

**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 1/2005

Author: C.E.H. Corbin
Date: 24th September 2005
Version: 2

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 23 23rd September 2005

From: Christopher Corbin <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Fri, 23 Sep 2005 17:57:29 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Conversation: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 23
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 23

With the INSPIRE second reading approaching, the publication of the Implementation Rules Guidelines imminent, and the Drafting Team Kick Off Meeting soon to be held on 5th October 2005 the document published yesterday here in the UK by the Better Regulation Task Force: Effective Engagement in the EU may be of interest.

The document can be down loaded by visiting the following web page URL:
<http://www.brtf.gov.uk/reports/getconnectedentry.asp>

In the forward to this document it emphasises three particular areas that contribute to effective consultation and as a result eventually the implementation of policy that can be effectively and efficiently implemented.

The 56 page document sets out (all be it from a UK perspective) how to engage effectively in the EU and it provides a good base especially for the INSPIRE User stakeholders to engage in the processes that are about to be initiated.

Here in the UK the Parliament (House of Commons) European Scrutiny committee published a second interim report in early July on INSPIRE based on input from the Minister that leads with respect to INSPIRE here in the UK.

The brief report from the Select Committee holds its opinion as they are querying why the UK's position on INSPIRE seems to move from one position to another.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmeuleg/34-i/3413.htm>

It is notable that the those involved in leading on INSPIRE in the UK The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have not appreciated the value of the point on Transparency and the engagement of all stakeholders that has been made in the Better Regulation Task Force report above as the DEFRA web site makes no mention as to how it is leading on INSPIRE and engaging with all stakeholders and other interested parties!

If you have difficulty in obtaining any of the above mentioned documents then please email me off list and I will do my best to assist.

It will soon be time once again for all across Europe with an interest in the proposed Directive on INSPIRE to actively engage at all levels if INSPIRE Directive is to become a reality.

Chris

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 22 3rd August 2005

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Wed, 03 Aug 2005 10:29:37 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 22

Whilst the co-decision processes are wending there way through the preparatory phases that will eventually initiate the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive in the early Autumn it is timely to use this window of opportunity to review whether the democratic processes related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive have so far functioned healthily, whether they have been skewed or whether there is a democratic deficit. This then provides us ALL with an opportunity to try and correct the situation if needed and to improve upon the democratic process during the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

In order to monitor the democratic process one needs to understand the processes involved which are quite numerous and deep within the European Union. This email sets out that base line as a first step towards this review.

At the European Union level the process for developing legal instruments within the European Union is well documented and available to the public at the following URL's.

The URL for the *How the EU takes decisions*

http://europa.eu.int/institutions/decision-making/index_en.htm

The URL *detailing in diagrammatic form the process*

http://europa.eu.int/comm/codecision/stepbystep/diagram_en.htm

The URL for the *Co-decision process*

http://europa.eu.int/comm/codecision/index_en.htm

Monitoring of *Impact Assessments within the European Commission* can be browsed at URL:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/impact/index_en.htm

Within each EU Member State the processes related to how the Member State handles European Union legal instruments should also be published in the public domain. This is needed if the democratic process is to operate at the Member State level. Using the UK as an example.

Within the UK the Cabinet Office has documented the process involved in the document *Transposition guide: how to implement European directives effectively that was published in .* This guide is available at the following URL:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/docs/europe/pdf/tpguide.pdf>

Page 5 of the above mentioned UK Cabinet Office document shows in diagrammatic form the UK European decision-making and transposition process.

The lead UK government bodies for each proposed Directive are required to undertake regulatory impact assessments and the UK Cabinet Office has documented the process to be followed and this has been documented in the document *Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidance* which can be obtained at following URL:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/ria_guidance/index.asp

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The Cabinet Office also monitors Regulatory Impact Assessments and this information can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/index.asp>

Within the UK the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) leads on INSPIRE

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

Using the above UK information one can then ascertain how well the UK Politicians and Public Sector employees are following the procedures set out above for the UK which should enable all within the UK to participate in the democratic processes related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive if they wish.

Perhaps if you are not from the UK and read this email you would like to contribute to this list the processes involved for the Member State you are based within.

Kind regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 21A 3rd August 2005

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Wed, 03 Aug 2005 08:43:47 +0100

To: max <massimo.craglia@jrc.it>, EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 21A

Dear Max

Thank you for setting out how transparency has been achieved so far with respect to INSPIRE from the Commissions perspective. The summary that you have provided is very useful and can be used to compare how well other representative organisations involved in the INSPIRE initiative to date have been with respect to transparency, openness and consultation of their members.

With respect to your penultimate paragraph where you invite suggestions (*If you can make suggestions for making the process more open and transparent, please do.*).

I offer the following few suggestions which I believe are relatively simple to implement but would improve the transparency and openness which is especially important for those not in the centre of the INSPIRE initiative.

- publish and maintain a calendar of meetings;
- publish a list of all documents that are submitted to meetings and the documents that come out of the meeting. The list should indicate which are in the public domain and which are not and if available the INSPIRE document management systems reference if the origin is the Commission or other organisations reference if known.
- publish who actually attends each meeting.
- publish project plan time tables and provide one sentence updates as time progresses. (For example the table in section 11 of the restricted document that Update 21 referenced. The TABLE would not have compromised the personal aspects that you referred to but it would have demonstrated to everyone what the process was and that it was designed to be rigorous, robust and democratic)
- maintain the membership lists of the various groups that are involved in the Commissions processes. For example the Expert group. This list should include how each person can be contacted such as their email address.
- publish the procedure which determines what determines whether a document is to be classified as restricted and for how long. The procedure needs to take into account the Freedom of Information regulation that appertains to the EU Institutions. There is a need to find the optimum cost effective balance between openness and what is restricted as the latter may well increase the FOI requests.

