

European Forum of Official Gazettes

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6th meeting
London
10–11 September 2009





European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON
10 - 11 September 2009

Working Documents





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These documents will be published on the European Forum of Official Gazettes website: <http://circa.europa.eu/irc/opoce/ojf/info/data/prod/html/index.htm>



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

1VS, The Westminster Conference Centre
(1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET)

Programme



Thursday 10 September 2009

13.30 – 14.00	Registration and coffee and light refreshments
14.00 – 14.20	Chair Welcome Ana Herrero-Botas <i>Boletin Oficial del Estado, Madrid</i>
14.20 – 14.30	Opening remarks and Introduction to the Programme - Chair of the Forum Carol Tullo <i>Director of the Office of Public Sector Information, UK</i>
14.30 – 14.40	Welcome address Michael Wills <i>Minister of State for Justice</i>
14.40 – 14.50	Forum Activity Report 2008/2009 Ana Herrero-Botas <i>Boletin Oficial del Estado, Madrid</i>
14.50 – 15.00	Forum Publications Andrea Bartolini <i>Secretary to the Forum</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Integration of UK Legislation Alan Pawsey <i>Head of Legislation and Publishing Services, Office of Public Sector information, UK</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Boarding coaches and travel to London Eye
16.00 – 17.30	Visit to the London Eye
17.30 – 18.00	Boarding boat
18.00 – 19.00	Boat Cruise on the River Thames
19.00 – 19.10	Disembark boat
19.10 – 19.30	Group photo outside Tate Modern Art Gallery
19.30	Pre-dinner drinks
20.00	Dinner at Tate Modern Art Gallery After Dinner Speaker - The Story of Legislation Stephen Laws , <i>First Parliamentary Counsel, UK</i>
23.00	End of evening – depart to Hotels

Friday 11 September 2009

- 9.15 – 9.45 Coffee
- 9.45 – 10.00 Welcome to Day 2
Carol Tullo
- 10.00 – 10.30 Adding value through the Web
John Sheridan *Head of e-Services and Strategy, Office of Public Sector Information, UK*
- 10.30 – 11.00 EC-funded Semantic technologies and the Official Gazettes
Stefano Bertolo *Project Officer, European Commission Information Society DG, Luxembourg*
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.00 Common access to EU Law
Martine Reicherts *Director of the Publications Office of the European Union*
- 12.00 – 12.30 Aligning the international reach of GLIN with Europe
Janice Hyde *Program Officer, GLIN, Law Library of Congress, Washington, USA*
- 12.30 – 13.00 From Bill to Act - the journey of legislation through Parliament
Michael Pownall *Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, UK*
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
Materials illustrating the changes in legislation publishing over the years through to the current online systems, including those of the UK Government contractor – TSO (The Stationery Office Limited), will be on display and demonstrated.
- 14.30 – 15.00 Progress Report from the Working Group on Consolidation
Marika Seppius *Estonia*
- 15.00 – 15.30 Progress Report from the Working Group on Indexing and Search
Aleš Gola, *Czech Republic*
- 15.30 – 15.45 The new organisation of the "Official journal" and the "Documentation Française"
Didier François, *Director of the Official Journal, France*
- 15.45 – 16:15 Coffee Break
- 16.15 – 16:45 The road ahead for the European Forum of Official Gazettes
Karl Schiessl, *Austria* and **Søren Broberg Nielsen**, *Denmark*
- 16.45 – 17.00 New Topics and Work plan, General Discussion
- 17.00 – 17.15 Information on the 7th meeting in Rome 2010
Alfonso Andriani, *Direzione della Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana*
- Closing remarks – Carol Tullo**



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

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10 - 11 September 2009**

List of expected participants



European Union

Austria

Mr Karl Schiessl

Belgium

Mr Albert Van Damme

Cyprus

Mr Christos Demetriades
Mr Paris Spanos

Czech Republic

Mr Jiří Kaucký
Ms Aleš Gola

Denmark

Ms Nina Koch
Mr Søren Broberg Nielsen

Estonia

Ms Marika Seppius
Mr Jüri Heinla

Finland

Mr Aki Hietanen
Mr Jari Linhala

France

Mr Didier François
Ms Joëlle Kauffmann

Germany

Ms Sabine Quink
Mr Martin Jäger

Greece

Mr Sergios Tsiftis
Mr Konstantinos Moschonas

Hungary

Ms Monika Kovacs
Ms Viktória Linder

Ireland

Mr Gerard Matthews
Mr Richard Caffrey

Italy

Mr Alfonso Adriani
Mr Maurizio Quattrociochi
Mr Nando Orsini

Latvia

Mr Artis Trops
Ms Daina Ābele

Lithuania

Ms Irena Milaknytė Šukevičienė

Luxembourg

Mr John Dann

Malta

Mr Martin Bugelli

Netherlands

Mr Hans Flier

Poland

Mr Mariusz Lachowski

Portugal

Mr Ricardo Barreiros
Mr Pedro Garcia Cardoso

Romania

Mr Gabriel Popa

Slovenia

Ms Špela Munih-Stanič
Ms Mojca Samotorčan
Ms Almira Turk

Spain

Ms Ana Herrero-Botas
Mr Juan Ruiz

Sweden

Mr Lars Franzen
Mr Mikael Gulliksson

United Kingdom

Ms Carol Tullo
Mr Alan Pawsey

Office of Publications of the European Union

Ms Martine Reicherts
Mr Yves Steinitz
Mr Andrea Bartolini (Forum Secretariat)

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Countries

Iceland

Ms Eygló Halldórsdóttir

Norway

Mr Knut Davidsen

Switzerland

Mr Michel Moret

EU Candidate Countries

Croatia

Ms Sanja Perić

Mr Nikola Sila

Turkey

Mr Nadir Özcan

Mr Muhammed Emin Yildiz

EU Potential Candidate Countries

Albania

Ms Evelina Bekteshi

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr Dragan Prusina

Montenegro

Mr Momčilo Vujošević

Serbia

Ms Sanja Jovičić

Observers

Global Legal Information Network, USA

Ms Janice Hyde

Kosovo

Mr Naser Canolli

United Kingdom

Mr Michael Pownall

Mr John Sheridan

Mr Norman Hodgett

Ms Helen Creeke

Ms Catherine O'Riordan

Ms Alison Bertlin

European Commission

Mr Stefano Bertolo



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

The Integration of UK Legislation

presented by

Mr Alan Pawsey

Head of Legislation and Publishing Services

OPSI



Integration of UK Legislation

Alan Pawsey

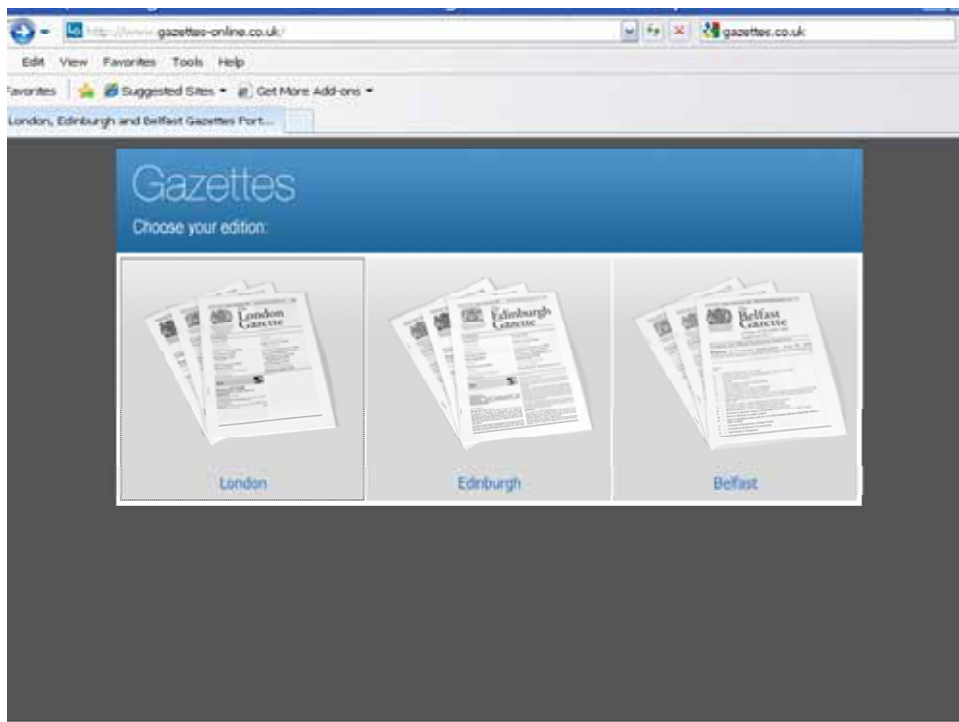
Head of Legislation and Publishing Services

