Agency for these products provided by Ordnance Survey in the last five years are as follows:

£	
2001-02	(1)
2002-03	(1)
2003-04	375,000.00
2004-05	375,000.00
2005-06	375,000.00

(1) Details not available — could be provided only at disproportionate cost”

Comment:

For information on the Valuation Office Agency visit <http://www.voa.gov.uk/>

It is not only tax monies that flow into the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain but also data that often flows from one part of the public sector to the OSGB for no payment that forms the products that the OSGB offers and then sells back to the public sector.

The following example provides information on the data flows within the public sector towards the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain.

Question 70656 16th May 2006 Local Government data flows towards OSGB

“Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information local authority planning departments provide to Ordnance Survey in relation to (a) individual planning and building permissions, (b) change of use, (c) starts and (d) completions. [70656]

Angela E. Smith: *Ordnance Survey receives information from many, though not all, local authorities.*

There is no uniform format or frequency

16 May 2006: Column 927W

for the provision of such information, and items received vary from copies of planning committee decisions to very detailed site plans. Some information is received electronically although most is in paper form. The information received can include some or all of the categories mentioned in the question.

Ordnance Survey also has a commercial contract with a private sector supplier for regular supply of change intelligence information, some of which is obtained from local authority sources.

The information is used for scheduling survey activities to keep the National Geospatial Database up-to-date.”

Comment:

The issue then arises on such data flows are the local authority's paid for this service? They are charged for the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain data that then flows back under the Mapping Services Agreement. Maintaining an up to date topographic data set certainly requires constant intelligence work to establish what is changing out in the real world. The currency of the data is becoming ever more important and one can envisage a time in the future when vector topographic data becomes no longer viable as other imagery and technology takes over as it is more cost effective and computerised methods of determining the change can be deployed. With the accuracy of the data constantly changing this then leads onto problems that the following extract from a debate highlights.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

The debate is related to the payments under the European Union Common Agricultural Policy.

The debates on the payments to farmers under the Single Payment Scheme also demonstrate how the change of data can have an impact on applications in this case the payment of subsidies to farmers.

House of Lords Debate 30th March 2006 Rural Payment Agency

Rural Payments Agency

2.09 pm

"We submitted the necessary corrections and registered for "fast track" because we realised that the entry-level scheme money would also be vital to the profitability of the farm. To do that, we also needed to get on with our woodland areas and so on. However, the maps did not appear and we could not apply for the entry-level scheme in August. We started to panic and telephoned the agency. Then, around October, we were told, "We're terribly sorry. It's all going to slow down again as there has been a change of policy". I think that that is probably when university students stopped being directly employed to do the work and the department switched to an outsource process. Perhaps that had been planned earlier—I do not know—but there was a huge slowing-down in the process.

30 Mar 2006: Column 902

Months and months after submitting our application, just before Christmas on 23 December, we received maps covering about 80 per cent of the farm estate with a requirement, set out in an abrupt letter, to return them within seven days—not working days but seven days over Christmas—if we wanted to make any changes.

In the meantime, in trying to enter the entry-level scheme we also established from the Rural Development Service that a lot of the land had been lost and was no longer connected, so nothing tallied. The maps that we received in December were not too bad. When I looked at the overall hectarage of the 80 per cent of the land covered by the maps, it came within 0.04 hectares of what I thought it should be according to our digital maps. Therefore, we concurred because at that stage we were both working from Ordnance Survey landline-based data. We only needed to get the remaining 20 per cent registered and we could then go ahead with the entry-level scheme.

We had a few problems. We got a note from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which was clearly working on out-of-date maps with different areas and so on. We also received material from the customer services centre in Newcastle, which showed that the staff there were working from maps with changes on them which went through from 23 December, and from the old 2004 pre-change maps. There was obviously a muddle.

In March, we were worried as we started to receive maps with completely new areas on them. I realised that I was probably looking at a new mapping system based on the Ordnance Survey master-map series, and that maps had been changed in the middle of the operation. We had problems because people had made arbitrary decisions about where the field boundary lay and that did not concur with the old information. That was particularly the case with the old Countryside Stewardship Scheme agreements, where a boundary might date back well before certain other things had changed in the fields. Therefore, if you did not go back to the old boundaries, you would have to rewrite legal agreements as well. We were left in confusion and with problems.

Yesterday, we received some maps and we are now down to only two-thirds of the farm estate being mapped. We seem to have lost an awful lot, so I suppose that I have to go through the whole lot and send them back again. The problem with the mapping, and the reason that it is so important, is that it triggers everything else. The maps are the key to everything: nothing can happen until the maps are agreed. Out of them come the tables from the customer services centre and therefore the entitlement statements. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the entry-level scheme, the farm woodland grant

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scheme and the Forestry Commission woodland grant schemes are triggered by the maps. The sad thing is that, according to the unverified statements sent out not very long ago from Newcastle, we were within four-tenths of a per cent of agreeing the total area for the single payment system claim, but we will not receive anything.”

Comment:

The above example is worth of consideration by all those involved in INSPIRE committees. It also raises doubt over the need to undertake a Cost Benefit Analysis of any rules and data specification changes. Would the above have come into such as cost benefit analysis – I doubt it as the use of geographic information these days extends across a very wide spectrum of organisations all across society. It is therefore important that the Users of Geographic information play a full part – I can detect little readiness for the role set out in the management of INSPIRE for involving the end users.

The above represent just a small selection of what can be found in the official record of the UK Parliament (Hansard) and I expect similarly in the official records of other Member State Parliaments all across Europe as well as the European Parliament official records. Just as National mapping Agencies need to be constantly monitoring the real world to keep their products usable so all of the geographic community need to monitor all the available information channels to ensure that the messages that they may wish to put out to support spatial data infrastructures are on message. Some of the solutions proposed or put forward for example to enable charging for data and services by public sector organisations as the proposed INSPIRE Directive passes through the co-decision process may well not stand up to closer scrutiny under the EU Internal Market regulations and Competition law and will certainly delay the implementation of the spatial data infrastructure and hence the time to reach critical mass and effectiveness. This then raises questions as to the value of demanding cost benefit analysis at a European Union macro level when even projects and organisations have enough difficulty in undertaken such activities as Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA).

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 19 to Update 18/2006: Andrew Frank 2nd June 2006

From: Frank frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 15:36:53 +0200

To: 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se , 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es ,
<pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Anders

I share with you the concern for too detailed legislation and I think the piece quoted here is too detailed and not general enough. It allows for many different interpretations which is fine to achieve local adaptation - with the only caveat that we need for a FEW dataset a pan european coverage easily available to allow the development of GI business. I am still amazed how difficult it was to get decent european road data for car navigation (more than 10 years after the same were common in the USA)...

I fear the detailed legislation will lead to many different national rules, making the few necessary european level services impossible. My interest is not the business opportunities for companies selling GI, but the disadvantage for european business which cannot rely on GI (e.g. road network data) for logistics, business geography etc.

Andrew

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 1 to Response 16B to Update 18/2006: 2nd June 2006 C.Reed

From: Carl Reed OGC Account creed@opengeospatial.org
Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 09:04:42 -0600
To: Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu , EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Re: User pays fees in USA

All -

The concept of "free" data in the US is somewhat misleading. Yes, much of the Federal data is "free", paid for by tax dollars but freely available to anyone. As one drills down into the State and municipal levels - especially at the municipal level - there is really no such concept as "free" digital spatial data. If I go to the City of Ft. Collins and ask for a map of my property, that service is free. If I ask for a copy of the actual digital data of my property, that service is for fee. Typically, these fees are for cost recovery - the time and effort of City staff, materials, etc.

The City of Ft. Collins model is fairly typical for many cities and counties in the US.

That said, life gets much more interesting when an individual or organization goes into a city or country government and asks for a complete copy of the digital database. Typically in this scenario, there are many obstacles (barriers) thrown up, such as issues of confidentiality, privacy, questions about why one wants the whole database, and on and on and on. Usually, enough barriers are thrown up so that the requestor gets frustrated and gives up. Someone with enough perseverance can usually succeed - but usually only having access to a restricted subset.

Many of the barriers to getting access to large volumes of city and county spatial data has to do with inconsistent policies, fear of what the data will be used for, and so on. These same barriers impact the ability of US municipalities to share data effectively in times of crisis, such as during a disaster.

Recognizing this set of issues, there is a group called the Open Data Consortium that is working with government organizations at all levels. The ODC project was established to derive a model policy for distributing governmental geospatial data, that can serve as a de-facto example to guide public agencies. The model policy has been developed with representatives from local government, private companies, federal and state agencies who were willing to pursue a broad consensus of agreement.

Carl

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 16B to Update 18/2006: 2nd June 2006 R.A.Longhorn

From: Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2006 15:47:09 +0200
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Final on the Iowa example

Final on the Iowa example from earlier today. See the special "Note" in the communication regarding fees - the information "is available at no charge..." the fee is for "added functions ...provided on the web page." This is similar to the reasoning that I have found in the other US states that I have investigated - they charge for their "GIS services", but not the data, per se. Yet there is still no information on right to re-use/exploit the data for other purposes, especially of a commercial nature.

Having access to the data directly on your computer, via the web, for which you will pay this fee, is *not* the same as having "free" access to the records office at the county courthouse, as there is certainly personal cost (travel, time) and inconvenience involved in physically visiting a building to find the information. And no mention of how you then take that information away with you following the visit. Most records offices will photocopy an item for you, but for a charge, not for free (as is good business practice for the agency).

If the fee for *on-line* access is low and reasonable, then this could be considered to be equivalent to the cost of a personal visit to a record holder's building/department, especially if you were looking for information about a community quite a distance from your usual location (which could be thousands of miles in the USA). If, via on-line access, you end up with a map, chart, plan, 'official' record (document) on your PC with which you can continue to work, for example in contesting a planning application with which you disagree, then the on-line access is probably providing even better 'service' than the physical visit to the records office. Very much depends upon what is made available and how.

<begins>

June 2, 2006

Thank you for your interest in the Chickasaw County GIS Web site and request for a user account membership.

The current fee for membership to the GIS Web site is \$ 420.00 annually or \$ 35.00 per month. For this fee, you will receive access to plat maps, aerial maps, soil maps, flood plan maps, a comparable search option and the name search function.

If you would like a user account membership, please send the fee to the Chickasaw County Assessor's Office at P. O. Box 94, New Hampton, Iowa 50659, made payable to Chickasaw County.

The account will be activated after receipt of the Fee.

Notice: *The information on this site is available at no charge, just the same as if you came to the courthouse to get it. The fee is for the added functions that are provided on the web page.*

Thank You.

<ends>

Best regards

Roger
ral@alum.mit.edu

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 18 to Update 18/2006: Martin Mallet 2nd June 2006

From: Martin MALLIET mallietm@ngi.be

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 14:05:32 +0200

To: european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: FW: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006 - user should pay principle

My intuition tells me that Robert Barr's idea is probably a lot better than his example of IP addressing - when I pay for registering my domain, I am a user of the information system, because I want my domain to be found. I don't think there can ever be a reason to invalidate the 'users should pay principle'. It's just that the users deriving value from infrastructure GI aren't necessarily in the most obvious places.

