



# INSPIRE

## Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

### Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> INSPIRE EXPERT GROUP MEETING 2004-06-22

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## Participants

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|-----------------|------------------------|---|
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| Belgium         | KINNAERT, Jean-Pierre  | Ministère de la Région Wallonne                       |
| Belgium         | VANDERSTIGHELEN, Dirk  | OC GIS-Vlaanderen                                     |
| CEC             | ANNONI, Alessandro     | Joint Research Center, Italy                          |
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| CEC             | GILMORE, Richard       | E.C. DG RTD H 5                                       |
| CEC             | BERNARD, Iars          | Joint Research Center, Italy                          |
| CEC             | ROUAM, Claude          | E.C. DG ENV.D3  |
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| Czech Republic  | KONECNY, Milan         | Laboratory on Geoinformatics & Cartography            |
| Denmark         | RUDE, Soren            | Kort- og Matrikelstyrelsen                            |
| Denmark         | STERNHOLM, Michael     | National Environment Research Institute               |
| EEA             | STEENMANS, Chris       | European Environment Agency                           |
| EPRO            | GREGOR, Ole            | Viborg Amt  |
| Eurogeographics | LAND, Nick             | Eurogeographics                                       |
| EuroGeoSurveys  | CHRISTMANN, Patrice    | EuroGeoSurveys  |
| EuroGeoSurveys  | ROBIDA, François       | EuroGeoSurveys  |
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| Finland         | KOKKONEN, Arvo         | Ministry of the Environment                           |
| Finland         | VERTANEN, Anti         | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry                  |
| France          | SALGE, François&       | Conseil National de l'Information Géographique        |
| Germany         | BILO, Michael          | Bundesamt für Naturschutz                             |
| Germany         | GRUENREICH, Dietmar    | Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie               |
| Germany         | RIECKEN, Jens          | Landesvermessungsamt                                  |
| Hungary         | REMETEY-FILÖPP, Gabor  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development         |
| Ireland         | Mc CORMACK, Bruce      | Environmental Protection Agency                       |
| Ireland         | Mc HUGH, George        | Environmental Protection Agency                       |
| Italy           | PASCA, Monica          | Ministero dell'ambiente - SDT                         |
| Latvia          | BARANOVŠ, Harijs       | Latvian Environment Agency                            |
| Lithuania       | GUDAITIS, Aidis        | Ministry of Environment                               |
| Netherlands     | HOOYMAN, Noud          | Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning & Environment   |
| Netherlands     | KRAGT, Rob             | Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning & Environment   |
| Norway          | HÖGVARD, Dag           | Norwegian Mapping Authority                           |
| Norway          | OSTENSEN, Olaf         | Norwegian Mapping Authority                           |
| Poland          | JAGUSIEWICZ, Andrzej   | Inspectorate for Environmental Protection             |
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| Portugal        | FONSECA, Alexandra     | Instituto Geografico Português                        |
| Slovak Republik | TUCHYNA, Martin        | Slovak Environmental Agency                           |
| Slovenia        | FRANTAR, Peter         | Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia      |
| Slovenia        | PETEK, Tomaz           | Ministry of the Environment Spatial Planning & Energy |
| Spain           | MAS MAYORAL, Sebastian | National Geographic Institute                         |
| Sweden          | RANNESTIG, Ewa         | National Land Survey – Lantmäteriet                   |
| Sweden          | SANDGREN, Ulf          | Swedish Environmental Protection Agency               |
| Switzerland     | BUSER, Rolf            | Swiss Federal Institute of Technology                 |
| United Kingdom  | EARNSHAW, Derek        | Ordnance Survey                                       |
| United Kingdom  | CARLYLE, Stefan        | Environmental Agency for England                      |

**10<sup>th</sup> INSPIRE Expert Group**  
**Warsaw meeting of 22 June 2004**  
**Agenda**  
**Warszawski Dom Technika, room A, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**  
**Czackiego Street 3/5,**  
**Warsaw 00-043**

**Entrance from 9:00 on**

**Start of the meeting: 9:15**

**9:15 – 9:30**

Introduction, practical information and adoption of the agenda

**9:30 – 10:45**

Presentation by the Commission of the forthcoming Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the Community (INSPIRE)

Discussion

**Coffee break 10:45 – 11:00**

**11:00 – 12:00**

Presentation by the Commission of the Working programme preparatory phase (2004-2006)  
Discussion on general topics