If it was possible to implement the above then the democratic process would be improved as it enables citizens and organisations within the EU (and else where for that matter) to participate more fully if they wish in the democratic processes.

The INSPIRE initiative involves other representative organisations and it is essential that they are not constrained by INSPIRE procedures requiring confidentiality and the handling of restricted documents. If this is not taken into account then these representative organisations are unable to carry out their representative role of information dissemination to their members and then building upon that dissemination to consult their members so that these representative organisations can then feedback into the INSPIRE processes from a firm transparent democratic basis in a timely manner in accord with the time tables published as mentioned in the bullet points above. The INSPIRE structure is correct in that it does include representative organisations but further consideration maybe required to ensure they can function in the roles that we all expect of them within the INSPIRE project.

Another aspect worthy of consideration is how to contain leakage of information and documents that have been classified as restricted. Leakage naturally occurs within society which may feed rumour mills which then may set bush fires alight and running which then have to be doused! To address the

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leakage issue we should ALL strive towards openness and operating documented procedures and processes that do not restrict information dissemination. Experiences within society would indicate that restrictions should be kept to the absolute bare minimum and be justifiable when challenged. If elected Parliaments and their committees can operate in this manner then it is very hard to justify why the INSPIRE initiative cannot operate in a similar vein.

Thanks again for your constructive response. I shall pick up other points that you have alluded to perhaps in subsequent INSPIRE related submissions to the EGIP list.

Kind regards

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Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 21 29th July 2005

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Fri, 29 Jul 2005 09:38:55 +0100

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

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 21

Dear EGIP friends

I would hope you would agree that transparency is part of the democratic process and that it is vital if all in the community are able to participate (even if they only read the documents) in the democratic process related to INSPIRE.

A further reason why transparency is vital is related to capacity building (in this sense read raising ones awareness on the different points of view) which is needed to ensure investments (whether they be time, human intellect, finances, etc) that are made by hundreds of people and organisations across Europe (often voluntary) are benefited from in the long term for the benefit of all within Europe.

As most subscribers to this list will be aware a call was launched on the 11th March 2005 that closed on the 22nd June 2005 for the registration of:

Spatial Data Interest communities (SDIC)
Legally Mandated organisations (LMO)

The INSPIRE experts that met on the 28th June in Alghero will have received the following document

Proposed Selection of Experts for implementing Rule Drafting teams

For those of you that have not seen it then this can be obtained (Thanks go to EuroGeographics - here is a demonstration of transparency) at the following URL.

http://www.eurogeographics.org/eng/documents/IRDTSelection_Expertsv8.pdf

This raises an interesting point as to how transparent and how well the representative bodies across Europe are whether they be at the National level (Member State level) or at the pan European level. If such bodies are to partake in the democratic process then there is an urgent need for each of them to consider how well they are communicating regarding proposed directives such as INSPIRE.

Perhaps they are representing and have published their current position and thinking and have shared all the documents that they receive via the various forums that they partake in but they have chosen to lock them up in their members only information vaults!

If such organisations are genuinely interested in influencing policy then one would expect much more transparency. An interesting paradox when one considers EU Directives such as the Re-Use of Public Sector Information and the proposed INSPIRE directive both of which are related to unlocking data and information which they all claim to support!

Happy reading

Chris

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

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 20 13th July 2005

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Wed, 13 Jul 2005 08:40:58 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 20

Dear EGIP Colleagues

In case you have not spotted that the Council of the EU has published today document 11085/05 Dated 11 July 2005 Brussels. Three documents remain unpublished!

The document contains the recitals that were missing from the Environment Council proposed INSPIRE Directive document.

The URL for downloading this document is as follows:

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st11/st11085.en05.pdf>

For those that did not attend the 11th EC GIS workshop in Sardinia then it is worth perusing the INSPIRE presentations that were present within the workshop.

All the presentations are available at the following URL.

<http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/11ec-gis/presentations.cfm>

It is understood that there will be a pause whilst the various documents are now translated into the EU languages prior to the EC initiating the second reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive in the autumn of this year.

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 19 30th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Thu, 30 Jun 2005 14:02:54 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 19

Dear EGIP Colleagues

In case you have not spotted that the Council of the EU web site has published today document 10553/05 dated Brussels 29th June 2005 "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) - Political Agreement.

It is notable that the Council still seem to be unwilling to publish documents 10151/05 and 10151/05 ADD 1

The Commissions view expressed in document IP/05/795 Brussels, 24 June 2005 (obtainable from the prelex web site (URL:

http://www.europa.eu.int/prelex/detail_dossier_real.cfm?CL=en&DosId=191582)

expresses one of disappointment by the Council's Political agreement which to quote states:

"INSPIRE

Concerning the political agreement on the INSPIRE directive, Commissioner Dimas said: "This agreement does not go far enough towards obliging public data providers to share their data. Member States need to realise that everyone has an interest in environmental information being shared and made widely available." The Commission did not support the Council's text for this reason.

The European Parliament, which adopted its first reading opinion on 7 June 2005, is also in favour of a more ambitious text.

INSPIRE stands for 'Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Union.' The proposed directive will cover a very wide range of spatial data that is used for environmental policy but also for other policies including disaster prevention and emergency response. The data to be covered ranges from basic mapping information, such as geographical names and administrative units, to key environmental information such as emissions, environmental quality and location of protected sites.

The directive tackles a series of obstacles which are currently hampering the use of existing data for policy making. These include poor documentation of data, lack of technical interoperability between data systems and legal and financial obstacles. The Commission's proposal aims to remove these obstacles by obliging public authorities to improve documentation, comply with rules ensuring that their data systems are interoperable, share their data with each other and give the public access to the data through a single internet portal.

The Commission is concerned that the Council text is over-cautious in safeguarding the interests of data providers, and will therefore be ineffective in removing the obstacles to data sharing and providing public access to it."