--

Martin Malliet - <mailto:mallietm@ngi.be>

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Response 17 to Update 18/2006: Martin Mallet 2nd June 2006

From: Martin MALLIET mallietm@ngi.be

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 13:24:47 +0200

To: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Cc: robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk

Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006 - Basisregistraties in the Netherlands

Who knows more about this Dutch legislative programme, which started back in 2000 and seems to address the fundamentals of e-government (I haven't been paying attention). The focus seems right: to rationalise information use and data exchange WITHIN the public sector. And they cite cost-savings as a main source of finance, which also looks good. 4 out of 6 basisregistraties (for now) are GI: buildings, addresses, cadastre, topography. Some starting points (speaking to myself):

http://www.stroomlijningbasisgegevens.nl/site/00_hoofdpagina.htm

<http://www.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=12051>

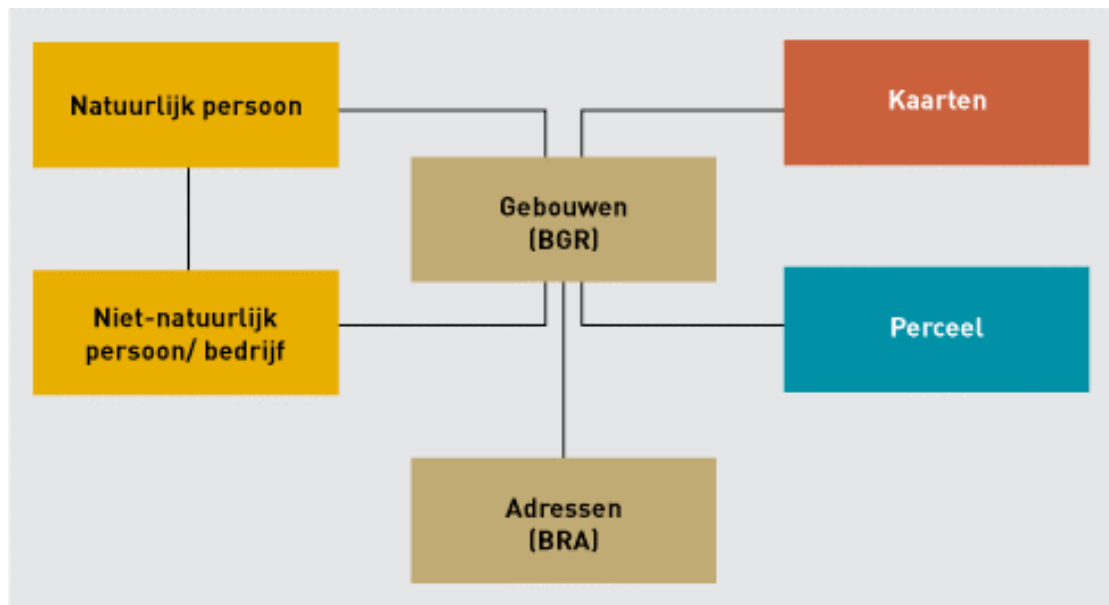
--

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Update 17A/2006 2nd June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2006 12:14:37 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 17A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 17A/2006

As an update to the EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 17/2006 on the 26th May 2006.

If you have not managed to locate the partial regulatory impact assessment that was mentioned then it can be downloaded from the following URL.

http://www.iggitest.org.uk/dataClean/assets/downloads/files/INSPIRE_partialRIA_May2005.pdf?PHPSESSID=3225a842ac2fd4e036f07733bd165dbe

Chris

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Response 2 to Response 16A to Update 18/2006 2nd June 2006: R.A.Longhorn

From: Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2006 15:31:56 +0200
To: michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es
Cc: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Re: User pays fees in USA

Mike,

Thanks for the link, anyway, even if Canadian. The FOI Act that you identified is very much like the FOI Act(s) now implemented (or being implemented) in Europe as result of EC Directives, yet does not preclude any government agency from charging fees for providing the information requested. FOIs set an access principle to all types of government information and also include (or support external) privacy legislation, i.e. disclosure cannot harm persons, or on certain economic or commercial grounds. There is little in these acts that reflects the *exploitation* or re-use principles set forth in the EU's re-use of PSI Directive, which of course also impacts on all public sector GI. The FOI Acts have (to my reading) quite different goals.

Best regards

Roger
ral@alum.mit.edu

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 1 to Response 16A to Update 18/2006 2nd June 2006: M.Gould

From: michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es
Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 13:58:54 +0200
To: 'Roger Longhorn' ral@alum.mit.edu , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: User pays fees in USA

Oops, that was a Canadian legal doc! Too fast on the keyboard.

The French version link should have tipped me off...

Anyway, the diversion (error) might cause one to ask what is different at this municipal level when you cross the border.

Mike

Michael Gould
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Vespucci 2006 summer institute www.vespucci.org
III Jornadas IDEE: <http://jidee06.uji.es>
AGILE: www.agile-online.org

From: michael gould <gould@lsi.uji.es>
Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 13:56:05 +0200
To: 'Roger Longhorn' <ral@alum.mit.edu>, 'EGIP' <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: RE: User pays fees in USA

Yes, local governments in USA have been pressured for many years now to try to recover costs, and so this type of 2-tier service does not surprise me.

As you know (Roger) the spirit of free access to public data is (mostly) a federal-level concept. That said, Google just found me the municipal version, that you might be interested in browsing:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90m56_e.htm

cheers,
Mike

Michael Gould
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Vespucci 2006 summer institute www.vespucci.org
III Jornadas IDEE: <http://jidee06.uji.es>
AGILE: www.agile-online.org

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 16A to Update 18/2006: 2nd June 2006 R.A.Longhorn

From: Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu
Organization: I-DRA Ltd
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2006 12:36:32 +0200
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: User pays fees in USA

Further to my previous e-mail on trying to access GI in the state of Iowa, USA, this is the cost for the service to obtain the more detailed information.

<begins>

A user account is not required to access some information in the site, however

to get the full benefit of the site a user membership is required.

User account memberships are available for an annual fee of \$420.00 per year. You receive access to special features such as ArcIMS map viewer (which included plat maps, aerial maps, soil maps, and flood plan maps), comparable property searches, and a name search function. User memberships can be setup through the Chickasaw County Assessor's Office <http://www.chickasawcoia.org/assessor/>.

If you have not signed up for a user account yet, you will want to continue on by clicking the "*Click here to sign up for a user account*" link. You will then be directed to the Add Account page where you will be asked to fill out the requested information.

If you have already signed up for a user account and would like to gain membership to this site, log into this site with the username and password that you previously setup, and click the "*Click here to request a membership*" link. After you have clicked the link, an email will be sent to the Chickasaw County Assessor's Office notifying them of your request.

Once the fee is received the membership will be activated.

<ends>

So you can see that to have access to local government info in this county, I must pay an annual fee of US\$ 420 (327 euro at today's exchange rates). I do not consider this to be 'free', do you?

I am still trying to find out from the County Assessor what I can or cannot do with the data if and when I pay such an access fee.

Kind regards

Roger
ral@alum.mit.edu

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 16 to Update 18/2006: Roger Longhorn 2nd June 2006

From: Roger Longhorn ral@alum.mit.edu
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2006 12:14:02 +0200
To: Frank frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at
Cc: Robert Barr robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk , michael blakemore blakemorembj@hotmail.com ,
'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Re: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Andrew makes a good point below. My several years of research (far too long, according to my PhD thesis supervisor!) into GI policy issues and more recent specific research on economic value of GI, pricing, charging and dissemination regimes (in co-authorship with Prof. Mike Blakemore), indicate that there is NO single answer to the "free or fee" debate. The information market is a large, complex beast which becomes ever more complicated to manage as the use of ever more information becomes more widespread. Information from government and private industry, separately and more and more frequently, combined in new services or info products. Information that is "free" at one level of detail (whether for the location attribute or the detail of the other attributes on offer), but charged for at higher levels of 'resolution'. Information collected for one purpose (by a government agency), but which someone thinks they can use it for another purpose. Information formerly used by 'experts' (especially in the GIS arena) and now used globally (Google Earth, etc.), often without any of the expert knowledge that would help interpret and use that information wisely or correctly.

Everything has a cost. Information has a cost. Someone has to pay. The 'free or fee' debate is very often linked back to the USA and its Freedom of Information Act (for federal data only) which has supposedly helped generate the information market in the USA. But the 'free-ness' of government information in the USA is one of the myths that needs much closer inspection before being bandied about as the answer to our needs here in Europe. And that applies not just to "GI" but to non-federal government information at all levels (of which the location attribute is but one of many relating to government info).

Bob Barr kindly offered the link to "Discover Sioux City" (www.discoverсиouxcity.com) in his earlier intervention. Since Sioux City is in the state of Iowa, and I was born and raised in Iowa (and still carry a USA passport even after 30 years living in Europe), I had a look at the site. I've also queried the GIS folk at Sioux City to see if they can tell me how much it costs them to collect and maintain the data that is made spatially available via their fine portal. Not just the dissemination cost or the portal maintenance cost or the cost to prepare disparate data sets for presentation via the portal, but the total cost of collecting and maintaining the source data. Someone had to pay for that. Taxpayers. City and state taxpayers in the case of most states and many cities in the USA.

Then an e-mail arrived serendipitously to our thread from googlegroups.com (see below):

<begins>

For those interested in GIS links online check out:

<http://www.gispilot.com/>

I started this site for my work doing Flood Verifications and we have gathered links from the US for state, county, and city GIS links and other mapping links. This site is useful to educators, students, mappers, or anyone looking for online GIS data.

<ends>

I went to this excellent site (try it!) and clicked on my home (USA) state of Iowa, then on the link to my home county (Chickasaw County GIS) - which immediately took me to a *commercial* data provider (Schneider Corporation) and from which web site I cannot access anything without a user name and password. When checking out the Terms and Conditions of use of that 'free' state/county site, I found that the site offers mainly property information and some maps, under authority of the County Assessor (land details register - as America has no national cadastral information system!):

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"Chickasaw County offers at no charge appraisal reports, a summary report, with general parcel information, the assessed value for three years, the taxable values for two years, and the last taxes on the property. *There is much more information that will be available for an annual fee. This will include plat maps, plat maps enhanced by aerial photography, flood plane maps, and plat maps with soil information. You will also receive the capability to search by name and search for real estate property sales: residential, commercial, and agricultural. * If you would like more information or a demonstration of the site, please contact the Chickasaw County Assessor's Office, 8 East Prospect, New Hampton, Iowa 50659. Phone 641-394-2813"

Note the bold text above. You do NOT receive the more detailed information free, you do NOT receive the more detailed maps for free. You do NOT have the on-line search capability for free. That level of information and those additional functions are available only for a fee. I have e-mailed the County Assessor to find out what it will cost me to access the GIS site at all and for access to the more detailed information mentioned above.

It would be a major research project, and one which I wish I had started systematically in the early days of my PhD research, to visit all the sites available in the USA where "government information is free" - and see just how true that statement really is. From the states that I have investigated (6), I confidently forecast that such research will show that much information IS freely available, although not necessarily for re-use (commercial exploitation). Much will also be available only against paying a fee, and the range of fees will vary according to the data specification and intended use. The terms and conditions of access and use/re-use will vary widely across counties in a state, across cities in a state, and from state to state nationally.

A visit to the USA's The National Map viewer (<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/>) and then a few hours browsing The National Map (ah, the joys of research!) will reveal that there *are *many excellent and useful resources available - pipeline networks, utility lines, roads under repair, you name it - *but not everywhere*. Some cities, counties or states will have quite detailed data available, for free, yet others will have nothing of comparable quality for a similar theme. It depends (mainly) upon budgets - how much money does a city, county or state have to spend on presenting its location-based data to a wider public (i.e. outside the government staff who need access to perform legally mandated job functions).

To my mind, this is a pretty 'hit and miss' approach to creating a detailed national SDI. Especially as there is no legislation in place in the USA forcing non-federal GI collectors to offer their data to the rest of the world for free. Yes, the principle is 'make our data as freely available as possible' - but then you have these pesky local tax payers demanding better local govt services at lower costs and wanting lower tax rates as well! Someone has to pay - somewhere.

All comments welcome - and I will let you know what I learn from my enquiries in Iowa!

Regards

Roger Longhorn
ral@alum.mit.edu

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 15 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 2nd June 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 11:27:32 +0200

To: 'Frank' frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at , 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es ,
<pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: SV: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Frank,

I agree entirely. I also realise that I didn't express myself very clearly when expressing some concerns about differentiations. As Dave Lovell points out in his quotation of the position of the council of ministers, a differentiation is proposed as

'The services referred to in point (b) of Article 11(1) [view services] are, as a rule, available to the public free of charge. However in cases where charges and/or licences are an essential precondition for maintaining the spatial data sets and services or for fulfilling the requirements of already existing international spatial data infrastructure in a sustainable way, Member States may apply charges and/or licences either to the person providing the service to the public, or, where the service provider chooses, to the public itself.'