**Lunch break 12:00-13:30**

**13:30 – 15:00**

Presentation of actions; discussion on the work of the Task Force on the working programme

**Coffee break 15:00 – 15:15**

**15:15 CONCLUSIONS AND ACTIONS**

Conclusions  
Actions for the expert group meeting

**Close of the meeting: 17:00**

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## Summary and conclusion

The tenth INSPIRE Expert Group meeting took place in Warsaw on the 22<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 and was hosted by the Polish institute of Geodesy and Cartography. The purpose of the meeting was to present progress on the forthcoming proposal for a Directive on INSPIRE and the outcome of the work of the task force on the working programme for the preparatory phase of INSPIRE. The revised proposal for an INSPIRE Framework Directive was presented and is currently ready for entering the last stage of decision-making within the Commission. The forecast for adoption is slightly delayed from May/June to July. The main remarks of the participants relate to communication, the availability of the proposal, the focus on the environment and a number of implementation issues.

The first results of the task force on the working programme for the 2004-2006 period have been presented to the Expert group. It was agreed that the working programme provided a framework that needs further development with input from MS and stakeholders in general. The main remarks on the first draft were: link to standardisation bodies, data policy issues, INSPIRE in the broader context, deliverables and timing, focus on environmental user needs, organisational issues, funding.

Further remarks on the working programme will be issued by the Expert group members to by 15 July 2004. It was also agreed that the Commission will issue a new version of the templates to collect information on relevant existing initiatives and the members of the Expert group are encouraged to fill them out and send them back to the Commission so that they can be taken into account into the working programme. The Expert group set a new target date for the final draft at end of September 2004 and asked to organise an open Internet consultation on the document.

The meeting concluded with the agreement to:

- organise a workshop on INSPIRE for national administrations involved in environmental policies, to be organised by the EEA in the framework of the review of EIONET in October,
- send out new templates by 2 July to be filled in and sent back to the Commission (in particular DK, IT, PL, UK and DE committed to give input),
- step up communication efforts at EU and national level once the proposal is adopted by the Commission,
- issue comments on the draft working programme by 15 July
- hold an Internet consultation on the working programme and to issue a final draft to the Expert group by the end of September
- brief the environment delegates in the permanent representations on INSPIRE.
- write a letter at high level to the Member States once the INSPIRE proposal is adopted by the Commission.

The members of the Expert group meeting were informed that the Dutch Presidency planned a Environmental Council working group meeting on INSPIRE on 23 July and the Members of the Expert group were advised to brief the environmental attachés on INSPIRE. The Commission will also consider the organisation, in collaboration with the Dutch Presidency, of a high-level political event on INSPIRE in the autumn.

The chair of the meeting, Mr Claude Rouam, announced that following the reorganisation within DG Environment, this would be the last time that he would chair the INSPIRE Expert group meeting and expressed his thanks for the three years of good collaboration.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Chairman Mr. Claude Rouam, DG Environment opened the meeting. Mr Dobosz, chief inspector of the environmental protection Ministry and Mr. Albin, President of the headoffice of the Cartography and geodesy in their opening address expressed their satisfaction that the first INSPIRE Expert group meeting after the enlargement was held in a new Member State and expressed their support for INSPIRE.

New participants were welcomed and introduced.

The revised agenda was adopted.

## II. Draft proposal for a Directive on INSPIRE: new developments – Presentation and Discussion

C. Rouam introduced this presentation by explaining that the Commission is in the final stages of the preparation of the INSPIRE proposal. The Commission needed some more time to deal with problems of translation in the new languages due to the recent adhesion of ten new Member States and is also in the process of straightening out some budgetary issues. Once these issues, resolved, the final stage of decision-making in the Commission can be launched which will lead to the adoption of the INSPIRE proposal.

M. Vanderhaegen presented the new developments on the draft Commission proposal for INSPIRE since the Expert group meeting held in Brussels on March 2004 (see presentation attached). The main remarks of the participants relate to communication, the availability of the proposal, the cross-sectoral nature of INSPIRE and a number of implementation issues.