Tomorrow 1st July 2005 the EU Presidency moves to the UK and the UK Presidency web site URL:

<http://www.eu2005.gov.uk>

Makes no mention of INSPIRE nor does it provide any hits if one uses the sites Search facility. The web site however does have a feedback page, which can be used to provide comment and feedback.

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There is now a clear need for the geographic information (spatial) data USERS across Europe to lobby as it is apparent I would suggest that a few dominant public sector organisations seemed to have conveniently forgotten why they exist at all on the Council side of the co-decision process.

For those in doubt about the wisdom of the EU Council deliberations on the proposed INSPIRE Directive I would recommend a spot of compulsory people watching in a fruit and vegetable market to watch Customers behaviour. I doubt that you will find a market stall that has the fruit and vegetables hidden under a cover, which prevents the Customer viewing the product that they may be interested in purchasing. One can imagine what the response would be if the Customer has bothered to stop when the market stall owner says "*Well Sir or Madam the apples are Euro 2 per kg pay me and I will then let you see them!*" The market owner I suspect will have a lot of unsold (or unused in the data context) apples at the end of the day - and the market stall owner will then surely reflect on the lost opportunity to have sold the fruit and vegetables! Mind you even then there is an opportunity for the sharp eyed entrepreneur to make an offer to the Market stall owner of making a buy out bargain as I doubt that the Market Stall owner really wants to reload all the fruit and vegetables back into their van and take them home and to sleep with the smell of their stock slowly decaying...especially the soft fruits with a short shelf life!

There is need for much more user influence and awareness - unless you actively take part in the process you may well find you are presented with an empty infrastructure!

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 18 25th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Sat, 25 Jun 2005 07:40:38 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 18

Dear EGIP Colleagues

In case you have not visited the Environment Council web pages regarding the meeting held yesterday in Luxembourg, which considered amongst other items INSPIRE.

The INSPIRE document considered can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st09/st09552.en05.pdf>

The Press release states:

"At its 24 June meeting in Luxembourg, the Environment Council reached a unanimous policy agreement on the draft INSPIRE directive, which creates a legal framework for the establishment and operation of a geographical information infrastructure in Europe. Its purpose is twofold: First, to make top-quality geographical data available at all levels in the Member States, in order to better implement community policies; and, second, to give the public access to the information.

INSPIRE is completely in step with other laws in this area, and in particular with the directive on public access to information on the environment. According to Lucien Lux, the Council's President, "the unanimous policy agreement was necessary due to the European Commission's stated opposition on this issue. INSPIRE mainly pertains to environmental policy, but is of course open to use by other sectors."

Copied from URL: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/06/24env03/index.html>

The first reading in both the European Parliament and European Council (Environment) has now been completed.

The co-decision process will now move to the next stage - second reading.

The Council has still to publish documents 10151/05 and the 10151/05 annex regarding Common guidelines. Hopefully those responsible for publishing these documents will feel that they can do so promptly now that the Environment Council has met.

If you want some fun consider who is backing whom (Member State level) by viewing the photographs on URL: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/photos/2005/06/24env/index.html>

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 17 19th June 2005

Update 17 was submitted to the EGIP list by Dr. FRANK HOFFMANN, CSc Germany

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 16 16th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2005 19:19:19 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 16

Dear EGIP Colleagues

The agenda for the Environment Council that will be held on the 24th June 2005 in Luxembourg can be obtained from the URL below. The agenda includes INSPIRE and this will be the First Reading of INSPIRE by the Environment Council.

http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/ordres_jour/2005/06/15env/env.pdf

For those members of the EGIP list that are not yet aware the Council has published all of the backlog of INSPIRE documents apart from document 9552/05

"PREPARATION OF THE COUNCIL (ENVIRONMENT) MEETING ON 24 JUNE 2005 Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) Political agreement 10-06-2005"

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 15A 8th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Wed, 08 Jun 2005 11:24:49 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 15A

Just to include the actual minute from the European Parliament to keep the audit trail and also provide the document reference numbers

“6.3. Infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) ***I (vote)

Report on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) [COM(2004)0516 - C6-0099/2004 - 2004/0175(COD)] - Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Rapporteur: Frederika Brepoels (A6-0108/2005)

(Simple majority)

(Voting record: Annex 1, Item 3)

COMMISSION PROPOSAL
Approved as amended (P6_TA-PROV(2005)0213)

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Adopted (P6_TA-PROV(2005)0213)”

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 15 8th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Wed, 08 Jun 2005 08:51:30 +0100

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

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 15

Dear EGIP Colleagues

For those of you that have not read the results of the voting that took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday afternoon.

In summary INSPIRE passed its first reading in the European Parliament.

The results are as follows. (Please refer to the document A6-0108.2005 dated 26.4.2005 for amendment references and content.

Block vote passed EP Amendments:

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29,
30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39,
40, 41, 42,43, 44, 46, 47,49

Amendments passed as individual votes:

4, 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 48

Amendments voted out:

51, 52 (revised), 53, 54, 55

Amendment lapsed (no need to vote as amendment out due to another amendment)

50

The ENVI Committee amendments basically went through, amendments from other sources did not.

Further comments and my recommendations (for what they are worth!) as the actions the European GI community should consider will follow in a subsequent email.

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 14 7th June 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Tue, 07 Jun 2005 09:14:34 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 14

Dear EGIP Colleagues

As scheduled the first reading of the INSPIRE Directive took place. The voting will be today at noon in Strasbourg.

The published draft minute states:

“15. Infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) ***I (debate)

Report on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) [COM(2004)0516 - C6-0099/2004 - 2004/0175(COD)] - Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Rapporteur: Frederika Brepoels (A6-0108/2005)

Stavros Dimas (Member of the Commission) spoke.