Such a differentiation is fair in my perspective. You may see my concern that I expressed earlier as a concern about too detailed regulations that sometimes comes from Brussels. The differentiation cited above, at least leave some room for national adaptation (which however may result in non-uniform pricing across Europe).

Kind regards

Anders

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 14 to Update 18/2006: Andrew Frank 2nd June 2006

From: Frank frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 09:04:27 +0200

To: 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se , 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es ,
<pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Anders

One of the difficulties with INSPIRE is that it does not differentiate between different products and different markets. It generalizes where generalization is not appropriate - probably because the people involved were mostly looking at technical and legal issues and not at market forces. (Einstein said something like one must generalize, but not more than permitted).

If you separate the markets - mass market, small benefits/specialized market, large benefits - half the problem is solved. Then is left the difficulty with access of special interest groups for highly specialized data (eg. cadastre, environmental) - where some of the groups have good arguments for asking for low cost access (e.g. the education, environmental protection NGO in the political discussion). These are difficult issues, but separated from the others might be solvable.

My answer to your direct question: legislation must differentiate between cases and where a quantity difference is large, then special rules are required. We have different requirements for truck driving than for cars (indeed in this case you have in most countries more than half a dozen differentiations!). Why should we be able to find a single rule fits all for geoinformation?

Andrew

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 13 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 2nd June 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 07:50:41 +0200

To: robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk , 'Frank' frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at , 'michael gould' <gould@lsi.uji.es>, pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: SV: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Robert,

I know that you have pushed this idea of registration fees for financing the data updating costs for several years now. Personally I find this idea very interesting. So I am curious about the reactions you have got. Which good arguments against such an approach have you received? Have anyone looked deeper into this and trying to analyse its consequences?

Kind regards

Anders

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 12 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 2nd June 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 07:44:13 +0200

To: 'Frank' frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at , 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es ,
pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: SV: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Andrew,

Being back at the keyboard, I notice that this discussion also has taken another thread. But I would anyway like to give an answer to your question below.

No, I don't have other figures specifically for the datasets you mention. I have heard quite high figures, but they also include cadastre etc. So your estimate on 1€ per inhabitant may very well be quite accurate.

I agree with you that we need different pricing and cost recovery principles for different products and services. But should these differences be stipulated in a European directive? Please note that cadastre is a theme in INSPIRE Annex II. Shall we in legislation differentiate between feature types?

Kind regards

Anders

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 11 to Update 18/2006: Robert Barr 2nd June 2006

From: Robert Barr robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Organization: The University of Manchester
Reply-To: robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Date: Fri, 2 Jun 2006 05:31:34 +0100
To: 'Dave Lovell' Dave.Lovell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk , 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se ,
'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es , pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

I am grateful to Dave for the helpful, and encouraging, clarification.

However what a wonderfully pointless example was used to illustrate it.

By contrast, take a look at the richness of content and the potential usefulness of this:

<http://www.discoverxiouxcity.com/ed.asp?bhiw=1576&bhih=995>

Surely this is the sort of free access to information that we should be aiming at in Europe!

Best wishes
Bob

Dr Robert Barr

Manchester Geomatics
and
The University of Manchester

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 10 to Update 18/2006: Dave Lovell 1st June 2006

From: Dave Lovell Dave.Lovell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 20:03:38 +0100
To: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se , michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es ,
pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Cc: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com , EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006
Subject: Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

It is good to see this debate on free viewing developing. Here's an example I imagine Chris is well aware of, if you click on 100m you'll see just how detailed it is <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=b1120082> and it's free to view.

So I am surprised that Chris presents the debate about free viewing of data as though it were polarised between the 'free data' camp on the one side and the Member States in Council on the other who, he seems to believe, oppose free view. He says, "The European Council is not in favour of the right to view data free of charge'. Whether this is true or not may hinge on the interpretation of the word 'right' but it certainly doesn't tell the whole story.

Article 14(1)(b) of the Common Position says (and I reproduce it here in full):

'The services referred to in point (b) of Article 11(1) [view services] are, as a rule, available to the public free of charge. However in cases where charges and/or licences are an essential precondition for maintaining the spatial data sets and services or for fulfilling the requirements of already existing international spatial data infrastructure in a sustainable way, Member States may apply charges and/or licences either to the person providing the service to the public, or, where the service provider chooses, to the public itself.'

So, according to Council, free view is to be the rule. Charges can be applied only where they are 'essential', in the sense that the data would not be maintained if there were not the ability to charge for viewing. Surely this is a sensible and necessary caveat, and one that will not unnecessarily restrict public viewing of spatial and environmental information? And why should Member States want to discourage free viewing anyway? Even the most commercially-minded data provider recognises the need to 'try before you buy' and free viewing is rapidly becoming the norm as providers and users alike recognise that the future of GI lies in the ability to analyse and manipulate spatial data rather than simply look at it.

Perhaps this anxiety over viewing is a relic of the those still living in the days of paper maps?

Regards,

Dave

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Southampton SO16 4GU
Tel: 023 8079 2000

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 9 to Update 18/2006: Robert Barr 1st June 2006

From: Robert Barr robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Organization: The University of Manchester
Reply-To: robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 18:58:56 +0100
To: 'Frank' frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at , 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se , 'michael gould' <gould@lsi.uji.es> , pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

I agree with Andrew

However I think there is one caveat, concerning data which is, or should be, an open public record. Such data includes administrative and statistical boundaries, where it should be every citizen's right to be able to see a map and identify which area they belong to, or use the boundaries to compare their data with others.

In some countries cadastral data is also a public record - again I feel it is a democratic right for the ownership of land to be a public record. The other aspect of cadastral data is that, usually, the capture or the amendment of the record has already been paid for at the point where the land was originally registered or the registration changed (through registration fees). These should be set high enough to make the data available. Viewing the record, or even downloading it incurs a minimal cost by comparison to the initial capture and storage.

I keep saying, to no real effect sadly, that we should persuade politicians that those who change geographic data should pay, rather than those who use it. That is the case with Internet Protocol (IP) addressing, you pay for registering your domain, then everyone in the world can use the look-up-table to find your domain for free. This maximises usage, removes the uncertainty of pricing based on assumed sales, or the exploitation of monopoly control to set high prices; and it eliminates transaction costs.

So, simple economics suggests that we should charge those who change the environment for recording that change, not those who need to know about it.

With best wishes

Bob

Dr Robert Barr

Manchester Geomatics
and
The University of Manchester

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 8 to Update 18/2006: Andrew Frank 1st June 2006

From: Frank frank@geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 18:20:27 +0200
To: 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se , 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es ,
<pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it>
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Dear Anders

The argument with the high cost for the maintenance of the data is not accurate if you consider only the data sets of 'high importance' (address, networks, topography, dtm, photo). My estimates are that they are around one euro (1 E) per person and year. If you have other figures, I would be very interested to compare notes.

Note that I have intentionally excluded high cost data sets (cadastre, public utility lines) etc. where the beneficiaries of the data sets are easily identified and can be asked to pay. In consequence I would also ask only for open (free of charge) access to the low maintenance, widely used data sets!

Kind regards

Andrew

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 18B/2006 1st June 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 01 Jun 2006 13:16:22 +0100
To: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18B/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18B/2006

Further to the EGIP exchanges on the UK Met Office

The UK Parliament – House of Commons – Defence Committee continues its probing on the operations of the UK Met Office.

The oral evidence from the 24th May 2006 maybe of interest and can be browsed at the following URL:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/uc823-iii/uc82302.htm>

The above evidence covers the commercial activities of the UK Met Office, the risks and costs of doing so, is the UK Met Office too dependent upon the Defence department, and many other related items.

The Guardian Newspaper here in the UK has published an article based on the above evidence and that referred to in INSPIRE Democratic Process 18A/2006.

The article maybe browsed at the following URL:

<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/>

Chris

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 7 to Update 18/2006: Michael Gould 1st June 2006

From: michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es
Date: Thu, 1 Jun 2006 08:32:25 +0200
To: 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se , pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Anders,

The pay-for-use model makes some sense to help defray maintenance costs (works fairly well for toll highways), however the free view would still be a necessary pre-service (to WFS data retrieval) in order to give users the confidence to push the download button. Also for reference data I still think that free (gratis) access is the policy that will best stimulate the market. But then, yes, many provider agencies would need to "renegotiate" how they get funded.

Also, in a perfect world SDI provides adequate enough remote services so that users should not feel obliged to download massive quantities of data for local processing (the process Max Craglia humorous refers to as data mining: "mine, mine, all the data is mine").

Cheers,

Michael Gould
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Vespucci 2006 summer institute www.vespucci.org
III Jornadas IDEE: <http://jidee06.uji.es>
AGILE: www.agile-online.org

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 6 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 31st May 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Date: Wed, 31 May 2006 23:05:34 +0200

To: 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es , pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it

Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: SV: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

All,

I don't think that the main issue is about free viewing services for quick looks etc. As Mike points out, cost reductions and improved service can be obtained by such a policy. In fact, we have several such services already provided by NMCA's. And having Google Earth and alike, paid viewing services for quick looks should look quite ridiculous.

What I instead aimed to draw attention to was the concern about the data maintenance cost, if these should be covered by purely political decisions and/or by paid download services (WFS) or other services. How do we arrive to an appropriate level of quality (=maintenance costs) when we have producer monopolies?

Kind regards

Anders

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 5 to Update 18/2006: Michael Gould 31st May 2006

From: michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es
Date: Wed, 31 May 2006 20:12:22 +0200
To: pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it , 'Anders Östman' Anders.Ostman@hig.se
Cc: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinch@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

All,

The comparison to the train schedule is closer to the metadata catalog example, I think.

The free viewing contemplated (essentially a WMS that shows samples--bitmaps, not the data per se-- of the product on offer) does imply substantial maintenance costs to data providers. However the overall cost to the government administration should be lower, in the sense that providing a quick look will reduce the number of customers that return asking for their money back...creating huge transaction costs in terms of employees to respond to complaints and execute reimbursements. (Returns processing currently is the major bottleneck of e-business!)

Some products provided on-line do not require quick looks, such as MP3 files, books or CDs (but even providers of these latter products do tend to use quicklooks!).

But artwork (posters for example) is one case where the buyer wants a look before ordering, and where there's no harm in providing a free, low-res JPEG to avoid possible disappointment and then returns.

Geodata seem to also require a quick look, to judge cloud cover in sat imagery, or coverage or density of a road network,...

If the administration (or any entity) is committed to "facilitating geodata", then it should recognise the value of providing quick looks instead of hiring extra employees to answer exchange claims.

Or perhaps the whole Inspire enterprise is a really just a plot to reduce European unemployment! Chris can perhaps investigate that theory...

Mike

Michael Gould
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AGILE: www.agile-online.org

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 4 to Update 18/2006: Pasquale Di Donato 31st May 2006

From: Pasquale Di Donato pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Organization: LABSITA - Università di Roma La Sapienza
Reply-To: pasquale.didonato@uniroma1.it
Date: Wed, 31 May 2006 19:04:50 +0200
To: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se
Cc: 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es , 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Re: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Ok Anders, but speaking about viewing services and pursuing with the metaphor of the train infrastructure, your position means that I'm supposed to pay for viewing the train timetable!!!??

Pasquale

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 3 to Update 18/2006: Anders Östman 31st May 2006

From: Anders Östman Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Date: Wed, 31 May 2006 17:34:38 +0200

To: 'michael gould' gould@lsi.uji.es , 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: SV: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Mike and Chris,

An argument that makes sense to me, which also was put forward at the European parliamentary conference in Gävle in the beginning of April this year, is that the data producing organisations are concerned with the costs of updating. If we are going to free services (viewing and downloading), the maintenance costs have to be covered by the state budget. The fear is that this will not happen. We have seen a similar pattern for other types of infrastructures, for instance trains, subways etc. It is also sometimes claimed (I have not checked how true it is), that the maintenance of US federal data is poor.

