

# Public Sector Information

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towards a more open market-place  
which adds value through improving  
access

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**PSI Alliance**★

# Why is PSI important?

- It is estimated that 15-25% of all information contains an element of PSI
- In France, GFII estimates that the current PSI turnover is about €737 million per annum (2005)
- In the UK, the OFT CUIPI study estimated that current restrictive arrangements reduced the value of the PSI market by at least £500 million per annum
- Commercial conflicts between the public and private sectors are likely to become worse
- No State can function without information. This key information infrastructure should be available to everyone – and for re-use – without constraint

# What role should Government play?

- Good governance of the country ✓
- Which requires information ✓
- But where are the boundaries of its information role?
- What quality of information does it need?
- How should it decide on quality?
- If its needs to change, how does it manage the adjustment?
- And make sure it is all kept up to date?

# What is the proper “public task” of government services?

- The role of PSI holders is poorly defined
- Their role is not generally to encourage private sector innovation and participation
- Instead, the State encourages its own bodies to be entrepreneurs..... Even though they are monopolies
- The terms of the Directive for the Re-use of PSI are unclear and do not prevent abuse
- In brief, PSI producers generally operate under a liberal regime

# This situation does not always benefit the public sector itself

- Contract terms offered by PSI Holders can prevent the effective functioning of the State
- Two public bodies can find themselves in competition with each other
- There is a lack of external supervision and oversight to ensure financially efficient PSI production
- The dividends paid to government are small
- The current situation limits innovation, employment opportunities and enterprise

How can the participation of the private sector be encouraged?

# The young entrepreneur.....



**PSI  
Treasure**



**Fair  
competition?**



**Effective  
access?**



**Reasonable  
Licence  
terms?**



**What PSI is  
available?**

**Initial  
enthusiasm**



**Burned Out?**



The PSI gate-keeper

How do we encourage  
investment and participation by  
the private sector?

*By offering certainty*

# Certainty requires .....

- An inventory of what can be licensed for commercial re-use
- A definition of the limits of public task
- Clarity and fair terms for licences for re-use of PSI
- Charges which reflect the real cost of production by the PSI Holder
- A means of achieving a rapid, transparent, independent, low-cost and effective mediation
- A fair market-place

# Who has an interest in changing the current situation?

- ***PSI Holders? No***
  - A change might damage a comfortable economic model
  - They have been given their model by politicians
- ***The courts? No***
  - Difficult to sue a government
  - In addition, the PSI Directive is not so pedantic that it is easy to base a court action upon it...
- ***The Competition authorities? Perhaps***
- ***Politicians? Definitely***

***How can they be influenced?***

# Who is the PSI Alliance?

- A non-profit making association
- A link between the public and private sectors
- Members from the private sector
- Their interests cover the business, geographic, hydrographic, meteorological and legal sectors
- Nineteen EU countries are already represented
- The Chairman is Rolf Nordquist of Bisnode in Sweden

# PSI Alliance activities

- A clear “manifesto”
- Encouraging an exchange of information between members
- Seminars, conferences, press campaigns
- Informing government
- A dialogue with PSI providers
- Meeting and influencing politicians, contributing to reports and official enquiries

# Our targets for applying pressure

- The EU Commission
- MEPs
- Competition authorities
- The strengthening of the Directive on the re-use of PSI
- Understanding the experiences of each EU country and encouraging local partners to take action
- Identifying where progress is occurring and encouraging other countries to follow the same lead
- Better co-ordinating the action necessary to secure a change for the benefit of all: the public and private sectors and citizen

# Thank you...

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