Frederika Brepoels (rapporteur) introduced the report.

The following spoke: Richard Seeber, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, María Isabel Salinas García, on behalf of the PSE Group, Vittorio Prodi, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Satu Hassi, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Gerard Batten, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Urszula Krupa and Stavros Dimas.

The debate closed.

Vote: 07.06.2005”

Council of the EU Document 9112/05 Brussels, 20 May 2005.

For those of you that do not have access to the above document you maybe interested to read the current situation as to the deliberations with respect to INSPIRE on the Council side of the co-decision process as set out in the Introduction of the report.

“I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission forwarded its proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) on 23 July 2004.

2. The Working Party on the Environment has considered this proposal in detail during 12 meetings and has made some progress towards agreement on the text. The main issues in the discussion in the Working Party were:

- limitations for public access to the spatial data sets and services;
- data sharing and reuse;
- possibility for data providers to recover their costs;
- scope of spatial data;
- monitoring and reporting.

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3. The latest version of the text is annexed to this note. It represents the outcome of the Working Party's discussion on 17 May as well as the latest Presidency compromise suggestions.
4. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted on 21 April the draft report of the rapporteur, Ms Frederika Brepoels. The Plenary vote is planned for the June I session to provide an opportunity to reach a first-reading agreement with the Council. A synoptic table comparing the Council's position, the European Parliament's draft amendments and the Presidency compromise suggestions appear in Addendum 1 to this note.
5. The Presidency will meet Ms Brepoels, shadow rapporteurs and the Commission on 24 May.

II. KEY OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The outstanding issues are detailed in the remaining footnotes to the Presidency text. With a view to reaching a first-reading agreement, there are two crucial points.

(i) Intellectual property rights, mainly in relation to the public access to the network services (Article 13). Under the Presidency text, Member States will be required to establish and operate a network of services making it possible to discover, transform, view and download spatial data and to invoke spatial data services. These services are to be made easy to use and accessible via the Internet and or any other appropriate means of telecommunication. The discovery and viewing services are to be made available free of charge whereas download data and "invoke" services can be charged.

Member States may limit public access to these services. These exceptions for public access are taken directly from Directive 2003/4/EC. However, according to Article 13(3), the intellectual property rights of public authorities cannot limit the availability of spatial data with transboundary dimension. Several delegations request the deletion or rewording of Article 13(3) (footnote 15).

(ii) Data sharing between public authorities (Article 17). The Presidency text requires Member States to adopt measures for the sharing of spatial data sets and services between public authorities for the purposes that may have an impact on the environment. The measures must preclude any restrictions likely to create, at the point of use, obstacles to the sharing of spatial data sets and services. The preclusion of restrictions at the point of use does not prevent public authorities that supply spatial data sets and services from licensing them, and requiring payment for them. The arrangements for the sharing of spatial data sets and services are to be open to public authorities of other Member States, to the institutions and bodies of the Community and, on a reciprocal and equivalent basis, to bodies established by international agreements, for the purposes of public tasks that may have an impact on the environment. The limitations for data sharing between public authorities are different than those for public access. All delegations have a scrutiny reservation on Article 17. Some delegations suggest including all exceptions of Article 4(2) of Directive 2003/4/EC both for public access and spatial data sharing between public authorities (footnote 19).

III. WORK OF COREPER

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:

- examine the compromise text on the two key issues;
- make an effort to lift reservations on other remaining issues
- give the Presidency a mandate to reach a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament on the basis of the Annex to this note and the discussion in Coreper;
- ask the Working Party to finalise the recitals in the light of agreement on the Articles.”

There is a need for all that have an interest in INSPIRE to continue to take the matter up with the politicians at all levels.

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton
UK

Telephone: +44 (0) 1273 553110

email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 13 26th May 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Thu, 26 May 2005 06:55:59 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 13

Dear EGIP Colleagues

Regarding the first reading of the proposed INSPIRE Directive within the European Parliament. This is now scheduled for the 6th June 2005 agenda item 37. The Parliament meets in Strasbourg for this session.

“Draft agenda

Wednesday 8 June 2005

37

Report: Frederika Brepoels (A6-0108/2005) - Infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE) [COM(2004)0516 - C6-0099/2004 - 2004/0175(COD)] Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety”

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 12 24th May 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Tue, 24 May 2005 16:23:40 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 12

Dear Friends

We are now on the eve of the European Parliament plenary that will consider the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

It is interesting to note that today the Council opened up two documents dated the 3rd May and the 4th May 2005. File names st07985.en05.pdf and st07985-ex01.en05.pdf URL's

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st07/st07985.en05.pdf>

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st07/st07985-ex01.en05.pdf>

Also

One of the documents can also be obtained from EuroGeographics URL
www.eurogeographics.org/eng/documents/st07985.en05.doc

Six other documents have still not been opened up dated:

22/3/2005,
12/5/2005,
13/05/2005,
13/05/2005
20/05/2005 and
20/05/2005

It remains a sad reflection upon all involved on the Council side of the co-decision process that it is felt the need to be so secretive and delay publications - so much for democratic processes!

Enjoy the INSPIRE bedtime reading!

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton
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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 11 11th May 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Wed, 11 May 2005 10:10:15 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 11

You may be interested in the following (if you have not already seen it) another example of the democratic process in action related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

The Council of European Municipalities and the Regions (<http://www.ccre.org/>) open letter to MEP's regarding the potential costs of implementing INSPIRE at the regional and local levels. The open letter can be down loaded at the following URL:

http://www.ccre.org/news_detail_en.htm?ID=502

A WORD version of the letter is attached just in case you have difficulty.

The Council activities related to the proposed INSPIRE Directive seem to be very active with three documents now posted that are not available (Dated 22-03-2005, 03-05-2005 and 04-05-2005).