Then there are some specific concerns for individual countries. In Sweden, as an example, the updating of national GI databases is increasingly outsourced to the municipalities. There has been substantial reorganisation efforts made here, and of course, changing the whole business models for database maintenance is not well received by everybody. However, in the long perspective, this is quite a poor argument in my perspective. But this type of resistance exists and we must have some understanding for this.

Kind regards

Anders Östman
University of Gävle

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Update 19/2006 30th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 30 May 2006 08:26:33 +0100
To: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 19/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 19/2006

The European Council common position as of the 26th January 2006 with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive has been published today in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The English version can be obtained from URL:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/ce126/ce12620060530en00160032.pdf>

Common Position (EC) No 5/2006 of 23 January 2006 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton
Sussex
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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 18A/2006 29th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 29 May 2006 20:51:16 +0100
To: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18A/2006

Further to the EGIP exchanges on the UK Met Office, (<http://www.met-office.gov.uk/>) earlier today.

If you are interested to understand more about the UK Met Office for example:

- how it was financed to the tune of approximately £100 million in the first five years of its Trading Fund existence;
- the quality of its data;
- whether the UK Met Office should remain in the public sector or be privatised
- the past joint venture with weatherXchange (<http://www.weatherxchange.com/>)
- the commercial operations of the UK Met Office
- differences between the UK Met Office and the equivalents in the USA

then you may find the UK Parliament - House of Commons – Defence Select committees enquiry into the workings of the UK Met Office.

The evidence collected so far can be browsed at the following URLs:

11th May 2006 oral evidence – current Chief Executive of the UK Met Office

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/uc823-i/uc82301.htm>

23 May 2006 oral evidence – past Chief Executive of the Met Office

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/uc823-ii/uc82301.htm>

Chris

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 2 to Update 18/2006: Chris Corbin 29th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com

Date: Mon, 29 May 2006 11:50:59 +0100

To: 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Subject: Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Michael

Thanks for these comments.

The European Parliament public hearing on European disasters did not mention the desertification of the southeast corner of England – drought orders are all the rage here at the current time – now the weather data indicates that May so far has been the wettest month since 1986 or there about – I can certainly vouch that there has been little rain – that it is always cloudy and cold as it is today! Civil society are asking here why up to 30% of the water leaks away in the distribution system when they are being asked to get ready to carry their bucket to the nearest stand pipe – mind you the GI sector is ready as we learnt from Dr Snow many years ago about the danger of public stand pipes!

With respect to the economic line put about by some. As you mentioned precipitation and the UK Met Office is recorded to be one of the public sector data stakeholders that have concerns over the proposed INSPIRE Directive a perusal of their Annual Financial reports may not go a miss!

The UK Met Office was formed in 1854.

The UK Met Office became a Trading Fund in 1996. It reports to the UK Ministry of Defence.

So it appears that the logic of the line or reasoning some put about is - that for over 142 years the UK Met Office had poor quality data which broke the UK economy (uhmmm....) – my there must be many a past Met Office employee turning in their graves when such statements are made.

The attached analysis indicates that the amount of income received from outside of the public sector (based on the past 5 years of Met Office Annual Accounts) shows the earned profit is falling and represents 12%. For some strange reason the UK Met Office became rather coy about publishing the full Profit and Loss data for their commercial activities during 2004/05.

The analysis also shows how the UK military activities dominate within the UK Met Office activities.

I also expect the employees within the UK National Health Service and the UK School teachers also must be hurt by such statements – both of these sectors deliver their services to the UK society free of charge! I for one would not say the quality of the service (expertise applied) was low in these two areas because they are provided free of charge.

The attached UK Met Office financial analysis may help with articulating a response to such lobbying lines.

Perhaps others that are subscribers to the EGIP can provide the equivalent for their country.

Thanks again for the instant response Mike

Chris

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 1 to Update 18/2006: Michael Gould 29th May 2006

From: michael gould gould@lsi.uji.es

Date: Mon, 29 May 2006 11:05:11 +0200

To: 'Christopher Corbin' corbinceh@ntlworld.com, 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

Chris, you state:

“The above would seem to indicate that the:

- Geographic Information community when consulted were strongly in favour of being able to view data at no charge.
- The European Commission is in favour of being able to view data at no charge.
- The European Parliament (First reading) reinforced by the EP ENV Committee in the second reading amendments is in favour of being able to view data at no charge.

BUT

- The European Council is not in favour of the right to view data free of charge!

So who is the European Council and Member State governments listening to?

No wonder people keep on adding their signatures (5398+ people) to the Internet **Geo Data Petition** (<http://petition.publicgeodata.org/> <<http://petition.publicgeodata.org/>>)

And in the UK there is a campaign led by a National Newspaper – the Guardian Technology supplement (<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/> <<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/>>) - to **Free Our Data** (<http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/> <<http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/>>)”

Of course you are playing Devil’s advocate (and well played), but let me just add one opinion in response.

I do ***not*** believe that the Council truly is against viewing data free of charge. I believe that it has been scared by lobbyists, with the typical economic argument “if you let this happen our market collapses, people lose their jobs, all sorts of social chaos breaks out...”

And this one voice (or few voices) certainly carries more weight than 5000+ signatures of anonymous troublemakers.

This weekend my 11-yr-old daughter was showing me a nice weather application built into her messenger chat software. She clicked on nations and then cities around the world, and up popped the weather forecast with nice temperature and precipitation graphs for the coming week. Click, click, hey, how strange, no precipitation data for the UK. I wonder why, she asked me....

Cheers,

Michael Gould

Dept. Information Systems (Lenguajes y Sistemas Informaticos), Universitat Jaume I, 12071 Castellón, Spain

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Vespucci 2006 summer institute www.vespucci.org <<http://www.vespucci.org>>

III Jornadas IDEE: <http://jidee06.uji.es>

AGILE: www.agile-online.org <<http://www.agile-online.org>>

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 18/2006 29th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinch@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 29 May 2006 09:29:26 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 18/2006

One of the issues related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive is the right to view data at no charge.

When lobbying Members of the European Parliament and National Members of Parliament about the proposed INSPIRE Directive and the vote that will take place in the European Parliament within the next 14 days, is to refer to a number of recent European Union announcements and conclusions which relate to geographic data and information and in particular the Environment.

Natural disasters: How should Europe respond?

On the 20th March 2006 a joint public hearing was held within the European Parliament in Brussels (Organised by the COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY, COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT and the COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT). The details of the hearing can be found at the following URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/hearings/natural_disasters/default_en.htm

The summary available in (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese) can be found at the above URL. The English version is available at the following URL:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/hearings/natural_disasters/summary_en.pdf

The hearing considered recent cases of European disasters such as:

- Floods (Sweden, Netherlands 2006, Central Europe 2005, Bavaria 1999, 2002, 2005)
- Forest Fires (Mediterranean each year - Spain, Portugal 2005)
- Drought
- Desertification (Spreading throughout France Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal)

and went onto consider common actions such as:

- Strategy
- Combined policies
- Coordinated funding
- Inform and educate civil society

The hearing proposed recommendations that included:

- information resources, with a view to creating common, reliable and **free geographical databases**; making standardised and rapid information available; speeding up cooperation for the exchange of measurement data

In a nutshell the public hearing seems to be saying that there is a need to inform and educate the civil society and that to do this one needs to make available access to geographic information and that this needs to be implemented in an inclusive way in order to reach all citizens and that the communication should be in a standardised and responsive way...my my this sounds very much like a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (read INSPIRE) if I am not mistaken!

EU Institutions must comply with the rules of the Aarhus Convention

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

The Conciliation Committee of European Parliament and Council of Ministers agreed on the 2nd May 2006 that EU institutions must comply with the rules of the Aarhus Convention.

The Aarhus convention concluded in 1998 under the auspices of the United Nations, aims to involve European Citizens in environmental policy by entitling them to gain access to information and to participate in decision-making and, if these rights are not respected, to take legal action to enforce them.

The agreement reached by the Conciliation Committee includes:

- Access to information - All information made available to the public will be provided free of charge
- Public participation - Time-limit of at least eight weeks must be set. Hearings or meetings must be announced 4 weeks in advance
- Internal review and access to justice
- Implementation - mid 2007

Ref: 20060502IPR07755 at URL:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/news/expert/infopress_page/064-7798-123-05-18-911-20060502IPR07755-03-05-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm

The above outcome from the conciliation process would indicate (judging by the amendments proposed at the end of the first reading and the statements made at the Gavle event) that the European Council is out of step when it considers the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

It would appear that some Member States and the European Council have forgotten the need for an inclusive society for which they constantly remind us that they are striving for!

These two recent event correlate with the INSPIRE Internet consultation undertaken in 2003 where Question 15 posed the questions:

*Do you consider it important to be able to **view the data available?***

95% (167 respondents) replied YES

3% (6 respondents) replied NO

2% (3 respondents) replied Unable to Judge

*If YES - should this be **free of charge?***

81% (134 respondents) replied YES

12% (20 respondents) replied Unable to Judge

7% (12 respondents) replied NO

Source of the above: Report on the feedback of the Internet INSPIRE Consultation published 28 August 2003) available at URL:

http://inspire.jrc.it/reports/analysis_consultation_01092003.pdf

The above would seem to indicate that the:

- Geographic Information community when consulted were strongly in favour of being able to view data at no charge.
- The European Commission is in favour of being able to view data at no charge.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

- The European Parliament (First reading) reinforced by the EP ENV Committee in the second reading amendments is in favour of being able to view data at no charge.

BUT

- The European Council is not in favour of the right to view data free of charge!

So who is the European Council and Member State governments listening to?

No wonder people keep on adding their signatures (5398+ people) to the Internet **Geo Data Petition** (<http://petition.publicgeodata.org/>)

And in the UK there is a campaign led by a National Newspaper – the Guardian Technology supplement (<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/>) - to **Free Our Data** (<http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/>)

The above represents just a few examples of points to make to the hesitant politician with respect to the INSPIRE Directive.

Whilst lobbying the elected representatives don't forget to constantly drop in the need for TRANSPARENCY

Happy lobbying

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 17/2006 26th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 26 May 2006 14:41:04 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 17/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 17/2006

It seems that the European Parliament is not the only Parliament that has an interest in the proposed INSPIRE Directive at this time!

Within the UK the lead government department for the proposed INSPIRE Directive is DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

The elected politicians within the UK are having to ask the Ministers within the DEFRA Ministers for the INSPIRE partial regulatory impact assessment (undertaken over 15 months ago!) to be published.....read on....but do not be surprised if you still can not obtain the information as the said web site where it is to be published is being redeveloped.....

The following has been copied from URL:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm060503/text/60503w03.htm>

3 May 2006: Column 1566W

EU INSPIRE Directive

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of (a) the Regulatory Impact Assessment and (b) the supplementary explanatory memorandum on the implementation of the EU INSPIRE directive. [66272]

Mr. Morley: Copies of the Regulatory Impact Assessment and the supplementary explanatory memorandum on the implementation of the EU INSPIRE directive were sent to the International Affairs Section of the House of Commons Library in 2005 via a Cabinet Office circulation list for explanatory memoranda. Copies of both documents are available in the Library.

In addition, the Regulatory Impact Assessment will soon be available on the Intra-governmental Group on Geographic Information website <http://www.iggi.gov.uk>.

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 16/2006 25th May 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 25 May 2006 07:51:25 +0100
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 16/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 16/2006

Monday 12th June 2006 the European Parliament at its plenary session, that will be held in Strasbourg; will consider the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

The draft agenda for the European Parliament plenary sessions covering the 12th to the 15th June 2006 has been published (see attached) or refer to URL:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/omk/sipade3?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+AGENDA+20060612+SIT+DOC+XML+V0//EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N&L=EN>

As can be read within the above mentioned document amendments for rejection of the proposed INSPIRE Directive can be lodged by 1800 hours 7th June 2006.