10 September 2009

The UK Official Gazettes

- The London, Belfast and Edinburgh Gazettes



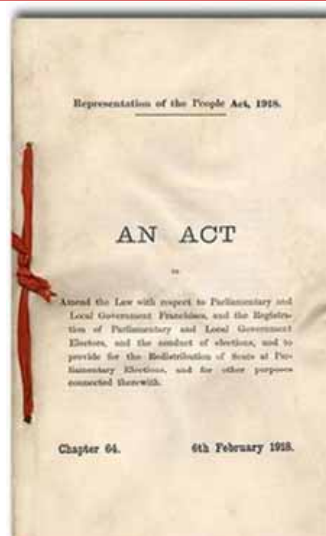


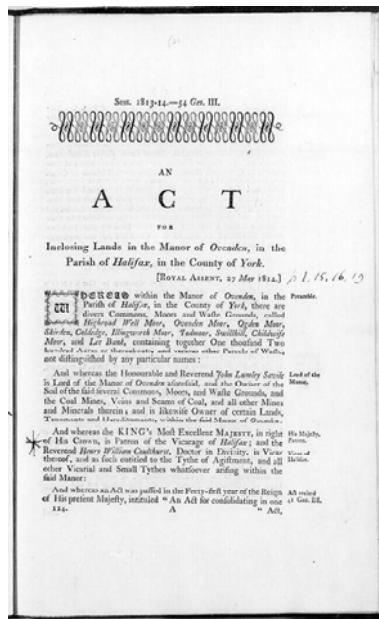
UK Legislation Publishing

- Legislation is not published as part of the Official Gazette
- Legislation can come into force immediately it receives Royal Assent or made
- Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments published as individual documents

A historical perspective

- ❖ The Chancery Roll
- ❖ Her Majesty's Stationery Office
- ❖ Our Contractor
- ❖ The web - electronic status
- ❖ The Statute Law Database





ELIZABETH II

c. 7



European Union (Amendment) Act 2008

2008 CHAPTER 7

An Act to make provision in connection with the Treaty of Lisbon Amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty Establishing the European Community, signed at Lisbon on 13th December 2007.

[19th June 2008]

B E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 The Treaty of Lisbon

In this Act “the Treaty of Lisbon” means the Treaty of Lisbon Amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty Establishing the European Community signed at Lisbon on 13th December 2007.

2 Addition to list of treaties

At the end of the list of treaties in section 1(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (c. 68) add—

“; and

(a) the Treaty of Lisbon Amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty Establishing the European Community signed at Lisbon on 13th December 2007 (together with its Annex and protocols), excluding any provision that relates to, or in so far as it relates to or could be applied in relation to, the Common Foreign and Security Policy.”

3 Changes of terminology

(1) In section 1(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 (interpretation) before



The move from print to web



Print sales



Online usage





Integration of the legislation websites



Single
Legislation
Service
www.legislation.gov.uk

Seeking user views

- A comprehensive survey of users of both websites
- The identification of key users
- Developing solutions which meet their needs



PRIMARY PERSONA

Mark Green:
Environmental
Enforcement Officer,
Birmingham City Council
Regular user, more so of OPSI.
Needs to quote legislation. Uses a
handful of Acts regularly. No
access to subscription services.
Web savvy.

"I need to quote legislation as part of my job and so it is essential that the legislation I access is up-to-date"



Heather Cole:
Member of public
seeking to defend her
rights.

First time user, does want to
view legislation, but needs
support and advice too. Needs
to understand what she is
seeing. Web savvy.

"I want to prove to my local council that they are not providing the services they are obligated to provide"



**Jane Booker: Law
Librarian**

Regular user, more so of SLD.
Likely to use all the features SLD
site offers. Expert web
researcher and confident
researcher of legal documents.
Time pressured to respond to
queries. Uses subscription
services and other sources.

"I need to respond the solicitors' requests for information in a timely manner and it is absolutely essential that what I provide is up to date"



Brian Hedges:
Frustrated by his
neighbour's fence. an
anti-persona

First time user. A beginner when
it comes to using the internet.
Vague search terms. Needs
signposting.

"It seems I am in the wrong place – I cannot understand this legal speak – I just want an answer"

More than the sum of the parts

- The single legislation service will combine the best parts of both the OPSI website and the Statute Law Database whilst addressing weaknesses with each:
 - Swift online publication of new legislation, with feeds and alerts (even twitter! See www.twitter.com/legislation)
 - Revised statutes from the Statute Law Database showing historical versions, geographical extent and the status of amendments

Plus many new features, for example

- Comprehensive and integrated Tables of Effect, to make the new service useful from day one
 - Effects on SIs as well as Acts
 - Linking to the affecting legislation
- New ways of organising and locating legislation (e.g. Grouping of SIs by heading or responsible department)
- Linking from the power conferring provisions to subordinate legislation made under those provisions

Whilst improving the existing services

- Linking SIs to European Legislation
- Improving the SLD Editorial System to help make the editing process more streamlined
- Republishing the Explanatory Notes as high quality XHTML with links to sections of Acts
- Interweaving the Explanatory Notes with Acts (our solution was used to develop the demonstrator of interweaving for the Equality Bill on the Parliament Website)
- Making available more content (converting pre 1988 legislation as enacted from PDF to XML, publishing all the Local and Private Acts from the Parliamentary Archives)

When will all this be done?

- Our business target for the launch of the Single Legislation Service website at www.legislation.gov.uk is by the end of March 2010
- Our first priority remains the availability and daily publishing of all United Kingdom legislation

.....wherever it originates.



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Legislation Publishing and the Web of Linked Data

presented by
Mr John Sheridan
Head of e-Services and Strategy
OPSI



Legislation Publishing and the Web of Linked Data

John Sheridan

Head of e-Services and Strategy

11 September 2009



Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

CHAPTER 4

CONTENTS

PART 1

YOUTH REHABILITATION ORDERS

Youth rehabilitation orders

- 1 Youth rehabilitation orders
- 2 Breach, revocation or amendment of youth rehabilitation orders



The screenshot shows a Google search results page from approximately 2006. The search query is "data protection". The top result is "Scientific Data Protection" from scienceandprivacy.com. Below it are links to "Data Protection Software" and "Web" search results. A large grey box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the page, containing the statement: "The official version of legislation is consistently very easy to find e.g. search for “data protection”". An arrow points from this box towards the search results.