### *Communication*

There was general agreement on the importance of communication. The Commission will issue a press release when the proposal will be adopted, but this should be echoed by similar actions in the MS. It was also suggested to issue a brochure on INSPIRE once the proposal was adopted (HU). This brochure would need to be translated and adapted to the national situation in every MS (C. Rouam). The meeting was informed that the Dutch Presidency have planned a first discussion on INSPIRE on an environmental Council working group meeting of 23 July 2004 and the representatives of the MS are requested to brief their environmental attachés in the permanent representation. FR suggest the Commission to send a letter on INSPIRE. C. Rouam indicates that this can be done once the proposal is adopted, but the letter should be sent in a uniform way for all the Member States. HU suggest to also use TV as a medium. IT reminds that communication should be on substantial new progress and that the practitioners are now expecting specifications to emerge. Eurogeographics indicates that communication strategy should include an analysis of who the users are so that the messages and media can be targeted accordingly.

### *Availability of the proposal*

Several delegations (UK, PL, FR) ask if and when the text of the proposal will be distributed. C. Rouam replies that as soon as the proposal will be adopted by the Commission, the text will be sent out to the Member of the Expert group (in accordance with the internal rules of the Commission). At the same time, also the extended impact assessment will be made available.

### *Cross-sectoral initiative with a focus on the environment*

PL raises the issue of co-ordination of INSPIRE. C. Rouam explains that the focus on environment ensures that INSPIRE is compatible with the proposed legal base but that the choice of the (environmental) legal base allows to address the data needed for a broad range of sectors and the needs of a broad range of sectors in the framework of the integration of the environment into other policies. The cross-sectoral nature of INSPIRE will require both within the Commission and within each MS a co-ordination with the sectors concerned during the negotiations of the proposal and during the preparatory phase. In many MS and in the Commission, such co-ordination already exists but each MS

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will need to decide how to organise this. HU pointed to its networking as an example of activities in this area. FR and DE ask to exploit the interlinkages with the e-gov initiatives and with Galileo. Eurogeosurveyers indicates that all stakeholders need to be involved, including banks and insurance companies.

### *Implementation issues*

DE and PL raised the issue of funding. DE raised also the issue of multilinguism and of synchronisation with GMES. A. Annoni explained that multilinguism should be dealt with through the creation of multilingual thesauri. M. Vanderhaegen explained that for the implementation of INSPIRE, both the Commission and the MS will need to fund the operations for which they take responsibility. The synchronisation with GMES is ensured as INSPIRE figures on the GMES action plan as a priority and INSPIRE action also benefit from GMES funding. C. Rouam points out that such actions can be and are funded through existing funding initiatives, for instance in the framework of the Structural Funds, the 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework programme, and the EEA and EFTA co-operation agreements.

SE ask for clarification on the legal status of the implementing rules, and if daughter legislation should be expected. M. Vanderhaegen explained that implementing rules are binding for the MS but can be adopted in a more flexible way by the Commission provided the Member States in the INSPIRE Committee accept them by qualified majority.

AU asked how to start to implement something not yet adopted and can be changed by the Council and Parliament. C. Rouam replied that experts of all MS were involved in the preparation since the beginning, so significant changes are not foreseen.

The UK requested if access to the data by EU bodies would not cause problems with copyright issues. M. Vanderhaegen explained that specific provision on access to the data by EU bodies is needed because of the difficulty EU bodies have to deal with data coming from 25 different MS and confirmed that issues of copyright have been looked at and are taken into account.

Eurogeosurveyers expressed concerns on the long-term target for Annex III harmonisation and metadata provision. M. Vanderhaegen explains that this target is the final target for the full scope of INSPIRE and that this target will only be met if provision of metadata and harmonisation is started much earlier. The approach was chosen not to complicate the proposal by inserting additional intermediate deadlines, but it is clear that the implementation should be synchronised with other environmental policy needs. These requirements should be taken into account in the working programme.

FR requests to what level of accuracy should be considered in the framework of the harmonisation work. M. Vanderhaegen and A. Annoni explained that harmonisation should be conceived in a way that it covers multiple levels of accuracy and that the issues to be dealt with will depend on the data that is available.

## **III. Implementation work programme**

### **III.a Presentation by EUROSTAT**

H. Dufourmont presented the results of the activities of the task force (see attached presentation) which are reflected in a draft working programme that has been sent to the Members of the Expert group. A discussion followed around the following issues: data policy, standardisation, interlinkages,

#### *General*

The current draft version of the working programme provides a framework setting out requirements of the future INSPIRE proposal against a first set of actions. However, it needs to be further developed, more specifically with input on relevant initiatives in the MS and with the development of organisational aspects. FIN suggests that MS start to develop national Working programmes or strategies. C. Rouam considers that this should be done after the agreement on the EU working programme.