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 10 10th May 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Tue, 10 May 2005 19:55:22 +0100

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

Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 10

Just in case you have not had notice that the European Parliament Rapporteur's report A6-0108/2005 can now be downloaded from the Legislative Observatory - URL

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/oeil/FindByProcnum.do?lang=2&procnum=COD/2004/0175>

If you click on A6-0108/2005 a new window will open with the title Reports of the European Parliament from where you can download the English WORD version containing the ENVI Committees approved amendments for the European Parliament plenary session scheduled for the 25th May 2005.

Date for amendments close at noon 18th May 2005.

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 9 6th May 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>
Date: Fri, 06 May 2005 18:23:43 +0100
To: EGIP <european-gi-policy@jrc.it>
Subject: INSPIRE Democratic Process - Update 9

For those of you with an interest in INSPIRE and ships you may have spotted the news report on the British Shipping Organisations web site (URL below) which mentions the European Parliament Rapporteur's report A6-0108/2005 dated 26th April 2005 on INSPIRE and that it is as yet not published.

<http://www.british-shipping.org/news/Parliamentary%20reports/05%20April/05%2004%2026%20EU%20Proposal%20for%20a%20Directive%20Establishing%20an%20Infrastructure%20for%20Spatial%20Information%20in%20the%20Community.htm>

<http://www.british-shipping.org/news/index.htm>

It would seem that 26 members of the European Parliament ENVI committee that were present for agenda item 17 on the morning of the 21st April 2005 in Brussels unanimously voted through 49 amendments to the proposed INSPIRE Directive. The Rapporteur's document may be published next week by the European Parliament. The document reference appears on the following URL but is not yet downloadable.

<http://www.british-shipping.org/news/index.htm>

The INSPIRE Directive appears on the European Parliament draft agenda for its part plenary scheduled for the 25 May 2005 agenda item 58 (refer PDF attached). Amendments can be received up until noon the 18th May 2005.

I understand the ENVI Committee adopted 49 amendments that relate to the following parts of the July 2004 INSPIRE Directive

Recital 15 (was previous amendment number 1)

Recital 16

Recital 20(a) New

Recital 22

Recital 23

Article 1 Paragraph 1

Article 1, paragraph 2, subparagraph 1

Article 2 (Deleted)

Article 4

Article 5

Article 6 (Deleted)

Article 7 (Deleted)

Article 8, Paragraph 2, point (b)

Article 8, Paragraph 3

Article 9

Article 11, paragraph 1, point(a)

Article 11, Paragraph 2

Article 12

Article 13, paragraph 1

Article 13, paragraph 2, point (c)

Article 14

Article 15

Article 16, paragraph 2

Article 17

Article 18, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Article 20, paragraph 1
Article 22, point (a)
Article 23, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2
Article 23, Paragraph 2 (was previously amendment number 97)
Article 23, paragraph 3 (was previously amendment number 99)
Article 23, paragraph 4
Article 24, paragraph 1(a) (New) (was previously amendment number 103)
Article 25, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1 (was previously amendment number 23)
Article 26, paragraph 2 (was previously amendment number 106)
Article 27 (was previously amendment number 25)
Article 28, paragraph 3 (was previously amendment number 107)
Article 29, paragraph 1, point (e) (was previously amendment number 111)
Article 31, paragraph 1
Annex I, point 4 (was previously amendment 27)
Annex II, point 5 (a) (New) (a composite of previous amendments numbers 29 and 115)
Annex III, point 4 (Deleted) (was previously amendment 30)
Annex III, point 3 (was previously amendment number 114)
Annex III, point 6 (a composite of previous amendments 31, 117 and 118)
Annex III, point 7 (was previous amendment number 119)
Annex III, point 10 (was previous amendment number 120)
Annex III, point 11 (was previous amendment number 121)
Annex III, point 11(a) (New) (was previous amendment number 122)
Annex III, point 12 (was previous amendment number 123)
Annex III, point 19(a) (New) (was previous amendment number 124)

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton
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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 8 18th April 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Mon, 18 Apr 2005 13:01:50 +0100

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

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 8

Dear Members of the EGIP list

Just in case you are not aware that the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has today published four compromise amendments for consideration when they meet this week. The PDF document (English only at this stage) can be downloaded from the following URL.

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/ENVI/ENVI_20050420_1500.htm

The compromise amendments in effect amalgamate a number of amendments within the 124 and is possibly the first move towards the European Parliament amendments and those of the Council moving towards a common view.

With respect to Frank's observations detailed in Democratic Process Update 7.1.

Yes some of the amendments put forward may see minor however there are a number of amendments that change the position as originally outlined in the Commissions draft INSPIRE Directive.

To mention just a couple of example:

1. Public sector charging itself for the data to allow for those Member States where parts of their public sector may charge other parts. (e.g. National Mapping Agencies)
2. When will any particular data set be aligned to the rules. Could be never under some amendments.

With respect to whether it is worth engaging with the European Parliament and the MEP's (Politicians). The answer in my view has to be that every one should as we have elected them not the Member State. Whether the MEP's respond is another matter. Looking at the INSPIRE amendments before the European Parliament it is apparent that in some cases the MEP's are acting as the mouth piece for their National Governments – if this is happening then in my view it weakens the scrutiny process of the European Parliament as well as the co-decision process! All the more reason for European Citizens and organisations to make representations to the MEP's.

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton
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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 7 17th April 2005

Update 7 was submitted to the EGIP list by Dr. FRANK HOFFMANN, CSc Germany

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 6 14th March 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2005 14:26:01 +0100

To: egIP <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 6

Dear members of the EGIP list

Just in case you have not spotted that the Central Secretariat of the Council of the EU has opened up the two remaining documents (Edited) that were previously available only on request.

The dates of the documents are the 1st February 2005.

The URL's for the English PDF versions are as follows.