If you intend to lobby your MEP regarding the proposed INSPIRE Directive and have not done so as yet then time is now short to do so.

If you wish to see the proposed INSPIRE Directive with the European Parliament amendments go through then it is important that you contact your MEP to encourage them to vote in favour of the proposal put forward by the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. A clear message needs to be delivered - the larger the vote in favour the clearer the message.

If you need further information as to why you need to take action and have not considered the papers and presentations presented at the Gavle, Sweden, conference at the beginning of April 2006 then visit the following URL and download the various papers and presentations and take note of the presentation from the European Presidency (Austria) representative.

http://www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_Page_9662.aspx

The Official Journal of the European Union has published today the official minutes of the European Parliament plenary session that considered the proposed INSPIRE Directive first reading on the 6th June 2005 (just over a year for the European Parliament to consider the proposed INSPIRE Directive for the second time!). The relevant URLs are as follows:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/ce124/ce12420060525en00090009.pdf>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/ce124/ce12420060525en00190019.pdf>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/ce124/ce12420060525en00330034.pdf>

It is worth considering the above and taking action that ensures we do meet the needs of all within Europe.

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 15/2006 24th March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 24 Mar 2006 11:49:30 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 15/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 15/2006

The European Parliament ENVI Committee has published the document of accepted amendments.
Document reference A6-0081/2006

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/oeil/FindByProcnum.do?lang=2&procnum=COD/2004/0175>

The document confirms that Amendments 1 through to 35 (the Rapporteurs Ms Frederika Brepoels) and amendment 43 (put forward by Ms Satu Hassi) were approved.

The overall vote was 45 in favour with one abstention.

Members of the ENVI committee that took part in the vote included:

Adamos Adamou
Liam Aylward
Johannes Blokland
John Bowis
Frederika Brepoels
Martin Callanan
Dorette Corbey
Chris Davies
Avril Doyle
Mojca Drčar Murko
Edite Estrela
Jillian Evans
Anne Ferreira
Matthias Groote
Françoise Grossetête
Gyula Hegyi
Mary Honeyball
Marie Anne Isler Béguin
Caroline Jackson
Eija-Riitta Korhola
Holger Krahmer
Urszula Krupa
Aldis Kušķis
Linda McAvan
Riitta Myller
Péter Olajos
Miroslav Ouzký
Vittorio Prodi
Frédérique Ries
Guido Sacconi
Karin Scheele
Carl Schlyter
Richard Seeber
Jonas Sjöstedt
Bogusław Sonik
María Sornosa Martínez
Antonios Trakatellis
Thomas Ulmer

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Marcello Vernola
Åsa Westlund

ENVI Committee substitutes that took part in the vote included:

Alfonso Andria
Bairbre de Brún
Jutta D. Haug
Miroslav Mikolášik
Andres Tarand
Claude Turmes

Now that the EP ENVI committee has approved the second reading amendments that will go forward to the plenary of the European Parliament, negotiations may well get underway between the EP, Council and Commission rapporteurs for INSPIRE.

On the Council side the Member State Permanent Representative personnel will no doubt be involved. To find out who your countries permanent representatives are to the European Union then visit the following URL: <http://europa.eu.int/idea/en/index.htm> within this web site the following URL provides the links to the Member State Permanent Representatives.

http://europa.eu.int/idea/bin/dispent.pl?lang=en&entity_id=3780

Alternatively you could visit your Countries Permanent Representatives web site (however be warned they are not yet all in the Information Society as yet as can be seen by the following list of URL's. Perhaps they wish to be out of sight - the European Parliament and MEP's are stars by comparison! Or perhaps I am rather slow at locating them!! What ever there appears to be a mismatch between the Lisbon Treaty regarding making Europe the Information Society and Knowledge economy in the world and reality!)

Czech Republic <http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/default.asp?idj=2&amb=3>
Finland <http://www.finlandeu.org/en/>
France <http://www.rpfrance-ue.org/>
Germany <http://www.eu-vertretung.de/de/>
Hungary <http://www.hunrep.be/>
Lithuania http://www.lt-mission-eu.be/index_en.htm
Poland <http://www.brukselaeu.polemb.net/index.php?document=20>
Slovakia <http://www.mfa.sk/zu/index/podstranka.php?id=367>
UK <http://www.ukrep.be/>

It is worth contacting your Member State permanent representatives to find out the position they will take on INSPIRE in the second reading. (Don't forget these good people are there to represent and work for you! You no doubt pay their salary indirectly from your taxes!) Alternatively email them as to why you believe the European Parliament amendments should be supported.

Lastly perhaps a little aspiration control...the Austrian Presidency might not find the time to take the INSPIRE directive through to a final decision. All the signs are looking like it will fall to the Finnish Presidency in the second half of this year.

If you need some motivation and you are a supported and or have invested a huge amount of intellectual capital over past years in INSPIRE then you may need to start considering what the world will be like without INSPIRE – as this could be a distinct possibility.

In summary if you wish to see INSPIRE become reality then you need to do at least one or more of the following:

Lobby your MEP's
Lobby your Permanent Representatives to the European Union
Lobby your lead Ministry for INSPIRE in your country
Lobby your national Members of Parliament

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Push for transparency - remember the EU Councils statement at the end of 2005 that they intend to improve transparency of how they are operating - and if you are a member of a national Association or pan European Association ensure that they have on the open side of their web site their position on INSPIRE now that the European Parliament ENVI Committee has published its recommended amendments. A little naming and shaming on the latter might assist oil the wheels!

Good luck, share your experiences,

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 12A/2006 23rd March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 23 Mar 2006 11:19:28 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 12A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 12A/2006

An update to EGIP intervention on 16th March 2006 INSPIRE Democratic Process 12/2006

The Ordnance Survey Minister has responded to the question raised below in the UK Parliament - I wonder whether any one any is the wiser?

Now I wonder who has seen a completed partial Regulatory Impact Assessment and whether it complied with the UK Cabinet Office guidelines?

21 Mar 2006: Column 294W

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment (a) his Department and (b) Ordnance Survey has made of the implications of the EU's plans for Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE). [59121]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Defra is the UK Policy Lead department on INSPIRE. Defra has completed the partial Regulatory Impact Assessment covering the benefits and cost to UK. This Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanied a supplementary explanatory memorandum sent to the appropriate Scrutiny Committees on 26 May 2005.

Regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 14/2006 23rd March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 23 Mar 2006 08:19:23 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 14/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 14/2006

The European Parliament ENVI committee met on the 21st March 2006 as planned.

The outcome has been well reported on the GeoData site at URL:

http://publicgeodata.org/Vote_in_Envi_060321

The verbal recording of the vote on each of the amendments can be found there as well as a summary of outcome.

In summary the ENVI Committee endorsed the rapporteurs position and that the ENVI committee MEPs intended to provide as much support to the rapporteur as possible for the coming debates in the European Parliament plenary and with the negotiations within the co-decision process with Council.

It is now important that all that wish to see INSPIRE go forward as originally envisaged back in 2004 and before now provide support to the MEP's to ensure a majority vote in the European Parliament plenary in due course.

It is also important that the Member State Members of Parliament are also aware of the situation and why INSPIRE is needed.

The next opportunity to ensure INSPIRE is kept on course is to ensure that the assembled audience at the Gävle come away with the understanding as to why INSPIRE is important especially with respect to environmental policy.

Happy listening

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 13/2006 18th March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Sat, 18 Mar 2006 10:05:00 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 13/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 13/2006

The European Parliament ENVI Committee has published its Newsletter number 2006/4 21.03.2006.

The newsletter on page one has a short item on INSPIRE copied in below. The newsletter (English) can be down loaded from the following URL (4 pages)

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/envi/pdf/envinews/2006/200604.pdf>

"INSPIRE

Co-decision - second reading Adoption of a draft recommendation

The ENVI Committee will adopt a draft recommendation on the infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) (Frederika Brepoels, EPP-ED, Belgium).

The Parliament delivered its first reading on 7 June 2005 and adopted 49 amendments. The rapporteur considers that the Council has not taken on board Parliament's views on the most important issues. She underlines that free access must be guaranteed for search and view services. She also wants to exclude intellectual property rights from the list of exception on which there would be restrictions on access to environmental information.

Amendments tabled: 43

Adoption in Plenary: June

Adoption in Plenary: May II"

If anyone needed any persuasion on the need for a pan European Spatial Data Infrastructure then item two in the newsletter on Floods may assist. The first reading of the proposed Directive on assessment and management of floods is just beginning and appears neatly before the INSPIRE agenda item on the ENVI Committee meeting for the 21st March 2006. These two items are complementary and perhaps it is no accident that the INSPIRE agenda item is well down the agenda as some of the early agenda items are underpinned by INSPIRE.

If you have not already read the proposed Flood Directive and impact assessment that was published on the 18th January 2006 then the following URL's may assist.

Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the assessment and management of floods {SEC(2006) 66}

Brussels, 18.01.2006
COM(2006) 15 final/2
2006/0005(COD)

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/impact/docs/ia_2006/01_com_2006_15.pdf

Impact Assessment

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/impact/docs/ia_2006/01_sec_2006_66.pdf

Regards

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 12/2006 16th March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 16 Mar 2006 18:17:15 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 12/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 12/2006

Uhmhhh interest in the proposed INSPIRE Directive has reached the interest of the UK Parliament just as the European Parliament ENVI Committee is about to consider the 43 amendments and which to vote through on the 21st March 2006 in Brussels. The amendments can be downloaded from agenda item 15 on the following URL:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/envi/envi_20060321_1500.htm

I wonder whether this means local government has woken up with respect to the value of the proposed INSPIRE Directive?

....read on....

Part 1: Written Questions for Answer on Wednesday 15 March 2006

"61

Mr Eric Pickles (Brentwood & Ongar): To ask the Deputy Prime Minister, what assessment (a) his Department and (b) Ordnance Survey has made of the implications of the EU's plans for Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE). (59121)"

Mr Pickles MP is Shadow Minister for Local Government;
Deputy chairman Conservative Party

Interesting that this question has been directed at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister....perhaps the answer will be when it appears on the public record that this is a matter for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA - <http://www.defra.gov.uk>)

The democratic process raises some other interesting points with respect to bed fellows!

I wonder whether the short speech made last June in the European Parliament will be repeated this year when the proposed INSPIRE Directive reaches the European parliament plenary!

....read on.....

Gerhard Batten MEP London UK Independence Party speech 6th June 2005 has some interesting comments to make about the proposed INSPIRE Directive and the Ordnance Survey. The speech can be read at the following URL:

http://www.gerardbattenmep.co.uk/search.php?misc=search&subaction=showfull&id=1118249729&archive=&cnshow=news&start_from=&%5C%22to_date_day%5C%22=&TB=home5

Now I wonder whether Mr Batten realises the number of Ordnance Survey employees that serve on the various INSPIRE committees?

Whilst the Public Geodata organisation (<http://petition.publicgeodata.org/>) petition crosses 2000 verified signature the The Guardian Technology campaign Free Our Data: Make taxpayers' data available to them <http://www.freeourdata.org.uk/> - the web site contains a number of responses

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including one from the Ordnance Survey. The campaign stepped up a notch with a further article appearing in the Guardian newspaper today 16th March 2006 titled:

What Price Information?

By Charles Arthur and Michael Cross

<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/story/0,,1731386,00.html>

The authors report that they have received a huge response since the article a week ago (refer to EGIP intervention Geographic Information Markets 4/2006 9 March 2006) and the launch of the Guardian campaign. The article appears to be referring to the proposed INSPIRE Directive in parts plenty of URLs to explore within this article.

So it seems that the European Parliament ENVI Committee and the European Commissions position at the end of the first reading have a lot of support - lets hope the ENVI MEP's act wisely on the first day of spring (in the northern hemisphere) next week.