Google Web Images Maps News Groups More
data protection Sign In Advanced Search

Search: the web & pages from the UK

Results: 1 - 10 of about 832,000,000 for **data protection**: 9-20 seconds

Sponsored Links

Scientific Data Protection
[scienceandprivacy.com](#) Free service, Low cost non-dogmatic software for Windows reports.
Data Protection Software
[Scienceandprivacy.com](#) Reduce data protection costs from Scientific applications.
TIP: Save time by hitting the return key instead of clicking on "search"

Information Commissioner's Office
Office responsible for the enforcement of the UK Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000
[www.data-protection.gov.uk/111](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)
[Data Protection: Welcome to the information...
Freedom of information - Data
Home results from the information.gov.uk](#)

Data Protection Act 1998
Repeal Acts: Data Protection Act 1998: Chapter 29 -- Power to make provision for the appointment of data protection supervisors...
[www.ops.gov.uk/HQ/T2/t2act1998/19980229.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Data Protection Act 1984 (c. 15)
Data Protection Act 1984 (c. 35). The Data Protection Act 1984 has now been replaced by the Data Protection Act 1998 (c. 29)...
[www.ops.gov.uk/hq/t2/t2act1984/19840716.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Websites of the UK government: Directorate
Portal to public sector information from the UK Government, including disclosure, online services, news and information of relevance to specific groups.
[www.direct.gov.uk/~DGNV/-/1-Apr-2006](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Data Protection
Welcome to the Information Commissioner's Office. This section explains the Data Protection Act from both an individuals and organisations point of view.
[www.ic.gov.uk/about.asp?ref=34-856](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Equipment for Constitutional Affairs - Data Protection, Data...
This area provides access to information about the Government's commitment to ensuring the proper protection and disclosure of personal information.
[www.dca.gov.uk/foiaeq.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Freedom of Information and Data Protection url
Freedom of Information and Data Protection and home page, giving information about the unit and links to further Freedom of Information and Data Protection ...
[www.dca.gov.uk/foiurl.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Simple.aspx](#)

Data protection
Data Protection & Recovery Services for all Business Needs - Learn More
[www.instituteforids.com](#)

Data Integration Software
Fast, efficient data integration, integrats, protect, multi data
[www.datashield.com](#)

HQ Data Protection
Use data protection from a different perspective
[www.spectrologics.com/articles](#)

Data Encryption
Experience effective library-based data encryption from Spectro Logic
[www.spectrologics.com/encryption](#)

Secure Online Data Backup
Free 30 Day Trial - Quantum Total! The Simple Way to Protect Your Data
[www.backupbot.com](#)

Data protection
IT White Paper Library Keeping You Educated To Make Informed Decisions
[www.FrostAndSparns.com](#)

Pollination
Audit employee acceptance and understanding of key policies
[www.polepollar.co.uk](#)

CELP HR Consultancy
HR Advice & Services inc. Appeals Employee Handbook, Unlawful
[www.celpconsulting.co.uk](#)

[More Sponsored Links >](#)



PRIMARY PERSONA

Mark Green:

Environmental Enforcement Officer,
Birmingham City Council
Regular user, more so of OPSI.
Needs to quote legislation. Uses a handful of Acts regularly. No access to subscription services. Web savvy.

"I need to quote legislation as part of my job and so it is essential that the legislation I access is up-to-date"



Heather Cole:

Member of public seeking to defend her rights.

First time user, does want to view legislation, but needs support and advice too. Needs to understand what she is seeing. Web savvy.

"I want to prove to my local council that they are not providing the services they are obligated to provide"



Jane Booker: Law Librarian

Regular user, more so of SLD. Likely to use all the features SLD site offers. Expert web researcher and confident researcher of legal documents. Time pressured to respond to queries. Uses subscription services and other sources.

"I need to respond the solicitors' requests for information in a timely manner and it is absolutely essential that what I provide is up to date"



Brian Hedges:

Frustrated by his neighbour's fence. an anti-persona

First time user. A beginner when it comes to using the internet. Vague search terms. Needs signposting.

"It seems I am in the wrong place – I cannot understand this legal speak – I just want an answer"

**We can do more with
legislation on the web, than
just deliver documents to
people**

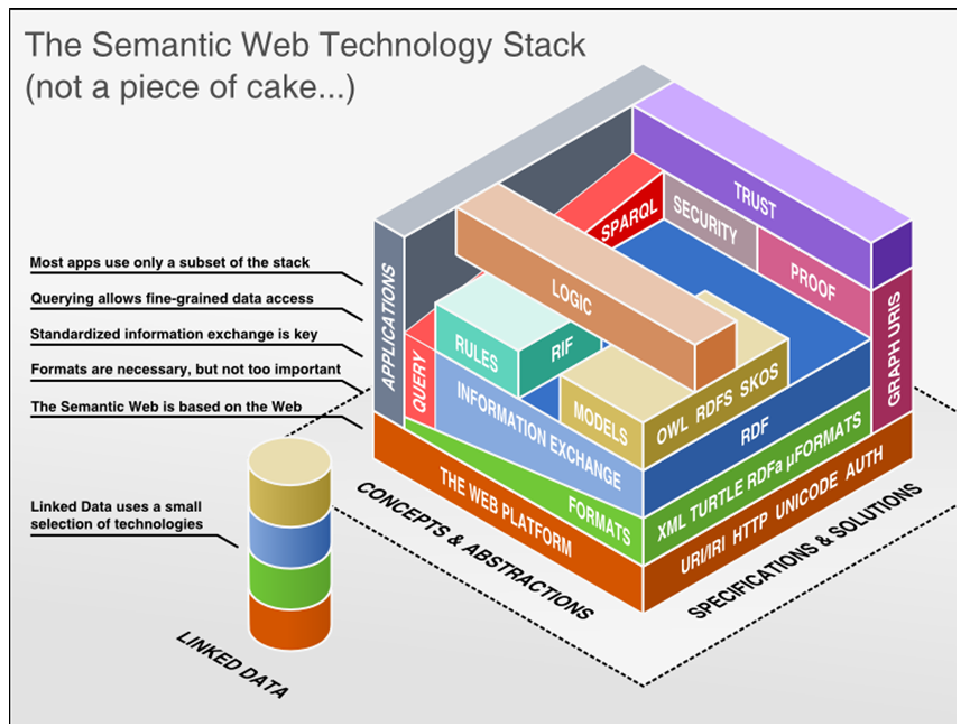


What makes the current (document) Web work?

- people create different documents
- they give an address to it (ie, a URI) and make it accessible to others on the Web

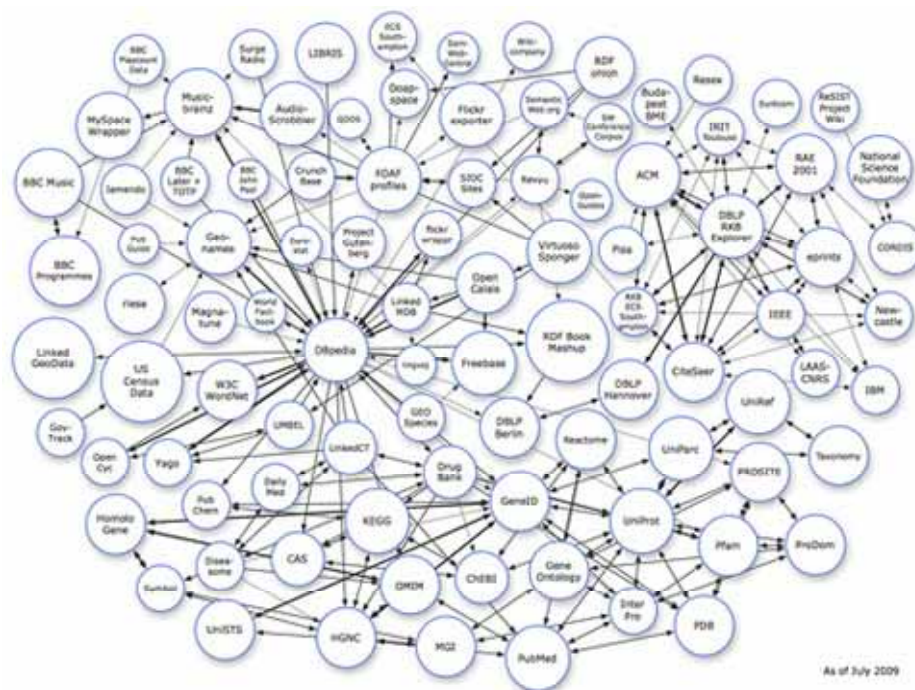


The Semantic Web Technology Stack (not a piece of cake...)