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st05/st05648.en05.pdf>

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st05/st05648-ex01.en05.pdf>

The combination of the above plus the European Parliament amendments 1 through to 124 provide a snap shot of where the Co-decision process is as of February 2005.

To reach the other language variants please refer to my email of the 8th March 2005.

Due to the lack of a level playing field in the European Union Co-Decision process with respect to INSPIRE it is vital that all that are not within the Member State channels of influencing the European Council particularly if your Member State lacks transparency (for example the UK) then I would recommend that you exercise your democratic right and contact your MEP's with your support or otherwise for the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

If your Member State is transparent with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive then please share the URL's.

Kind regards

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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 5 13th March 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Sun, 13 Mar 2005 07:49:44 +0100

To: egip <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 5

Dear members of the EGIP list

I hope that you are exercising your democratic right (if you are an EU Citizen) of contacting your MEP. This is important whether you act as an individual or you act as an organisation.

As an example of lobbying in action with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive visit the following URL

<http://www.eastleighlibdems.org.uk/news/158.html>

Having read the content on the above mentioned URL do you believe that the proposed INSPIRE Directive puts National Mapping Agencies out of business?

Why not share your experiences from exercising your democratic with respect to the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 4 12th March 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Sat, 12 Mar 2005 11:24:24 +0100

To: egip <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 4

Dear members of the EGIP list

Please find attached the English version of the EP amendments number 34 to 124.

The other language variants will become available in the next week and I shall circulate the URL when they are available.

The EP amendments to the INSPIRE Directive will be debated at the ENVI Committee scheduled for the 20th and 21st April 2005.on

If you have views on the attached amendments then I would strongly recommend that you submit them to your MEP on the ENVI committee or the rapporteurs.

Kind regards

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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 3 8th March 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Tue, 08 Mar 2005 08:31:05 +0100

To: egip <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 3

Dear members of the EGIP list

For those of you that may not be aware that the Central Secretariat of the Council of the EU has opened up one of the documents (Edited) that was previously available only on request.

The URL for the English version of the document dated Brussels, 14 January 2005 is:

<http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st05/st05419.en05.pdf>

To obtain (if they exist) other language variants visit the URL

<http://register.consilium.eu.int>

Select your language, then select search in register, then select simple search, then enter INSPIRE in Words in Title box and hit search now and if you are lucky you will be presented with a list of documents.

These INSPIRE documents (edited) are appearing roughly 6 to 7 weeks after the event and are as such historic documents. This raises an interesting point as to whether this process is supporting or preventing the democratic processes at the Member State level and whether it is a level playing field!

Happy reading

Kind regards

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email: corbinceh@ntlworld.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 2 2nd March 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Wed, 02 Mar 2005 12:21:38 +0100

To: egip <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 2

Dear members of the EGIP list

Are you taking this opportunity to raise the importance and need for INSPIRE with your politician (s)?

Why do I ask you this?

Well read on for one example which might indicate that the European geographic information or spatial data community (or however you wish to refer to this community) may not be liaising with their MEPs in the European Parliament! Perhaps they are spending much time talking to each other and not the wider community that we all serve!

Further to my email on the progress of INSPIRE within the European Parliament on the 28th February 2005.

For those interested in the INSPIRE timetable within the European Parliament, the minutes of the ENVI Committee meeting held on 2nd and 3rd February 2005 still show that the ENVI Committee will vote on the amendments at its meeting on the 20th/21st April 2005 and that the target is to make the plenary session of the EP in May 2005. It is interesting to note that all the documents are still indicating an agreed position at the end of the first reading.....some may say that this is optimism at its best!

In my email of the 28th February 2005 I mentioned the amendments raised by MEP's that serve on the ENVI Committee broken down by Country which for ease of recall I copy that again here.

Country Amendments

Austria	20
Belgium	40 Rapporteur
Finland	12 Shadow Rapporteur
France	9
Germany	3
Greece	10
Italy	10
Spain	12 Shadow Rapporteur
UK	8

Total 124

If one then compares this with the Minutes of the 11th INSPIRE Expert Group Meeting 1-2/12/2004 page 9 where the Dutch Presidency representative thanked the Member States for their written submissions. The countries reported as submitting written submissions are listed as:

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Poland
Slovak Republic
Spain

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Sweden
UK

Comparing the two lists provides an indication as to which Member States (Government and Civil Society) are proactive namely seven out of 25!

Austria
Belgium
Finland
France
Germany
Spain
UK

Another consideration is to consider which MEP's (analysed by Country) actually spoke at the ENVI Committee meeting on the 2nd February 2005.

Belgium
France
Italy
Spain
UK (UK)

My email of the 28th February 2005 contained a list of the 64 MEPs that serve on the ENVI Committee analysed by country. The list shows that 21 out of the 25 Member States are represented on the Committee so there was a success rate of approx 24% ($5/21*100$) on the 2nd February 2005 which rose to 33% ($7/21*100$) by 16th February 2005 the closing date for amendments to the Rapporteur.

If one considers that the European Parliament has 732 MEPs then there is a long way to go yet if the MEP's are to take interest and vote through INSPIRE. It is time for you to take action if you have not already done so as May will soon be upon us!

Strong rumour has it that one of the benefits of INSPIRE is cross border working! Well if that is the case then that message has not yet reached the MEPs!

So spend a moment to consider how you can activate your Member State MEP that serves on the ENVI Committee to take part in supporting INSPIRE so that by the 22nd April 100% ($21/21*100$) has been achieved within the ENVI Committee.

So what could you do if you are very busy and do not have much time on your hands!

Well you could consider the following approach!