It all sounds like a good topic for the assembled masses in Gävle early in April 2006.

<http://www.direktportalen.com/dynaweb/Gavlekongress/index.asp?page=2732>

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 11/2006 14th March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2006 15:11:32 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 11/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 11/2006

Just in case you have not spotted Amendments 36 to 43 are now available on the URL below at agenda item 11 in 12 of the European Union languages.

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/envi/envi_20060321_1500.htm

EGIP intervention INSPIRE Democratic Process 10/2006 relates to this intervention.

Kind regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 10/2006 1st March 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Wed, 01 Mar 2006 18:06:21 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 10/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 10/2006

If you are not already aware the next meeting of the European Parliament Environment Committee will be held on the 21st March 2006 in Brussels.

INSPIRE is item 11 on the agenda. The documents for this meeting are currently being assembled and can be found at the following URL as they are completed:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/envi/envi_20060321_1500.htm

The Second reading amendments 1 to 35 already appear on the above mentioned URL.

Amendments 36 to 43 will appear in due course (those amendments received by the closing date and time for amendments). They are currently being translated from their natural language to the EU languages. These amendments relate to Recital 6, Recital 18, Recital 20, Article 3, paragraph 9, point (a), Article 4, paragraph 6, sub paragraph 1 a (new), Article 5, paragraph 2, point (b), Article 6, point (a) and (b), Annex III, point 11

At this point in time and over the next 15 days or so the rapporteurs require our support. This can be provided by providing information that justifies the amendment or otherwise being put forward.

The outcome of the 21st March 2006 meeting will be an approved set of amendments that will then go forward to the next stage in the second reading of the INSPIRE Directive within the European Parliament.

Please engage with the your MEP's and the Rapporteurs. Thanks

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Update 9/2006 23rd February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 23 Feb 2006 15:39:21 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 9/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 9/2006

If you have not heard the recording of the debate at yesterdays European Parliament ENV Committee meeting that debated the proposed INSPIRE Directive Then you may do so by visiting the following URL: <http://publicgeodata.org/Envi060221>

This is democracy in action - please take part.

In the debate a point arose regarding farmers - if you evidence supporting the point then I am sure the rapporteurs would be interested to hear from you.

Regards

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Update 8/2006 20th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 20 Feb 2006 18:46:13 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 8/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 8/2006

For your information just in case you have not already seen and read the European Parliament ENV Newsletter 3/2006 dated 21/2/2006. The newsletter can be downloaded from the following URL. The first item in this edition of the newsletter deals with INSPIRE.

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/envi/pdf/envinews/2006/200603.pdf>

The INSPIRE article within the newsletters provides the following dates in relation to the INSPIRE second reading

Deadline for amendments: 23 February, 6 p.m.
Adoption in ENVI Committee: 21 March
Adoption in Plenary: June

Regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 7/2006 18th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Sat, 18 Feb 2006 10:06:03 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 7/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 7/2006

The democratic processes related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive has been underway for some time and this intervention contains just two examples from 2006 - just in case you are not aware of them!

For consensus to be reached (the democratic objective) there is a need for openness, transparency, a willingness to understand the different views and for these views to be debated so that hopefully one moves forward in a positive way (albeit sometimes in very small steps) and that all parties feel they had an opportunity to participate in the consideration even if they do not like the eventual outcome!

The co-decision second reading process is meant to focus the minds via the rules of engagement and by the timescale placed on the parties involved. This no doubt is meant to encourage everyone to try and reach a consensus opinion.

We are now into the second reading and time is counting down so there is need for more debate, more openness, more transparency, more supporting evidence to be presented to assist reach consensus. This is where you come in as you maybe able to provide evidence that supports why INSPIRE needs to go forward in a way that is both positive but above all it helps European Society.

Example 1

=====
The European Environmental Bureau (EEB - <http://www.eeb.org/>) home page states:

"The EEB is a federation of more than 140 environmental citizens' organisations based in all EU Member States and most Accession Countries, as well as in a few neighbouring countries. These organisations range from local and national, to European and international. The aim of the EEB is to protect and improve the environment of Europe and to enable the citizens of Europe to play their part in achieving that goal."

During the first half of January the EEB published and submitted a Memorandum to the Austrian EU Presidency which can be downloaded from URL:

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/Memorandum-Austria-120106.pdf>

INSPIRE is mentioned in the memorandum on pages 8, 29, 30 and 31. In case you are short of time the text has been copied into this intervention lower down.

The EEB also publishes for each EU Presidency period 10 tests (for the Austrian Presidency they appear on page 8 of the above) by which they will assess the achievement of any given Presidency.

The 10 TESTS for the Austrian Presidency from the EEB published in January 2006 includes INSPIRE which is available in English and German at the two following URL's:

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/EEB-Ten-Green-Tests-for-Austrian-Presidency-FINAL-040106.pdf>

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/EEB-Ten-Green-Tests-for-Austrian-Presidency-FINAL-DE-040106.pdf>

To save time Test 2 bullet 3 both the English and German versions have been copied into this intervention lower down.

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Example 2

Civil Society in the democratic process often uses petitions as a way of registering their concerns. One such petition that relates to the proposed INSPIRE Directive and in particular to the EU Councils common position version can be found at the following URL.

<http://petition.publicgeodata.org/>

It appears that over 500 European citizens have already signed this petition so far. The petition will be submitted to the MEP's. This petition in effect supports the Communication from the European Commission that can be found at URL:

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/06/st06/st06334.en06.pdf>

If you are aware of other examples of the democratic process in operation with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive then please share them with the EGIP subscribers.

Above all engage and enjoy the democratic process.

Chris

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Copied from the EEB memorandum at URL:

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/Memorandum-Austria-120106.pdf>

The EEB calls upon the Austrian Presidency to:

- Not undertake anything that would discourage the European Parliament from following its Environment Committee.
- Support the restoration of the right to access to justice in the Regulation, the reduction of the exemptions to access to information and public participation and the other proposals the Parliament might make regarding timetables.
- Open finally the negotiations on a Directive on Access to Justice at member state level.
- A second reading agreement on INSPIRE that will include the removal of existing barriers concerning public access to data, sharing of data between public authorities and re-use by third parties – in line with the Aarhus Convention's requirements of access to environmental information.

See also: Letter to EP by 10 environmental organizations on second reading Aarhus Regulation:

<http://www.eeb.org/activities/transparency/Green10-letter-EP-second-reading-Aarhus-060106.pdf>

7.1.3. INSPIRE

The draft INSPIRE (INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in the European Union) Directive forms a unique attempt to mobilise the new technical possibilities provided by Geographic Information Systems, massive data storage and management and the internet for improved environmental policy

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making and implementation. If the Commission's proposals are adopted, it will oblige member states to link their spatial environmental data to a common European infrastructure which will be accessible for the general public. Key function will be to support the understanding, implementation and control of environmental policies. It would considerably increase the benefits of the 10 billion Euro annual investments in data collection throughout the EU, ensuring that these data are used in the most efficient way and support well informed environmental policy making.

The Council in its first reading, however, decided to give preference to the protection of intellectual property rights, thereby fatally weakening the Commission's proposal. The INSPIRE Directive will go into second reading during the Austrian Presidency. Both the original Commission's proposal as well as the Parliament's first reading consolidated text put the need of access to information up front. The Commission has not supported the first Council agreement as it 'falls well short of the overall level of ambition that is essential for this Proposal'.

The EEB calls on the Austrian presidency to:

- Ensure that a second reading agreement on INSPIRE will include the removal of existing barriers concerning public access to data, sharing of data between public authorities and re-use by third parties – and in this way reinforce the aims of Aarhus to guarantee the right of public access to environmental information by or for public authorities and more generally the availability and dissemination of such information.

Copied from URL:

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/EEB-Ten-Green-Tests-for-Austrian-Presidency-FINAL-040106.pdf>

"• A second reading agreement on INSPIRE that will include the removal of existing barriers concerning public access to data, sharing of data between public authorities and re-use by third parties – in line with the Aarhus Convention's requirements of access to environmental information."

Copied from URL:

<http://www.eeb.org/publication/EEB-Ten-Green-Tests-for-Austrian-Presidency-FINAL-DE-040106.pdf>

- Eine Einigung in 2. Lesung zur INSPIRE-Richtlinie über Raumdaten (INfrastructuer for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe), die die Beseitigung bestehender Hürden beim öffentlichen Zugang zu Daten, bei der gemeinsamen Nutzung von Daten durch Behörden und bei der Wiederverwendung durch Dritte beinhaltet – in Übereinstimmung mit den Anforderungen der Aarhus-Konvention zum Zugang zu Umweltinformationen,

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Update 6/2006 16th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Thu, 16 Feb 2006 15:31:58 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 6/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 6/2006

The Communication from the Commission (dated 14th February 2006, Ref 6334/06) to the European Parliament on the Councils common position has been published today the 16th February 2006. It can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/06/st06/st06334.en06.pdf>

The European Parliament ENV Committee INSPIRE Rapporteur Frederika Bropoels paper on draft recommendations for the second reading on INSPIRE is now available in most EU languages. Download them from the following URL:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/envi/envi_20060221_1500.htm

Please note that the last date for receiving draft amendments is (copied from the Agenda of the meeting ENV meeting for the 21st February 2006)

5. Infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE)
ENVI/6/33636 - [KÖYK]
PR - PE368.032v01-00
Rapporteur: Frederika Bropoels (EPP-ED)
- Consideration of a draft recommendation
- Deadline for tabling amendments: 23.02.2006 18:00

What can **YOU** do - well you can exercise your democratic right by:

- considering the amendments and to propose draft amendments to an MEP on the ENV Committee by the above dead line. (Preferably one of the Rapporteurs)
- you can provide evidence that supports the amendments tabled or otherwise.

Remember MEP's are human and as such they will thrive on feedback, they need to know the community is interested and wants the INSPIRE Directive...don't just sit there as you might find you do not like the eventual outcome. If you do not put your views forward others may well be doing so but alternative views - so act now.

It is interesting to reflect on the above process which is in stark contrast to the way the Council process works within the Co-decision process as such you can read what is being proposed prior to decisions being taken, you can interact with the MEP's and their staff, you can even propose amendments within the second reading rules! Wow!

The target is to outstrip the EU Ombudsman record of 5000 submissions

<http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/release/en/2006-02-14.htm>

Its time for you to help put the proposed INSPIRE Directive in the EU equivalent of the Guinness book of records.

Its time for action

Chris

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The Democratic Process**

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Update 5/2006 13th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 13 Feb 2006 13:33:03 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 5/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 5/2006

Further to the intervention on EGIP dated 7th February 2006 at 0944 hours GMT Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 4/2006.

In case you have not already seen the European Parliament ENV Committee INSPIRE Rapporteur Fredierika Bropoels paper on Draft Recommendations for second reading in INSPIRE dated 1st February 2006 then please download the document (English only at the current time) from

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/599/599960/599960en.pdf

The document contains 31 proposed amendments to the Council Common position

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Update 3B/2006 10th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 10 Feb 2006 12:40:21 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3B/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3B/2006

I have been emailed off list but I thought I would share the issues raised with the EGIP forum. The issues were about my use of the word 'democracy' and the phrase 'democratic process' - wow I should have known better!

The point that has been made is how does democracy operate if transparency does not exist, if one can attend a conference and one cannot speak!

Well my response was yes you have a point but....

With respect to transparency - yes the geographic information community has not been as open as one would have liked but perhaps the information was there in this information society world we live in (WWW) but it was not being picked up by different groups (reference the URL's in intervention 3A) and for example - visit the Dutch URL that follows that was dealing with responding by the end of January 2006 to the invitations.

<http://www.tweedekamer.nl/vergaderingen/commissievergaderingen/docs/a35821.htm>

As Mike responded yesterday re INSPIRE and TRANSPORT perhaps the organisers did not want to be ambushed but then again part of the lobbying strategy of the organisers is to take others by surprise to ensure that the organisers message what ever that may be is not disturbed - the fun of lobbying!