In more practical terms...

- Use URIs to publish data, not only full documents
- Link the data to other data
- Classify the data and the links (the “terms”) to convey extra meaning
- Use standards throughout (RDF, OWL, SKOS, SPARQL)



Referencing legislation

- References to legislation usually use the short title:

*“NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Bexley, have made the above titled Traffic Orders on the 10th November 2008, under Sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 51 and Part IV to Schedule 9 of the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**”*

*"The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face. This Act has been significantly extended, including by the **Disability Discrimination Act 2005**."*

- They often refer to particular sections or subsections of a piece of legislation:

*“... The provision which the judge referred to in paragraph 81 of his judgement enables a cohabitee who has for at least two years immediately preceding death been living as the wife of the deceased to make a claim for provision under the Act. That is provided for in **section 1(1)(ba) and 1A(b) of the 1975 Act...**”*

URIs for legislation

- Complex:
 - Document, part, section, sub-section, paragraph
 - As enacted and revised (temporal variation)
 - Types (Acts, SIs, ASPs, SSIs, SRs)
 - Geographical extents
 - Status (prospective, in-force)
 - Languages (English, Welsh)
 - Formats (HTML, PDF)
 - Related documents (Explanatory Notes and Memoranda)
 - Correction slips

URIs for legislation

- A number based canonical URI to provide an explicit hierarchical scheme
`http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/{type}/{year}/{number}`
eg `http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/2008/4`

`http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/{type}/{monarch}/{regnalYear}/{number}`
eg `http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/Eliz2/3-4/19`
- When “resolution” is supported, a query based URI for identifying the canonical URI from its short title
eg
`http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id?title=Criminal%20Justice%20and%20Immigration%20Act%202008`

URIs for legislation

- Extent

`/ {country}`

eg <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/2008/4/england>

- Division

`/ {divisionName} / {number}`

eg <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1975/63/section/1/1/ba>

- Version

`/ {version}`

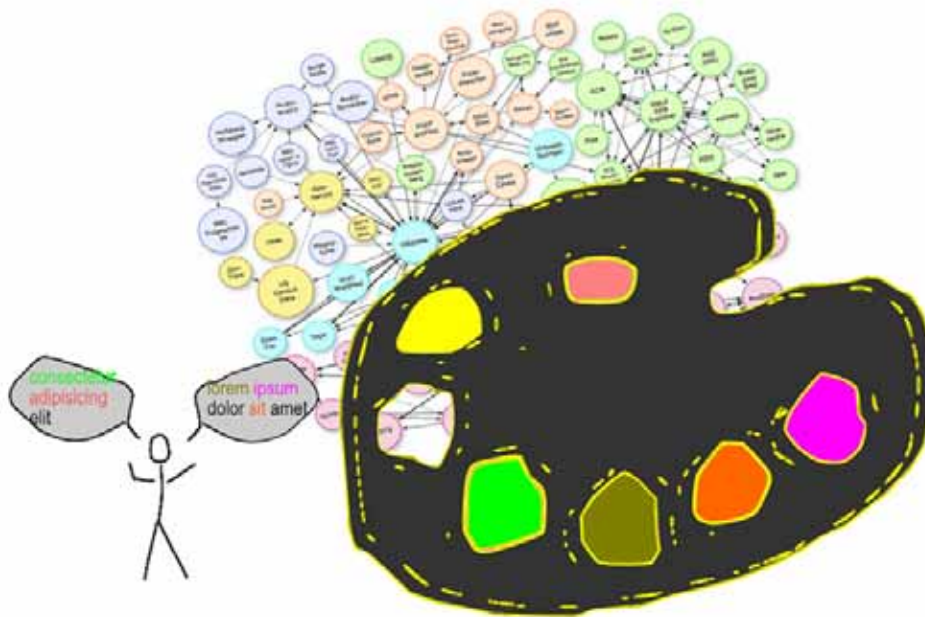
eg

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1975/63/section/1>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1975/63/section/1/enacted>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1975/63/prospective>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukpga/1975/63/section/1/1991-02-01>





Questions?



European Forum of Official Gazettes

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EC-funded Semantic technologies and the Official Gazettes

presented by

Mr Stefano Bertolo

Project Officer

European Commission Information Society DG

EC-Funded Semantic Technologies and the Official Gazettes

London 11-09-2009 -- 6th Meeting
European Forum of Official Gazettes

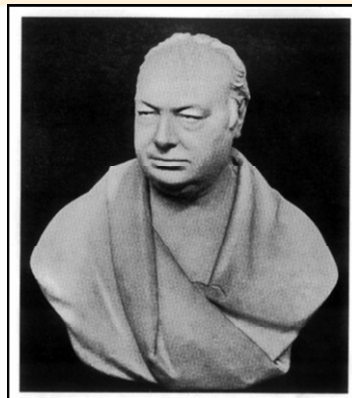
Stefano Bertolo EC DG INFSO/E2 stefano.bertolo@ec.europa.eu



Henry Maudslay (1771–1831)

He also developed the first industrially practical [screw-cutting lathe](#) in 1800, allowing standardisation of [screw thread](#) sizes for the first time. This allowed the concept of [interchangeability](#) (a idea that was already taking hold) to be practically applied to nuts and bolts. Before this, all nuts and bolts had to be made as matching pairs only. This meant that when machines were disassembled, careful account had to be kept of the matching nuts and bolts ready for when reassembly took place.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Maudslay



Joseph Whitworth (1804-1887)

In 1841, [Joseph Whitworth](#) created a design that, through its adoption by many British railroad companies, became a national standard for the [United Kingdom](#) called [British Standard Whitworth](#). During the 1840s through 1860s, this standard was often used in the [United States](#) and [Canada](#) as well, in addition to myriad intra- and inter-company standards. .

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screw_thread#History_of_standardization



3



Reusable components in software

Java™ 2 Platform
Std. Ed. v1.4.2

All Classes

Packages

[java.applet](#)

[java.awt](#)

All Classes

[ARG_IN](#)

[ARG_INOUT](#)

[ARG_OUT](#)

[AWTError](#)

[AWTEvent](#)

[AWTEventListener](#)

[AWTEventListenerProxy](#)

[AWTEventMulticaster](#)

[AWTException](#)

[AWTKeyStroke](#)

[AWTPermission](#)

[AbstractAction](#)

[AbstractBorder](#)

[AbstractButton](#)

[AbstractCellEditor](#)

[AbstractCollection](#)

[AbstractColorChooserPanel](#)

[AbstractDocument](#)

[AbstractDocument.AttributeContext](#)

[AbstractDocument.Content](#)

[AbstractDocument.ElementEdit](#)

[AbstractInterruptibleChannel](#)

[AbstractLayeredPane](#)

Overview Package Class Use Tree Deprecated Index Help

PREV NEXT FRAMES NO FRAMES

Java™ 2 Platform, Standard Edition, v 1.4.2
API Specification

This document is the API specification for the Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition, version 1.4.2.

See:
[Description](#)

Java 2 Platform Packages

java.applet	Provides the classes necessary to create an applet and the classes an applet uses to communicate with its applet context.
java.awt	Contains all of the classes for creating user interfaces and for painting graphics and images.
java.awt.color	Provides classes for color spaces.
java.awt.datatransfer	Provides interfaces and classes for transferring data between and within applications.
java.awt.dnd	Drag and Drop is a direct manipulation gesture found in many Graphical User Interface systems that provides a mechanism to transfer information between two entities

Semantic Technologies

- Semantic Technologies provide:
 - Standardized = reusable
 - Knowledge components
- Semantic Technologies allow Knowledge Components to be
 - Published in networks
 - Reasoned over by machines



5



European Commission
Information Society and Media

Information Power Tools

- Pre-industrial knowledge management:
 - **Small** number of knowledge workers
 - **Small** datasets
 - Paper tools, mind powered
- Industrial knowledge management
 - **Large** number of knowledge workers
 - **Large** datasets
 - Computing infrastructure, data sets, standards



6



European Commission
Information Society and Media

Integration with existing information gateways

- Major search engines (Google, Yahoo) can, today, index RDFa. Examples:
 - <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk> jobs
 - <http://www.heppnetz.de/projects/goodrelations/> e-commerce, tenders



7



European Commission
Information Society and Media



EC is a major funder of Semantic Technologies

- More than 200M€ in FP6, more than 100M€ so far in FP7
- DG INFSO/E2
<http://cordis.europa.eu/info-management/>
- Semantic Technologies also funded in Software services and infrastructure.