Interestingly the Lessons learnt from GINIE (http://www.lmu.jrc.it/ginie/doc/D2111A_LL_ES_ENG_VF.pdf) not only set out what an SDI is but more importantly why a European SDI is needed and is important. It is set out in an easy to assimilate language. It is an easy to read document so if you are short of time why not send along your support message to your Member State MEPs that serve on the ENVI committee indicating your support and that the reasons why are contained within the GINIE Lessons learnt document that you attach to your email. Select the language variant that you need from the GINIE web site Languages available are Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish) . Estimated time to undertake this is less than 10 minutes.

One of the other early GINIE findings was the issue of Political sustainability (Leadership!). If you have a longing to look west to the other side of the Atlantic this has been demonstrated very well with transition from Clinton/Gore to Bush/Chaine! The proposed INSPIRE Directive indicates that the timescales are long....so the issue of political sustainability is important if you want to see sustained leadership, support and investment in creating and maintaining a European SDI....so it does seem that to gain that sustained political awareness and support YOU need to take some action.....otherwise you

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

will be paddling the INSPIRE canoe all by yourself up a stream to no where!

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

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PS A further thought for you to ponder...

The Minutes of the 11th INSPIRE Expert Group meeting 1-2/12/2004 contain many words and interventions about Chapter V of the proposed INSPIRE Directive that relates to Data-sharing and re-use. Interestingly the Article that seems to so far have attracted the most amendments in the ENVI Committee is Article 23 within Chapter V....my there is a coincidence for you.....perhaps there are forces out there that have concerns about DATA SHARING...perhaps if you wish to share data in the spirit of the INSPIRE Directive then you should perhaps make your feelings known to your MEP!

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Update 1 28th February 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh <corbinceh@ntlworld.com>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2005 09:56:57 +0100

To: egip <egip@jrc.it>

Subject: INSPIRE - Democratic Process - Update 1

Dear members of the EGIP list

As of the 18th February 2005 I understand the following is the situation with respect to the EP ENVI Committee Rapporteurs work on INSPIRE.

There are of the order of 124 amendments an analysis of these is shown below.

The collation of amendments is currently being translated from the natural language to the EU languages once this has been accomplished the amendments will be published. Some rationalisation may take place in the above process which could change the distributions in the analysis below.

Further amendments can be made at the plenary session.

The analysis below is of interest if one wishes to consider the following:

1. there is a national condition within a Member State that may be behind the amendment.
2. there is a linguistic issue on the recitals, articles and annexes by considering the clarification being sought by amendments.
3. the amendment helps with the implementation of the infrastructure.
4. the amendment does not help with the implementation of the infrastructure.
5. the amendment reflects those contained in opinions submitted by other parts of the EU Co-decision processes.
6. plus other considerations that you may have and may wish to add to this list!

=====

The amendments have been raised by the following Member State MEP's that serve on the ENVI Committee. The number of Member State MEPs involved in the process is of interest when considering the make up of the ENVI committee (refer to the bottom of the this email).

Country Amendments
Austria 20
Belgium 40 Rapporteur
Finland 12 Shadow Rapporteur
France 9
Germany 3
Greece 10
Italy 10
Spain 12 Shadow Rapporteur
UK 8

Total 124

=====

The number of amendments related to each recital are as follows:

Recital Number of Amendments
1 1

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

3 1
7 1
13 1
15 2
16 1
22 3
23 1

Total 11

The number of amendments for each article are as follows:

Article Number of Amendments

1 6
2 4
3 1
4 4
5 6
6 1
7 3
8 5
9 4
10 0
11 4
12 1
13 6
14 4
15 2
16 2
17 2
18 3
19 5
20 4
21 1
22 1
23 10
24 2
25 1
26 4
27 1
28 3
29 2
30 0
31 1

Total 93

The number of amendments related to the Annexes are as follows:

Annex Number of Amendments

1 1
2 3
3 16

Total 20

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

=====

The Member State distribution of MEPs on the ENVI committee is as follows:

Country Make up of ENVI

Austria 2
Belgium 2
Cyprus 2
Czech Republic 1
Denmark 1
Finland 4
France 5
Germany 10
Greece 3
Hungary 2
Ireland 3
Italy 6
Latvia 2
Netherlands 3
Poland 2
Portugal 1
Slovakia 1
Slovenia 1
Spain 2
Sweden 4
UK 7

Total 64

I would suggest if you require further information you contact the your Member State MEP's that serve on the ENVI committee

With respect to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee that Frank has reported and commented upon the following URLs may be of assistance to gain the language variants where they exist:

http://www.esc.eu.int/documents/summaries_plenaries/index_en.as

http://eescopinions.esc.eu.int/EESCopinionDocument.aspx?identifier=ces\nat\nat260\ces124-2005_ac.doc&language=EN

In case you have not read the ENVI Committee Newsletter number 3 which mentions INSPIRE then visit the following URL (For the English version)

http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/envi/pdf/envinews/2005/200503_en.pdf

Kind regards

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----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Reminder 15th February 2005

----- Forwarded Message

From: corbinceh corbinceh@ntlworld.com
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2005 10:07:52 +0100
To: EGIP <egip@jrc.it>
Subject: A reminder re INSPIRE: Last date for amendments: First reading European Parliament

Dear EGIP list members

Further to my email to the EGIP list on the 8th February 2005 regarding the proposed INSPIRE Directive.

This is just a short reminder that the last day for amendments to the proposed INSPIRE Directive to be received by the rapporteurs within the European Parliament ENVI Committee is the 16th February 2005.

The clock does not stop ticking....so you need to act NOW if you have not already done so....as Ellen McCarthy mentioned upon completion of her round the world non stop sailing trip..the thing that was relentless was the second hand constantly ticking away on the digital clock!