With respect to being unable to speak in the debate - well yes it might not be ideal but then I can attend most Parliament and local government Council sessions / meetings and sit in the gallery and listen to the debate so this is not unusual. (Interesting though I can view these events with out the need to pay or sign away my rights in a licence and it does not seem to effect the quality of the debate in anyway...yet public money is being expended!)

Of course if one attends the Conference in Gävle there will be plenty of opportunities to network, or to display materials, or to stand outside and handout materials to people as they enter, or to stand on a soap box and rent a mob (those that wished to enter but could not as the building is too full and to let them in would have contravene the fire regulations!), or to let off balloons with a message printed on them.

Of course if one wishes to exercise the latter lobbying techniques it is wise to identify with the local inhabitants of Gävle. One way to do this is go with a peace offering in the shape of a goat! To put this into context then peruse the following:

The Gävle Goat – facts: http://epi.gavle.se/gk/t_engelsk.asp?id=9138

This then leads to an excellent lobbying line which can be based on Aesop's Fable: The wolf and the goat on the cliff: <http://www.mythfolklore.net/aesopica/oxford/100.htm>

To demonstrate the fable then one needs some ammunition to bring home the point that relates to some that will be speaking at the event so one could hand out printouts of the picture and text to be found at the following URL: <http://www.eastleighlibdems.org.uk/news/158.html> as it seems to have one person that will be sitting on the panel on day one and it is about the organisation of another person that will be on the panel. Any politician that has attended both events may be confused and so you will be welcomed as you will be able to enlighten them!

In lobbying it is wise to have other examples in ones tool bag so one could also print out a page or two (refer to intervention on unique keys) that shows several members of the day one panel appear to be

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trying to avoid all EU Directives (as a fall back position you understand!) as they have introduced a new country with the name of "Great Britain (TOID)" it is so new that even the national mapping agencies have not mapped it!

And yet another line is the assembled experts are not even in agreement at this stage with respect to INSPIRE and to back that up have a copy of the report on the Permanent Committee on Cadastre meeting held in Southampton, 26th October 2005 where there is an action that states:

"Write to the European Commission urging them to consider moving cadastral parcels and property identifiers from Annex 2 to Annex 1 in the proposed INSPIRE Directive."

http://www.eurocadastre.org/pdf/Meeting_Report.pdf

So it would appear that certain folk and organisations may have skeletons in the cupboard which makes for some good questions for John to consider posing. For example with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive are you a Sheep or a Goat? One of the tricks of the trade John has is to take the panel members by surprise so you understand I am helping the panel members here as they can then prepare!

Mike yesterday in his intervention also made an interesting point about time - one of the outcomes of the EU Council common position is that the time to achieve has been extended - odd is it not when one considers Mike's point re time.....well yes those steeped in diplomatic processes will be aware that to play for time is a standard technique in the hope that it might go away!

It is also odd that when one takes into account Member State eGovernment strategies and policies that are closely aligned with INSPIRE one often finds the eGovernment target dates are well in front of the INSPIRE dates - so what is going on here? (Supporting materials can be found on the IADBC web site <http://europa.eu.int/idabc/en/home>)

I am sure the politicians would like to hear from the geographic information experts present what is the impact of time on the European Spatial Data Infrastructure - they will need the pro's and con's in order to decide what INSPIRE time scales should be applied.

Another question can be posed is the one following from Robin's intervention and that is why is it that the Committee of the Regions gave no opinion when INSPIRE will have an impact upon them?

Another is to pick up the point Dave made in his intervention about local government bodies such as the UK Local Government International Bureau and whether they were invited to the Conference? (The politicians may wish to know this!) From the panel what will be the cost benefits to local government? This is a valid question as the EU Council common position states that for every rule a cost benefit analysis should be undertaken. In order that we can all undertake this task it would be good to learn from the panel of experts exactly how this would be done but in the context of local government.

So I hope the above provides food for thought for those that wish to lobby - and as Bob set out in his email it is wise to present politicians with options as there is usually more than one way to achieve an objective as the geographic information practitioners are well aware of.

If you have not already contacted John with your ideas, then please do so as John is still seeking input from all parts of the community.

Enjoy lobbying - it is a thoughtful process and one that exercises all sorts of skills - consider it part of continuous professional development - no quality CPD scheme would not include lobbying.

It is perhaps worth reminding oneself that when lobbying on INSPIRE one needs to ensure INSPIRE does not go the way of the Gävle goat!

Chris

PS Do you know what the key message is that the conference organisers wish to put across to the assembled politicians - is Vote YES for INSPIRE providing it is my way?

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 4/2006 7th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 07 Feb 2006 09:44:05 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 4/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 4/2006

For your information - further evidence if you need it that the democratic process of the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive is underway and the clock is ticking down!

The proposed INSPIRE Directive is on the agenda as item 5 for the European Parliament Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI) scheduled to meet on the 21st and 22nd February 2006 in Brussels.

http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/envi/default_en.htm

INSPIRE also has re appeared on the ENVI work in progress list where you can monitor progress within the ENVI reference ENVI/6/33636.

The Rapporteur is as before Ms Frederika BREPOELS MEP (Belgium) and her European Parliament contact is fbrepoels@europarl.eu.int

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/members/expert/committees/view.do;jsessionid=73126308F93E818E754D130C2C3EE48A.node2?language=EN&id=28463>

<http://www.friedabrepoels.be/>

The Administrator supporting is Virpi KÖYKKÄ vkoykka@europarl.eu.int and Secretary is Anabela PEREIRA anpereira@europarl.eu.int

It is now over ten years since GI2000 was initiated if you would like to see a spatial data infrastructure in place then perhaps is now the time to find some time to engage in the democratic processes related to INSPIRE.

Regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 3A/2006 7th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 07 Feb 2006 21:31:21 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3A/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3A/2006

Further to the interventions from Frank and John today:

This thread is becoming an interesting case study in itself on how well transparency is operating within the European geographic information community. It also brings out the importance of raising the awareness and lobbying the national representative that will be attending for your country. The information released indicates that others can attend as observers but they are unable to take part in debate. As such John's open request for input is one for you to take up as the panel members will be able to speak and put their points of view across!

I agree with Franks comment on the stakeholders (probably based on Day 1 panel and exhibition) as there does seem to be some bias - an interesting one is that the majority of the panel on day 1 are British (albeit some of them represent European organisations in some cases).

It is also interesting to note for example who is representing Local Government, Regional/Provincial Government (both politicians and public sector employees), European Private Sector and lastly Civil Society? Perhaps EUROGI will cover off these stakeholders.

Perhaps these are all areas that can be covered by passing to John the views of these sectors - you may need to provide them as questions as John may be shown the door if he is found to be talking all the time! Hopefully your lobbying plan will have many strands to it so it is worth informing your national representatives at this event of your views as well, not to mention providing some publicity prior, during and after the event.

The following URL's may be of interest as background material regarding the Interparliamentary information services.

IPEX (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange)
<http://www.ecprd.org/ipex/index.asp>

Also related is the COSAC

Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union
<http://www.cosac.org/>

GUIDELINES - INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
<http://www.cosac.org/en/documents/basic/interparliamentary/>

The invitation to Denmark may also be of interest as it provides a little more information regarding the conference than the conference web site. It can be browsed at the following URL:

<http://www.eu-oplysningen.dk/upload/application/pdf/b8079689/141.pdf>

A Swedish politician has been promoting the event for some months now as can be browsed at the following URLS.

2005-11-22 Speech on European Integration delivered at the University of Bucharest

http://www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_PageExtended_7917.aspx

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Quote from the speech that mentions INSPIRE

"In the last couple of years the sectional committees of the national parliaments have increased their cooperation, focusing on substance rather than procedures. Next year, for instance, we will have a parliamentary conference in Sweden on the so called INSPIRE-directive, which in short is about creating an infrastructure for geographical information in Europe."

2006-02-02 Strengthening of Democracy in an enlarged European Union – experiences and wishes.
Speech at the university of Ljubljana

http://www.riksdagen.se/templates/R_PageExtended_8794.aspx

Quote from the speech that mentions INSPIRE

"In the last couple of years the sectional committees of the national parliaments have started to increase their cooperation, focusing on substance rather than procedures. This spring, for instance, we will have a parliamentary conference in Sweden on the so called INSPIRE-directive, which in short is about creating an infrastructure for geographical information in Europe."

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EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Response 6 to Update 3: R.Barr 9th February 2006

From: Robert Barr robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Organization: The University of Manchester
Reply-To: robert.barr@manchester.ac.uk
Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2006 20:51:54 -0000
To: 'John Leonard' johnleonard2@ntlworld.com , 'Dave Lovell' Dave.Lovell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk ,
'Robin Waters' robin.waters@rswgeomatics.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Cc: "Christopher Roper (Tangram)" christopher.roper@tangram.org.uk
Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

Dave

While I always sympathise (these days) with calls for sustainable transparent funding and a proven funding source I think you offer a false dichotomy: "...adequate return from the market or the exchequer".

Both methods are wanting. While I know INSPIRE spreads a wide net, my own view is that it should only cover (or concentrate on) necessary "collect once, use many times", definitive data. Such data includes cadastral registration data (with or without parcel boundaries), street centre line data, administrative and statistical boundaries and, of course, addresses. As such data is, or should be, "collect once" and definitive, these data sets would create a natural monopoly making proper economic market based pricing impossible.

Land registration data is usually funded by registration fees, and there is no reason why each type of "definitive" data should not be funded by an appropriate single registration fee for each update of the register (central database). Such fees should be calculated (taking into account the volume of update transactions) to cover the cost of the infrastructure on which the database runs as well as the database update operation itself. Then maintaining the register could be put out to competitive tender. The amount of work involved would be known, a market price for providing the service could be arrived at without any of the bidders having to concern themselves very much with how big the demand for the data would be. This is because the bulk of costs accrue in updating the database and running the infrastructure, not querying it. An assertion proven by the effective operation of the Internet DNS system which is funded on precisely this basis.

So a third method of sustainable funding is to fund all definitive data from registration fees, and leave all non-monopoly, non-definitive data (such as aerial photography) to the market to provide.

Such a mechanism is not difficult to describe or implement (as cadastral agencies and the DNS system have demonstrated) but it does require an act of political will, and an attention span from politicians longer than is usually available. It avoids all the counterproductive turf wars and IPR battles that quasi-market funding of monopoly data by quasi-commercial national agencies involves, or the vagaries of the next public spending round.

It is understandable that agencies currently benefiting, or wishing to benefit, from monopoly rents on definitive data, but producing a mix of definitive and non-definitive products do not want to see their current business model undermined, however much opprobrium it brings down upon them. However, that is not a good enough reason for others not to lobby for a sound method of financing definitive data. Also, as such data will then become available either at no cost at the point of use, or minimal transfer costs, there will be the additional benefit of maximising its use, or at least removing, or reducing, the price disincentive to using it. A point interestingly picked up by Postcomm, the UK postal regulator in the consultation document on the Postcode Address File which they have published this week.

So lets get away from the pay for your data or you will lose it dichotomy (or threat) that you implicitly suggest we are tied to and be more creative about lobbying for the third way.

Best wishes

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Bob

Dr Robert Barr
Manchester Geomatics Limited
and
The University of Manchester

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 5 to Update 3: J.Leonard 9th February 2006

From: John Leonard johnleonard2@ntlworld.com

Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2006 15:39:44 -0000

To: Dave Lovell Dave.Lovell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk , Robin Waters robin.waters@rswgeomatics.com
, EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it

Subject: Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

Thanks Dave!

Well worth remembering - but how to persuade those who want the data and are not required to question how it should be acquired and financed?