8



European Commission
Information Society and Media



Semantic Tech's and Gazettes



- Three examples, in order of complexity:
 - Entity management: **OKKAM**
 - Ontology management: **NeOn**
 - Large scale reasoning: **LarkC**



9



OKKAM problem: knowing what we are referring to (across modalities)

- Is the 'Mary' I am talking about the same person you know as 'Mary'?
- Is 'Mary' the same person mentioned elsewhere as 'the plaintiff'?
- is the person in this picture the same person elsewhere introduced as 'Mary'?



10

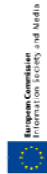


OKKAM solution: Entity ID Management

- IDs like lat-long in GPS systems
- Publish your IDs globally
- Reuse other people's when desirable
- owl:sameAs



11



OKKAM solution: Entity ID Management

- <http://www.okkam.org/entity/ed5bdc09-ca66-4435-b48e-6df558315fa1>

 [Your photostream / Tags /](#)
okkam:id=ed5bdc09ca664435b48e6df558315fa1

See all [public content tagged with](#)

[okkam:id=ed5bdc09ca664435b48e6df558315fa1](#)



12



OKKAM toolchain

- Support for unnamed entities
- Support for information extraction
- Support for ID mapping
- Support for private ID servers
- Available today at <http://www.okkam.org>



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European Commission
Information Society and Media

NeOn problem: how do we manage conceptual models (ontologies)

- What type of things are the things we mention?
- People/organisations model things differently/inconsistently
- Conceptual models change over time
- Conceptual models are built on previously established models



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NeOn solution: extensible ontology editor

- Support for finding and importing existing ontologies
- Support for mapping across ontologies
- Support for text mining ontologies from text
- Support for inconsistency detection, repair
- Very expressive: OWL Full



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NeOn solution: extensible ontology editor

- Eclipse-based, pluggable architecture (40+ plugins)
- Integrated with OKKAM
- Available, today, from http://neon-toolkit.org/wiki/Main_Page



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LarKC problem: large scale reasoning is hard

- Reasoning = combining independently known facts to establish new ones
- Facts can combine in many, many different ways
- There are many many facts published on the web (several Billion RDF triples)
- Reasoning at this scale requires intelligent approximations, relevance judgements



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LarKC solution: a pluggable reasoning platform

- Sub-second reasoning over Bs of RDF triples:
 1. Use smart IR tricks to find relevant facts
 2. Reason about them
 3. If you find answer stop; otherwise
 4. If you have more time go back to 1



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LarKC solution: a pluggable reasoning platform

- Example queries:
 - Which EU directive affect companies located in region X?
 - Which financial services are regulated in country X but not country Y?
 - Which companies located in region X produce the kind of goods requested in call for tender Y?



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LarKC solution: a pluggable reasoning platform

- Work in progress
- Prototype implementation available, today, at <http://www.larkc.eu>
- Support for early adopters



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Conclusion

- Usability, value of Public Sector Information (Gazettes included) increases with publication by means of machine readable (semantic) standards
- Semantic standards need to be supported by tools
- EC, a major funder of semantic tools, looks forward to hear about needs, experiences of PSI adopters.



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Thank You!





European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

Common access to EU Law

presented by

Martine Reicherts

Director

Publications Office of the European Union

Let us say, your son who is reading law in one of those prestigious but remote universities on the other side of the Atlantic has sent you an sms that you have been able to translate into a language you understand with the right spelling.

It says, "I am completely swamped in work (that is even possibly true with all these social events, girlfriends, etc. that leave little extra time), since it is in your line of business, could you find me all EU legal acts on bird flu?"

Dear me, you think, these youngsters are all internet virtuosos and he asks me!

Parental duty being what it is, you sit down and switch on your PC. First you try OGGLE the famous search portal, you type "bird flu" and GO!

WHOAOU! 1 070 000 results in 0,17 sec! Can you beat that!

Well ... that is a lot to go through... let us try "bird flu & EU".

My, my 1 080 000 results in 0,25 sec, how is that possible? I restricted the search?!

A look at the first page shows that you have got different results than with the first try but nothing looking even remotely like a legal act.

You think... there was this site, what was it called ... EUR-Lex! That's it, the unique portal to European law.

Here we go... simple search...15 possibilities... what on earth is a natural number (is it odd or even? Can you have an unnatural number?). OK, search terms, type "bird flu", one result, well that seems a bit short.

I'll try "avian flu". Well that gives 2 results, which is a 100% increase! And with the one result from my first search I now have 3 results!

That cannot be right. Fortunately there is a bibliographic notice, you open it and there are other acts mentioned there and looking at the titles you notice the phrase "avian influenza", well, looks like flu is an unorthodox abbreviation for influenza.

Good. Try "avian influenza" search, go. Bingo: 300 results!

All right, I'll stop there.

What we want to do is to make our users' life easier, so that they find the same results regardless of the search terms they use, be it avian flu, bird flu, avian influenza, H5N1, etc.

We want the results to be presented in groups so that users can refine their search rapidly, we want to offer them chronological views so that they understand the genesis, development and downstream life of a legal act, we want to give the policy background, we want to provide access not only to legal acts but also to case law, to documents, reports and explanatory texts that enlighten the hows and whys...

[EUR-Lex is used for the dissemination of official legal documents produced by the institutions and bodies of the European Union and of the European Communities, as

well as of European Union related information and acts adopted by national and international institutions and bodies.

The aim of EUR-Lex is to become the central access point to European Union law, and the reference system for European Union law:

a single entry point to the largest possible collection of information related to EU law, providing users with access to all sorts of official texts and preparatory documents, but also to other documents which help users better understand the decision-making process or the context of the acts adopted; access to provisions of national law and national judicial decisions related to European legislation. It is not just about gathering all the documents under the same roof, it is rather about providing access to the places where the data is stored; it is also about providing the tools that allow users to understand the content, namely automatic translation tools or access to multilingual lexicons that put legal concepts into a real life context.

a citizen-driven site: legal texts are difficult to understand, and the specificity of European law adds to the complexity of the task. Users need points of reference such as summaries of legislation, descriptions, press releases, notes of explanation – tools to make the Law more accessible.

For the future, this means that the various sites: EUR-Lex, PRELEX (chronological view of the legal procedure) and N-Lex (access to national law) will be gathered under one single portal.