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### *Scope*

PL considers that the working programme does not sufficiently reflect the user needs and should ensure that the input into the specifications comes from environmental policies. Eurogeosurveys misses in the working programme instruments to deliver integrated information on the environment and suggests using the 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme for this. EEA suggest to use EIONET to connect the environmental component to the mapping component of INSPIRE. Eurogeographics suggests to do generic work and to test it on specific ENV applications.

### *Standardisation*

Further to a request by PL, A. Annoni clarifies how ISO/CEN/OGC work will interlink with INSPIRE activities, not by duplicating but by Europeanising international standards and by using the input of the standardisation bodies as a starting point for further work in the framework of INSPIRE. This view is supported by DE. NO indicates that they are developing a framework for monitoring the establishment of the national SDI and highlights that the EC (through the JRC class A liaison) can participate to ISO and influence the standards.

### *Data policy*

The draft working programme includes important activities on data policy. UK points to the risk of interference with institutional issues in the UK and that the work of the DPLI position paper should be a starting point for further discussion. FR points out that the DPLI paper is not up to date any more and does not necessarily reflect the ongoing discussion in France on data policy. DK remarks that the success of INSPIRE is related to the change in the way we are prepared to start thinking horizontally. The WFD already clearly shows the need to share GI data cross border. Therefore, different types of rights should be respected, but at the same time sharing for policy related tasks should be encouraged. This is closely connected with Reporting and there is a concern that reporting is not well co-ordinated with INSPIRE until now. Also PL also asks for a better co-ordination between EU policies (cf. LPIS). M. Vanderhaegen indicates that the working programme should stick to the priorities of delivering what is needed to prepare the implementation of INSPIRE and that work on data policies should be scaled back during the preparatory phase. Possibilities to co-ordinate INSPIRE at EU level will improve once INSPIRE is adopted by the Commission.

### *Organisation*

FR points out that this crucial point is missing in the working programme and that it should be addressed as a priority. Eurogeographics points out that the document reads like a document written by the Commission for the Commission. The role of the NMA's is not described in the document. SE suggests to create for the work on specifications different working groups on the different themes, co-ordinated by a single group.

### *Link to national initiatives - template*

AU and FI express their concerns on the link and synchronisation of INSPIRE with ongoing national initiatives, as long as INSPIRE specs and guidelines are not yet available. PL argues strongly that the INSPIRE work should be linked to the significant ongoing work in the national institutions and hence pleads to speed up the INSPIRE process. PL also argues that there should be a balance between users and custodians of data. EEA considers that only the most relevant initiatives should be followed up. A template has been sent out to the task force members to collect information on relevant national initiatives, but the feedback has been limited until now. The next step consists of the challenge to include stakeholder and MS contributions in the working programme. Therefore a more focussed template, prepared by the JRC, will be sent out to all expert group members. A. Annoni encourages the participants to the Expert group to prepare executive summaries in English of information on existing SDI-relevant initiatives.

### *Timing*

(DE) The working programme should result in deliverables in the short and medium term. Otherwise it will be difficult for the regions and nations to adapt afterwards. PL and EEA confirm that deliverables

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should become available well before 2013 and work should proceed in parallel on both Annex I, II and III. Deliverables should also take into account existing commitments in the framework of other environmental legislation (PL).

#### *Other issues*

DK suggests to create a checklist that every project can use to determine if it is "INSPIRE compliant". DK will make a proposal for such a checklist. Some delegates raised the issue of the use of specific datasets in the framework of the WFD, but this was considered to be too specific to be discussed in the context of the INSPIRE Expert group. IT announces a workshop on the use of SDI for Environmental impact assessment that will be organised in Italy on 23-24 September.

### III.a Presentation by JRC

Mr Annoni presented a series of questions to be debated by the INSPIRE Expert group on the process, users, synchronisation, architecture and standards and on resources and funding (see attached presentation)

The results of the discussion are integrated in the above section.

## IV Conclusion of the meeting

The chair concludes the meeting by listing the following agreements:

- organise a workshop on INSPIRE for national administrations involved in environmental policies, to be organised by the EEA in the framework of the review of EIONET in October,
- send out new templates by 2 July to be filled in and sent back to the Commission (in particular DK, IT, PL, UK and DE committed to give input),
- step up communication efforts at EU and national level once the proposal is adopted by the Commission,
- issue comments on the draft working programme by 15 July
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