JohnL

EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 4 to Update 3: D.Lovell 8th February 2006

From: Dave Lovell Dave.Lovell@ordnancesurvey.co.uk
Date: Wed, 8 Feb 2006 14:33:28 -0000
To: Robin Waters robin.waters@rswgeomatics.com , John Leonard johnleonard2@ntlworld.com ,
EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006
Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

Robin, John,

I agree. Ordnance Survey tried to raise the visibility and potential impact of INSPIRE with Local Authorities in UK through the Local Government International Bureau's monthly briefing document in the Autumn of 2004. <http://www.lgib.gov.uk/index.html>

I'd also observe that whilst it may seem 'relatively easy for the NMAs and environment agencies to talk about grandiose plans for harmonising datasets; collecting new data' it is usually far from easy and never, without clear user requirements and an adequate return from the market or the exchequer, sustainable.

Regards,
Dave

Dave Lovell Head of Public Affairs Ordnance Survey

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Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
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Response 3 to Update 3: R.Waters 8th February 2006

From: Robin Waters robin.waters@rswgeomatics.com
Date: Wed, 8 Feb 2006 12:36:31 -0000
To: 'John Leonard' johnleonard2@ntlworld.com , 'EGIP' european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: RE: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

John

Thanks for the opportunity and perhaps to reinforce some of Chris' points:

In Sardinia last June there were a lot of INSPIRE presentations from regional and local governments across several countries. Many of these saw INSPIRE as an opportunity to get local initiatives off the ground or to kick central governments into action.

It seems to me that these may be under represented at the meeting in Sweden. We know how difficult it is in UK to interest local government in such matters UNTIL they are directly affected. And our regional governments (apart from the devolved 'provinces') seem not to have a matching remit. I think it would be very useful to try to tease out some of the missing local & regional issues. In Ordnance Survey and the Environment Agency we have a very centralised control over our topographic and environmental datasets. This is not the case everywhere.

It is relatively easy for the NMAs and environment agencies to talk about grandiose plans for harmonising datasets; collecting new data to a European specification; or deciding how much (or little) they are going to charge for it. The majority of local authorities will, at some point in the future, just have this all dumped on them from a great height with exhortations from a minister to deliver and with not a penny extra to be put on council taxes!

It is little wonder that local politicians (and the national opposition) will blame both their own governments and Brussels for the inevitable bust up. In UK LGA or IDeA really ought to be taking an interest (anyone listening?).

Promotion of the INSPIRE vision must surely require better representation of all those affected.

Robin Waters

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Helping you Profit from Digital Geography

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 2 to Update 3: J.Leonard 7th February 2006

From: John Leonard johnleonard2@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 7 Feb 2006 15:49:19 -0000
To: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com, EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Subject: Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

Dear All,

I have been invited to chair the two Panel Sessions at this event, the first of which involves a number of Chief Executives of National Mapping, Environmental, and Transport Agencies etc, while the second is billed as "Negotiations between the participating parliamentary representatives". I understand that a large number of nations will be represented.

I am delighted that the Swedish Parliament has taken the initiative to raise awareness of the INSPIRE issue in this way.

If any of you have burning issues you feel should be raised, do let me know so that I can consider if / how they might be introduced. I would appreciate them as soon as possible and certainly earlier than All Fools Day (April 1st)!

John Leonard

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EGIP Archive: <http://www.ec-gis.org/egip/>

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

Response 1 to Update 3: F.Hoffman 7th February 2006

From: Doz.Dr.Frank.HOFFMANN@t-online.de

Organization: GEO_System-Consultant_DRESDEN via<T-online-DSL> <Tel/Fax:+49-351-401.4260><Mobile:+49-160-9490.2443> <Voice&Fax:+49-1805-060-3351.2453>WebServiceTransaction>>>>> EMAIL> IGN_e.V.<Office_Communication><Tel:+49-351-403.2729>

Reply-To: IGN-Vorstand@GMX.de

Date: Tue, 07 Feb 2006 09:05:09 +0100

To: EGIP european-gi-policy@irc.it

Cc: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com, "GDI-SN-Liste (Verteiler)" <GDI-SN-L@kbox7.de>

Subject: IGN ->>Re: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

Christopher Corbin wrote:

The INSPIRE democratic process can now be seen in action.
One example is the Conference scheduled for early April 2006 in Sweden.
**European Union Interparliamentary Conference on the INSPIRE Directive,
2-4 April 2006, Gävle, Sweden**
For details visit the following URL:

<http://www.direktportalen.com/dynaweb/gavlekongress/>

Here is an opportunity for lobbying so thoughts on a post card please sent to the EGIP list, closing data for thoughts that can be taken forward is none other than 1st April 2006! (Be careful now)

#####

see also the **INSPIRE'd** concept behind of the
pre-Workshops GIBSER planned in March & April
EU-X-border-GI&SDI for GeoINSPIRE'd Bohemia<>Saxonia Euro-Regions
A cross-border/cross-sectoral cooperation of CAGI(CZ) and IGN(SN)

- <http://www.cagi.cz/novinka.php?id=178>

as we think that the success of a sustainable ESDI will be and has to be re-solved across EU borders of euregios...

as well see

the GI2006 symposium planned in May 11./12.
GI2006-EU-Symposium "Regional-X-border-GI&SDI in Europe of Regions"
(with international Participation)

and look at open Call for papers /posters /demos at

- WEBSERVER of IGN-SN
 - <http://www.IGN-SN.de/GI2006/GI-2006-CALL-FOR-PAPERS.doc>
- MAPSERVER of EnviroGIS-LIBEREC
 - <http://maps.kraj-lbc.cz/dokumenty/GI2006/GI-2006-CALL-FOR-PAPERS.pdf>

planned in connection with traditional
5th Saxonian GIS-Forum,
DRESDEN, May 11th - 12th, 2006

#####

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

To help you along with the thought process:

- do you believe this conference will represent one particular set of stakeholders or all stake holders?

#####

it seems to me that this event is pushed by [EuroGeographics](#) mainly... !??
nevertheless, it is of very importance to lobby for INSPIRE, especially at local/regional, and cross-border/cross-sectoral level in a Europe of Regions...

#####

- do you believe this conference will represent civil society or a narrow part of the public sector?

#####

difficult to say as this info came up more or less randomly - thanks, CC !

#####

- do you believe this conference will enable the co-decision process to reach a consensus?

#####

to answer this question correctly you have to know the dissemination strategy of organizers, the conference organization is on top level

--...

personally, i w'd have awaited to meet these euro-(geo-)politicians not in april in Gävle, but at the **forthcoming 12th EC GI&GIS event** scheduled for **June 21-23, 2006 in Innsbruck... !??**

- <http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/12ec-gis/>

#####

Your thoughts might help to ensure the correct balance

#####

with regards from GeoINSPIRE'd Bohemia<>Saxonia crossborder euregios,
f.hoffmann / 9:00

#####

Happy thinking!
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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 3/2006 6th February 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Mon, 06 Feb 2006 17:00:05 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 3/2006

The INSPIRE democratic process can now be seen in action.

One example is the Conference scheduled for early April 2006 in Sweden.

European Union Interparliamentary Conference on the INSPIRE Directive, 2-4 April 2006, Gävle, Sweden

For details visit the following URL: <http://www.direktportalen.com/dynaweb/gavlekongress/>

Here is an opportunity for lobbying so thoughts on a post card please sent to the EGIP list, closing date for thoughts that can be taken forward is none other than 1st April 2006! (Be careful now)

To help you along with the thought process:

- do you believe this conference will represent one particular set of stakeholders or all stake holders?
- do you believe this conference will represent civil society or a narrow part of the public sector?
- do you believe this conference will enable the co-decision process to reach a consensus?

Your thoughts might help to ensure the correct balance

Happy thinking!

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 2/2006 27th January 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Fri, 27 Jan 2006 15:55:53 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 2/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 2/2006

If you wish to participate in the next stage of the democratic process on the proposed INSPIRE Directive then now is the time to start preparing for the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive. As there is plenty of reading and thinking to be done the following is just a rough outline as a suggestion I am sure there are other ways as well which will lead to success.

1. Read the co-decision guide pages 5 through to 7 that can be downloaded from URL http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cmsUpload/code_EN.pdf The purpose of this step is to appreciate what is allowed and what is not allowed during the second reading and then develop your lobbying strategy accordingly.
2. Read the outputs from the first reading Council (See below), Parliament, Committees and the European Commission.
3. Identify MEP's you may wish to address and think about the position that you may wish to put to them. It is important to understand the political party line rather than the MEP's views and positions. MEP's may toe the national party line that they are affiliated to. If they are affiliated to the political party in power in their country then they are likely to adopt the Member State Government line.
4. Share your views on what ever forum you are connected to and identify with to see if there is any support for your ideas - if you cannot gain consensus in your peer group then think hard about going to the politicians.
5. Consider EU and National policies that might be in conflict with any of the 1st reading positions. For example data not available for security reasons but Europe has a open skies policy, satellite imagery is available from sources outside of the EU. What is needed here is real live examples that can be referred to -0 not words - not myths - but real substance.
6. Formulate your lobbying line so that it is in the language of the politicians and presented in a way that is in tune with the key policy areas at the EU level.

Time scale for the above 2 to 3 weeks - not long - especially if you wish to use techniques like a mass lobby.

It is important for all data users to get involved and civil society.

Share ideas on how to prepare.

The objective is to reach a consensus and a positive route forward.

In parallel with the above ascertain your National position and if this is documented share it irrespective of the language it is presented in - it is useful to know where to locate it.

Debating your point of view amongst the GI community is great but it is the people now making the final decisions that need to be engaged.

It is worth reminding oneself that politicians are by enlarge dependent upon their constituents engaging with them and providing them with information that enables them to operate effectively.

In case you have not already spotted that the Council document archive has been updated with the Statement of the Council's Reasons today 27th January 2005. The document description and PDF URL is below.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

12064/2/05 (6 pages)

REV 2

ADD 1

Title: COMMON POSITION adopted by the Council 23 January 2006 with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European

Community (INSPIRE)

Date of document: 23-01-2006

Date Archived: 27-01-06

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st12/st12064-re02ad01.en05.pdf>

The background documents in case you do not have them were posted to the Council Archive in November and December 2005 and can be downloaded from the following URL's. This set of documents provides an audit trail of what has been taking place with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive within the Council

12064/05 (40 pages)

Title: COMMON POSITION adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

Date of document: 18-11-2005

Date Archived: 20-11-05

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st12/st12064.en05.pdf>

12064/05 (6 pages)

ADD 1

Title: COMMON POSITION adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

Date of document: 18-11-2005

Date Archived: 22-11-05

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st12/st12064-ad01.en05.pdf>

15148/05 (2 pages)

Title: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) [first reading] Adoption of (cp + s) (a) a common position (b) a statement of the Council's reasons

Date of document: 05-12-2005

Date Archived: 7-12-05

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st15/st15148.en05.pdf>

15148/05 (3 pages)

ADD 1

Title: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) [first reading] Adoption (cp + s) of the common position of the statement of the Council's reasons Statements

Date of document: 05-12-2005

Date Archived: 8-12-05

**Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive
The Democratic Process**

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st15/st15148-ad01.en05.pdf>

Good luck - give it a go.

Chris

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Directive The Democratic Process

Update 1/2006 24th January 2006

From: Christopher Corbin corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 24 Jan 2006 13:01:43 +0000
To: EGIP european-gi-policy@jrc.it
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process 1/2006
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process 1/2006

The stage is now set for the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive following the 2703rd Council Meeting, Agriculture and Fisheries that was held in Brussels on the 23 January 2006 which adopted the Councils common position on the proposed INSPIRE Directive following the first reading.

Page 23 of the draft minutes refers and can be downloaded from:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/agricult/88099.pdf

Towards the end of 2005 the Council also agreed to improving the openness and transparency in the Council. Details can be downloaded from:

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/87778.pdf

Over the next six months the Council would welcome feedback on whether they are achieving this increased openness and transparency. The second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive would be a good process to monitor as during the first reading the European parliament and European Commission were far more open and transparent than the Council.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting held on the 23rd January 2006 also adopted improved Transparency with respect to access to documents.

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