The main characteristics of the new EUR-Lex are the following:

- 1. Multilingualism – interface and content will be available in all the official languages of the EU. All linguistic renditions are treated as equal, but all versions that are available will, in any case, be offered;*
- 2. Completeness – the aim of EUR-Lex is to include all EU law related documents published since 1951, in all available language versions;*
- 3. Unity – EUR-Lex should integrate various information sources to become a unique portal to access the European Law;*
- 4. Authenticity – in the future, the electronic version of the Official Journal could be accepted as having legal value by the EU Institutions and the Member States; a certified version of the acts will be proposed alongside the working version;*
- 5. Robust, user friendly and WAI-compliant web user interface, providing:*
 - a. fast response time and high reliability;*
 - b. personalisation by user accounts;*

- c. *various views according to e.g. chronological order, subject-matter classification, legislative procedure, life-cycle of documents, related documents, etc.;*
- d. *different types of search (Simple, Advanced, Expert supporting all official languages);*
- e. *ergonomic presentation of different language versions of the same document;*
- 6. *Powerful search engine allowing users to search in both documents and the structured meta-data according to any combination of search criteria (including faceted search), in addition to a simple search similar to the leading web search engines;*
- 7. *RSS and notification of recently published documents;*
- 8. *A web content management system, with the possibility of template based and automatic creation of editorial content (editorial parts, thematic indexes, news, etc.);*
- 9. *Web Service interface to enable automated access to and re-use of certain functionalities for dedicated users;*
- 10. *Re-use of all content and meta-data, as well as the key concepts from the existing EUR-Lex.*

Technically, the new EUR-Lex is also required to:

- 1. *handle in a homogeneous and secure way a large number of EU Law documents and their structured metadata;*
- 2. *handle documents in all official EU languages and different formats (XML, PDF, HTML, MS Word, TIFF);*
- 3. *manage complex XML documents on import and export (using dedicated XML schemas, via distribution style sheets, etc.);*
- 4. *be permanently available on the Web providing stable performance over time;*
- 5. *be accessible to a large and growing number of simultaneous users (scalability);*
- 6. *be extendable offering the possibility of adding new languages and new collections of documents in the future.]*

As you know better than anyone, it is extremely difficult to become that simple, complete and precise. It requires the use of the latest technologies, having excellent indexation, having all the documents available in open formats along with standardised quality metadata based on semantic technology, and all of that being invisible to the user.

[Metadata is the foundation of all information retrieval and can be defined as "any statement about an information resource". For the information retrieval, descriptive metadata are used that are actually data such as author, title, language, subject, etc.

The aim is to reproduce what exists in a closed database at the web level and to bring similar resources together by aggregating heterogeneous content.

In order to be able to share metadata among its different portals and with external partners, the Publications Office:

- ✓ *launched the RECORD project in December 2008 whose purpose is to create a centralized reference system for the documentary applications managed by the Publications Office, based on ISO/IEC 11179 "Metadata registry" standard and other international standards (i.e. W3C) in order to further develop standardization of metadata production and to enhance the interoperability between different systems,*
- ✓ *set up a Metadata Task Force in June 2009 whose purpose is to further develop the management of content and metadata in order to be able to meet the requirements of the future common portal of the Office in terms of search and information retrieval and to enable support of the Semantic Web.*

Some technologies and standards that constitute the building blocks of the Semantic Web already exist for Eurovoc and should be adopted in other areas.

- ✓ *Eurovoc is the multilingual thesaurus managed by the Publications Office. A new release based on a production environment built on semantic technologies and a distribution interface using the formal language SKOS (Simple Knowledge Organisation System) will go into production at the end of September 2009. This thesaurus, expressed in the official languages of the European Union plus Croatian and Serbian is based on the building blocks of the Semantic Web such as RDF/XML¹, OWL² and SKOS³.*

All these steps are not primarily aimed at the internal use of the Publications Office, despite their obvious benefits for us as well in terms of metadata management.

Along with the standardisation of formats around XML, the developments I've mentioned will make communication between public entities similar to ours much easier and will also facilitate re-use of public sector information by the clear and unambiguous identification of the nature and the purpose of the documents concerned.]

And, although this must remain even more completely hidden from the end user, you need systems (hardware and software) that are powerful, fast, reliable and scalable. But that goes without saying.

[EUR-Lex key figures

- *The EUR-Lex repository contains currently about 3 650 000 documents in 23 languages;*
- *Amount of data sent by the web servers – up to 125 GB a day;*
- *Number of page views – 135 000 000 for the first semester of 2009 (i.e. approximately 750 000 a day);*
- *Number of search queries performed by the users – up to 100 000 a day.]*

¹ RDF/XML, the metadata data model is a method for representing knowledge broken into small pieces with some rules on the meaning of these pieces.

² OWL, the web ontology language is a knowledge representation that processes the content of information instead of presenting information to humans.

³ SKOS is designed for representing thesauri, taxonomies, controlled vocabularies, classifications.

To complement the technology, one should also be able to call upon the expertise and knowledge of others. However good automatic tools are or will become, human thinking remains the best source of new ideas, the best way of identifying potential synergies or links, the best path to innovation. This is where collaborative networks come in.

In Europe, the difficulty is further compounded by the obvious need for automatic translation tools that do not yet exist but, naturally, are one of the European priorities in the e-Law and e-Justice fields.

I have tried to summarize in a few words the interesting challenge that lies ahead of us for the next 2 to 3 years. The new EUR-Lex: can we fix it? Yes we can!

Thank you for your attention.



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

Aligning the international reach of GLIN with Europe

presented by
Ms Janice Hyde
Project Officer
Global Legal Information Network



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Aligning the International Reach of GLIN with Europe

Janice Hyde
U.S. Law Library of Congress
September 2009



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Topics

- An overview of GLIN
- GLIN and EU national legislation initiatives (N-Lex)
- Possibilities for Cooperation



GLIN GLOBAL
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What is GLIN?

- A not-for-profit cooperative of government agencies and institutions that contribute national legal information to the GLIN database
- A database containing statutes, regulations and related legal materials that originate from countries around the world
- A system accessible via the web (www.glin.gov)



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GLIN Database Contents

- Four modules: statutes and regulations; judicial decisions; legislative records; and legal literature
- Full texts of 170,000+ legal instruments from 51 jurisdictions
- Searchable by subject terms and legal concepts through the use of a centralized thesaurus available in 14 different languages



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GLIN Guiding Principles

- Governments have the duty to make their laws accessible to their citizens
- Law is one of the best instruments for balanced, peaceful, and productive relations among peoples and nations
- Nations share common areas of interest and are aware of a mutual interdependence
- The texts of laws must be delivered according to the highest standards of reliability



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GLIN Reliability Standards

- Official
- Authentic
- Current
- Complete



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GLIN Reliability Standards

- Official
 - A Network of trusted partners contribute texts
 - All texts appear as published in the official source
 - No re-keyed texts or links to unofficial texts from government websites allowed

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Tunisia



Russia



Brazil



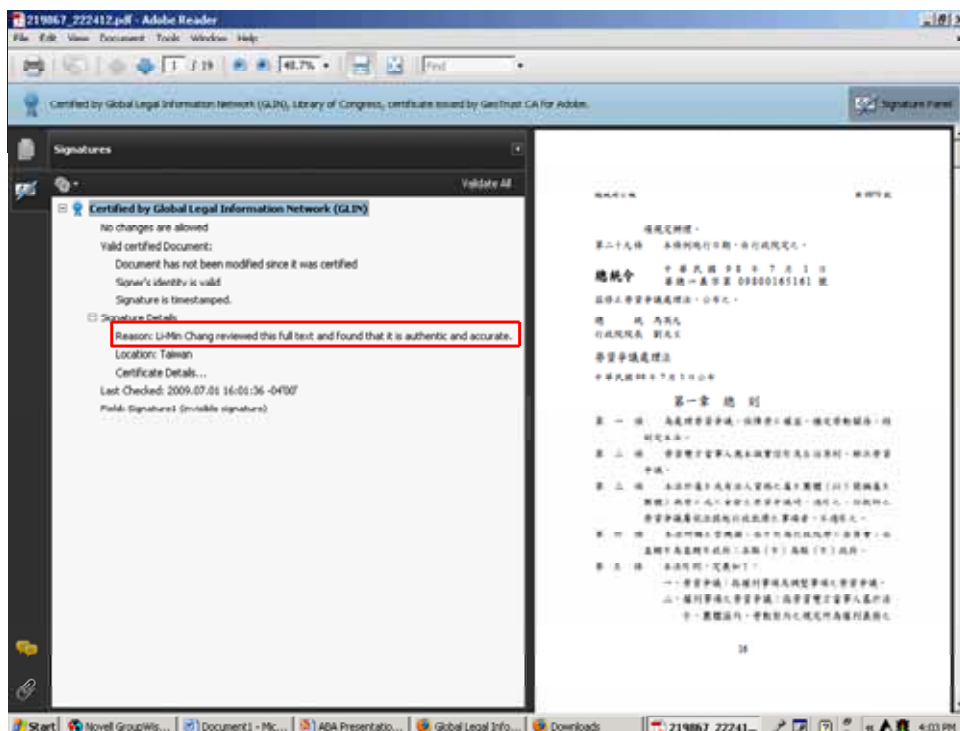
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GLIN Reliability Standards