If you feel all is well with INSPIRE then think again! Consider all the stakeholders that are missing or wishing to withdraw - can we really have a meaningful SDI with so many stakeholders missing - for example visit the following URLs regarding weather, oceanic, coastal zone data can you really tackle environmental problems without such data...well perhaps if you were borne yesterday maybe! However even the fauna and flora know better than that!

http://www.eurogoos.org/documents/EG04_45InspireEUMET_EUMETNET.pdf

http://www.eurogoos.org/documents/EG04_49LetterInspire.pdf

Another group of stakeholders is the Address community - who are puzzled as to why Address data was removed from Annex 1 and a fudge put inwhat's that you say...due to privacy! Well what is Directive 95/46/EC all about then? Has this Directive no been implemented in all EU25? (If you need more information at the EU level then visit URL:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/privacy/index_en.htm)

Yet another set of stakeholders the private sector, voluntary sector data providers are puzzled as to why they have been excluded. Can you really tackle environmental issues with out these stakeholders being involved?

If you feel you are too busy and anyway my professional association, my national GI Association, my pan European Association is looking after MY interests then I suggest you think again! Visit the web sites of these organisations ...where is their position on the INSPIRE Directive and the proposed amendments, on stakeholders....is it visible for all to see...so are you sure they are looking after your interest? Sorry of course you are too busy so the suggestion of checking web sites is not a helpful.....sorryyyyy! But you gather the gist of this suggestion I hope!!

You might even ask yourself have they (the groups of organisations mentioned) submitted their position to the MEP's?

If you feel your national Government and its supporting Civil servants are looking after your interest in relation to INSPIRE...then visit their web sites...you might find an undiscovered beautiful diamond before you discover what their position is...whats that you say we live in an open democratic society....you might need to take action if you have not!

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

So it really does come down to YOU after all! You must take action yourself...remember what folk will say when INSPIRE does not deliver what YOU wanted....did you take action when you had the opportunity...when your voice was needed....gosh why are you blushing...I wonder why.....wonderful thing this Information Society!

Well even if you might be sitting in the INSPIRE dark at least I can see the sun today which is telling me the clock is ticking away as whilst I have typed this it has moved across the southern horizon!

Over to YOU for INSPIRED action!

Kind regards

Chris (Corbin)

Brighton

UK

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email: corbinch@ntlworld.com

PS If you do find those elusive URL's showing the position of your National Government and or your professional organisation then don't forget to share them with us all!

----- End of Forwarded Message

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Reminder 8th February 2005

From: Christopher Corbin <corbinceh@pavilion.co.uk>
Date: Tue, 08 Feb 2005 10:14:21 +0000
To: EGIP <egip@jrc.it>
Subject: Your ACTION is needed re INSPIRE: Last date for amendments: First reading European Parliament

Dear EGIP list members

Your ACTION is needed now (it is your democratic right if you are a European Citizen so please exercise it - thanks) as the final date for amendments to the proposed INSPIRE Directive is the 16th February 2005. For details read on.....

As I hope most of you are aware the proposed INSPIRE Directive is passing through the co-decision process. (Council and European Parliament)

Within the European Parliament the proposed INSPIRE Directive is being processed by the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

The URL for this committee is: http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/envi/default_en.htm

The ENV Committee met last week on 2nd and 3rd February 2005. The proposed INSPIRE Directive was considered as the last agenda item on the 2nd February 2005. The ENV Committee considered the set of proposed amendments. The amendments if you have not read them can be obtained from the following URL where the amendments are available in the European languages.

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/envi/ENVI_20050202_1500.htm

The agenda for last weeks meeting shows the following

Agenda

Wednesday, 2 February 2005, from 16:15 to 19:45 Brussels

7:00 to 7:45

7. Infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE)

ENVI/6/23345

PR - PE349.811 v01-00

Rapporteur: Frederika Brepoels (EPP-ED)

- Consideration of a draft report [PFEI]

- Deadline for tabling amendments: 16.02.2005 12:00

***I 2004/0175(COD) COM(2004)0516 - C6-0099/2004

Main: ENVI F - Frederika Brepoels (EPP-ED) PE349.811 v01-00

Opinion: LIBE A

Rapporteur: Frederika Brepoels MEP (Belgium - EPP-ED)

fbrepoels@europarl.eu.int

Ms Brepoels assistant that is handling INSPIRE matters is:

Ms Karlien De Turck email fbrepoels-assistant2@europarl.eu.int

The Shadow Rapporteurs are:

Maria Sornosa Martinez MEP (Spain - Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol)

email: msornosa@europarl.eu.int

Awareness raising of the European Union INSPIRE Democratic Process

Satu Hassi MEP (Finland - Green Party) email: shassi@europarl.eu.int
WWW URL: www.satuhassi.net

If you wish to put forward an amendment to the proposed INSPIRE Directive plus the Rapporteurs amendments mentioned above then please email the MEP's acting as Rapporteurs.

If you put forward an amendment please provide two sentences saying why so that the Rapporteurs have a chance first of all to consider your request and if they choose to take it forward into their document that they are then able to sustain support for it.

The proposed INSPIRE Directive is rather technical. Part of this is due to the Annexes and the way the data has been distributed across them. You can assist the rapporteurs task by putting forward amendments as indicated in the previous paragraph.

If INSPIRE becomes a Directive and is transposed into members states it will only work in practice and be cost effective if all stakeholders support the Directive. At the moment I understand there is concerns from the marine sector, the meteorological sector, the space sector regarding the data annexes and the likely impact on existing practices and procedures related to sharing data between nations.

Please note that this email has been copied to the MEP's that have kindly taken on the role of Rapporteur.....it cannot be easy for them....so please help and support them.

For over decade the European GI community has been very vocal for the need for a European spatial data infra-structure first through GI2000 and now through INSPIRE. The European Commission has achieved the proposed INSPIRE Directive entering into the co-decision process now it is the communities role to ensure what they believe is needed passed through the European Union processes to become a Directive.

OVER TO YOU

With kind regards

Chris

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----- End of Forwarded Message