■ Authentic

- GLIN partners certify that texts are true representations of official source documents
- Digital certificates assure users of authenticity





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GLIN Reliability Standards

- Current information
 - GLIN members pledge to contribute legal instruments as soon as possible after they are published
 - The members serve as a resource to verify currency or provide updated information to supplement the data in the database



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GLIN Reliability Standards

- Complete
 - GLIN members pledge to contribute everything that is nationally or internationally enforceable—no selection by subject or presumed “importance”
 - Older legal instruments, including those that have been repealed, are not deleted from the system



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GLIN Services

- For countries without national legal information systems:
 - GLIN can serve as the primary repository for legal information (E.g. GLIN is the only online source of law for Dem. Rep. of Congo and Saudi Arabia)
 - The Network itself is a resource for additional information and advice
 - GLIN offers samples of legislation from various countries for those considering legislation on new topics



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GLIN Services

- For countries with existing legal information systems:
 - GLIN complements the efforts of nations by offering another tool for them to disseminate their laws through a system that allows multilingual access and facilitates comparative legal research
 - Facilitates transparency
 - Provides models for other countries
 - The Network itself is a resource for additional information and advice



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GLIN and EU initiatives

GLIN and N-Lex:

- Goals
 - Both aim to provide access to national law
- Approaches
 - GLIN is a cooperatively built database; N-Lex provides a common gateway to databases created by national governments
- Common concerns
 - Transposition/Implementation of supranational legislation
 - Need for consolidated texts
 - Legal vocabulary development



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GLIN and N-Lex: Common Concerns

- Both share an interest in tracking the implementation of supranational legislation at national level
 - Example from GLIN: MERCOSUR

Constitución CONSTITUTION Decreto 131 de la Asamblea Nacional Constituyente contiene la Constitución de la República de Honduras de enero de 1960/ Decree 131 of the National Constitutional Assembly contains the Constitution of Honduras of January 1962 131-02 Approved by Law Secreta OficialP 29,812-0	GLIN ID 106599 Issuance Date 11/01/1962 Publication Date 30/01/1962	Approved by Law Reformulation of Article 201, of the Constitution of the Republic, (GLIN ID: 01-00171) Repealed by Law Reformulation of Article 201, of the Constitution of the Republic, (GLIN ID: 01-00171) Regulated by Law Regulation of Articles 199, number 2, 200, number 11, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948,
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GLIN and N-Lex: Common Concerns

▪ Legal Vocabulary

- GLIN thesaurus comprises legal concepts drawn from legal instruments themselves
- Enables multilingual searching
- Enables comparative legal research



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Possibilities for Cooperation

▪ GLIN and OPSI model

- Automated ingestion of data based upon mapping of fields
- High-level mapping of vocabulary
- OPSI Web Services allowed GLIN to develop an API that automatically loads the latest legislation as soon as it is published



Possibilities for Cooperation

Potential Obstacles	Possible Solutions
No English language summaries	Automated translation of metadata, especially summaries, is closer to becoming a reality
Lack of common subject terms	Tools are being developed to facilitate mapping of thesauri/vocabularies
Lack of universal standards for metadata	GLIN is considering ingesting and making accessible nonstandard metadata records on an ad hoc basis



Possibilities for Cooperation

- GLIN invites all members of the European Forum of Official Gazettes to join its network which is working together to provide free and timely access to the laws of the world



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Aligning the International Reach of GLIN with Europe

Janice Hyde
U.S. Law Library of Congress
September 2009



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

Consolidation: Progress Report

presented by

Ms Marika Seppius

Deputy Head of the Department

Stat Chancellery of Estonia

Riigi Teataja, Estonia

Consolidation

Interim report of the working group

1. Introduction

This paper presents the interim report of the Working Group on Consolidation, the formation of which was agreed at the 2007 meeting of the Forum in Helsinki-Tallinn.

2. Terms of Reference and Membership of the Working Group

Following the establishment of the Working Group, detailed terms of reference were subsequently proposed to the Extended Chair of the Forum and were agreed as follows:

- analysing the methods and the organisation of consolidation production and publication in different countries;
- charting the different countries' practices in producing and publishing consolidated texts;
- identifying the best practices and the problems/obstacles to successful consolidation procedures;
- studying the possibilities to attribute a legal value to consolidated texts.

The following individuals attended meetings of the Working Group:

Chair: Marika Seppius (Estonia)
Secretary: Aija Bilzena (OPOCE)
Members: Helga Stöger (Austria)
Carl Irresberger (Austria)
Pavel Gardavsky (Czech Republic)
Jüri Heinla (Estonia)
Christoph Eckert (Germany)
Joelle Kaufmann (France)
Philippe Gibon (France)
Inese Kovalova (Latvia)
Artis Trops (Latvia)
John Dann (Luxembourg)
Roman Makara (Slovakia)
Albrecht Berger (OPOCE)

3. Meetings

Four meetings of the Working Group have taken place.

The minutes of the meetings are available on the Forum website:
http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/opoce/ojf/library?l=/10_consolidation&vm=detailed&sb=Title

On the first meeting on 10th and 11th March 2008 in Luxembourg it was decided to concentrate on studying the following issues:

- analysing the methods and the organisation of consolidation production and publication in different countries;
- charting the different countries' practices in producing and publishing consolidated texts;
- identifying the best practices and the problems/obstacles to successful consolidation procedures;
- studying the possibilities to attribute a legal value to consolidated texts;
- preparation of a questionnaire on the various aspects of the consolidation production process.

On the second meeting 15th and 16th May 2008 in Tallinn it was decided to launch the questionnaire in an on-line form, which seemed more comfortable for the respondents; as answers can be equipped with attachments (e.g. screenshots, manuals) or links to real web applications, and it is also possible to consult other respondents' answers.

On the third meeting on 14th and 15th July 2008 in Riga final corrections were made and the questionnaire was adopted to be sent to the other Forum members. The questionnaire focuses on the three main aspects, legislative, organisational and technical. The full answers of all responses will also be made available in the final report.

On the fourth meeting on 17th June 2009 in Brussels it was decided to observe how the drafting rules can make the consolidation easier and discuss problems concerning official and legally binding nature of the consolidation.

4. Consolidation – integration of amendments

Although generally there is no legal definition for consolidation, the understanding of consolidation is basically the same – integration into a single text of all the amendments to the original legal act or in other words – legal act in its current wording, where the initial version of the particular act and its latter sequential amendments are merged in one document. A consolidated text is an updated version of the legislative act (= in force at a given time).

Amendments are made in the form of text inserted into the act to be amended. Amendments must fit seamlessly into the current (or at certain given time) in force version of the basic act. Defective instruction in amending act might cause contradictions or infeasible situations in consolidation process.

Amendments must be:

- based on applicable version of the basic act,
- in clear and unambiguous wording,
- easy to insert into the text of the basic act.

In order to ensure that the consolidated text is clear and unambiguous the amendment must be worded so that it can be easily inserted into the original text without needing any extra consideration from the consolidator. It means that legislative drafting must foresee rules not only for amending acts but in perspective of the future consolidation of the basic acts.

5. Drafting rules

Each country has developed its own practice for the preparation of draft legislation. Regardless of whether the drafting rules have been established by legislation or derive from custom, the goal is to produce legislative acts that are unambiguous and easy to understand.

5.1. Practice – adopted rules

In the **European Union** in order for the Community legislation to be better understood and correctly implemented, it is aimed to ensure that it is well drafted. The need for better lawmaking has been recognised at the highest political level. The Council and the Commission have both taken steps to meet that need (Council: Resolution of 8 June 1993 on the quality of drafting of Community legislation (OJ C 166, 17.6.1993, p. 1); Commission: General guidelines for legislative policy, document SEC (1995) 2255/7, 18.1.1996). The three institutions involved in the procedure for the adoption of Community acts, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, adopted common guidelines intended to improve the quality of drafting of Community legislation by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 22 December 1998 (OJ C 73, 17.3.1999, p. 1). These rules foresee how the amendments should be composed, among others, consistency of terminology and replacement of whole provisions (not separate words) etc.

Also in **Lithuania** the order No.104, 08.17.1998, adopted by Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania *Dėl įstatymų ir kitų teisės aktų rengimo rekomendacijų* foresees that the full particular article of the law should be amended even if very little changes (like several words) have to be done to the original document.

In **Estonia** the government has adopted technical rules for drafts of legislative acts including instructions for amending laws and regulations (Government of the Republic Regulation No. 279 of 28 September 1999 "Technical rules for drafts of legislative acts"). According to these rules new text is clearly defined from the basic text and can be incorporated into the consolidated version with definite validity date. The section or provision which is amended is worded and the new text is added. If at least one third of the text of an act is amended, a new draft act shall be prepared in which the repeal of an existing act is set out.

Austrian legislative guidelines are provided by the Austrian Federal Chancellery (*Handbuch der Rechtssetzungstechnik. Herausgegeben vom Bundeskanzleramt*, 1990) and include also strict rules for amending laws, but the guidelines are not legally binding (so called "soft law").

Polish rules of drafting new legislation are adopted in Regulation of the Prime Minister of the 2002 June 20th about rules of legislation technical.

In the **Czech Republic** rules are set out in sub-legal organisational norm of the Government.

In **Latvia** there are just permissive drafting rules with a recommendatory status. Respective Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers as drafting rules are currently in a development process.

In **Malta** the Interpretation Act (Chapter 249) provides necessary guidelines to make provision in respect of the construction and application of Acts of Parliament and other instruments having the force of law and in respect of the language used therein.

5.2 Practice – guidelines

In **Sweden** the Government office has published guidelines for legislative drafting, the Green book. The guidelines contain both technical rules, such as rules about preambles, notes, provisions about entry into force and transitional provisions, and substantial rules, for example, the form of rules of appeal or penalty. Some of the drafting rules are meant to make it easier to consolidate legal texts, for example, a technical rule saying that you should not describe changes in articles theoretically in amendments. You should instead rewrite whole articles. This method makes it possible to "cut and paste".

In **Denmark** the Danish Parliament, the Ministry of Justice and the Prime Minister's Office have issued guidelines for drafting legislation, including guidelines for amendments.

In **Germany** the manual for legal formality *Handbuch der Rechtsförmlichkeit* also includes the drafting rules to make sure that the amendments are clear and consistent and there is minimum risk of misinterpretation.

In **Belgium** any official rules for drafting new legislation do not exist. However, a publication concerning the procedure and the drafting of legislation has been issued: *Principes de technique législative - Guide de rédaction des textes législatifs et réglementaires* (published by the Council of State - 2008).

There do not exist any official rules for drafting new legislation also in **Luxembourg**. However, two publications concerning the procedure and the drafting of legislation have been issued: *Guide pratique sur la procédure législative et réglementaire* (published by the SCL - Mr. Daniel Andrich) and *Traité de légistique formelle* (published by the "Conseil d'Etat" - Mr. Marc Besch).

Also in **Finland** there is a publication *Hallituksen esitysten laatimisohteet* (Bill Drafting Instructions). Recently, a manual with guiding rules and examples was published in **Iceland**.

5.3 Problems in consolidating process

Technical rules or guidelines and strict adherence thereto should create a situation where it is easy to prepare a consolidated text, or doing so occurs without any major problems, and ensures that the legislator's intentions are pursued closely when drafting the legislation. However, when answering our questionnaire, the representatives of at least eight countries admitted that although the rules existed, they did not facilitate consolidation.

The people responsible for consolidation are often faced in their everyday work with the problem that an amendment cannot be introduced into the applicable wording. Such situations can be precluded by unambiguous drafting rules. Tackling the consequences does not help, because consolidators are left alone with these problems. However, if

there is a situation in which the amendment does not agree with the existing text, it is a defect created in the legislative procedure, not in drafting the consolidated text. A simple technique to overcome problem of controversy is to provide, in a special amendment note, the amendment as given in the amending act and assign the interpretation of the legislative act to the user. But this solution does not meet the general goal of consolidation to make law accessible and comprehensible for the common user.

Some frequent problems in consolidating process are as follows.

Amendment is not applicable because interim amendments to the basic act have not been taken into account while preparing the new amendment: the amended provision is already repealed or in different wording etc.

Such a situation could be avoided when the legislator preparing the amendment relies on the applicable act in current wording and the drafting rules prescribe that the amendment must replace *expressis verbis* the part of the applicable text that is amended.

The provisions are numbered on a continuous basis throughout the text. Articles, paragraphs or points should not be renumbered, because of the potential problems of references in other acts. Likewise, blanks left by the deletion of articles or other numbered parts of the text should not subsequently be filled by other provisions, except when the content is identical to the text previously deleted. The repealed provisions retain their number, while a note about invalidity is added. The provisions inserted in between the existing numbers are provided with superscript numbers or letters.

If the provision is already repealed the amendment to that provision should not be applied and the legislator must be notified about the need to change the amending act. If possible, the legal act should be corrected before consolidation, which means that consolidated text is prepared together with draft of the amendment or at least before publishing the amending act (this is the practice for example in Estonia).

Consolidation is complicated because amendment is theoretical.

The amendment should be involved with concrete section or provision of the act to be amended. The section or provision which is amended should be worded and replaced with the new text. If the same word or expression is replaced in several sections, the numbers of the sections, subsections and clauses to be amended should be listed in the amending provision. If one or several words are replaced in the entire act, the wording of the amending provision should indicate that the word or words are replaced in the entire text. In Joint Practical Guide of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission for persons involved in the drafting of legislation within the Community institutions (Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2003) it is recommended that amendments should not be made by inserting or deleting sections of text, other than dates or figures.

Consolidation is complicated because amendment contains independent regulations.

Amendments that do not replace the provision but contain independent regulations (without embracing or taking account of the whole) should not be permitted. The prohibition against independent regulations in amending legislation should be clearly stated in the drafting rules. The only provisions that may appear in amending legislation without the amendment request are the provisions regarding the entry into force of the amendment. Since the sole legal effect of the new act is to amend the old one, it exhausts its effects once it enters into force. Only the old act as amended is left in existence and continues to govern the whole of the matter. However, it must be kept in mind that the entry into force of various amended provisions is provided *expressis verbis* in regulations introduced into the amended act. A user must understand when one or another amendment has entered into force. Once again, keeping in mind the main goal of the drafting and publishing of consolidated texts – to make the legislation available for users in its applicable form and unambiguously.

Amendment has transformed during the drafting and adopting procedure and has become incompatible with the legislative act in force.

If established, drafting rules should be accompanied by an arrangement to monitor their implementation in a legislative procedure before the act is adopted. It is a unique feature of the formal requirements for the drafting rules that nobody can question the legality of a legislative act based on them after the act has entered into force. One option is, however, to also refer in the drafting rules to the rules concerning drafting of consolidated text and demand that they be taken into account when drafting the amendments. After all, the goal of the drafting rules is an unambiguous legislative act characterised by legal clarity, which is manifested in drafting consolidated texts and ensuring their availability.

The mandatory drafting rules give rise to a presumption that the amendments made to legislation can be introduced into consolidated texts and that the applicable law is clear and unambiguous.

There are some principles that should be observed when drafting an amending act:

- amendments must always relate to the applicable basic act;
- each amendment must be clearly expressed in the form of a text to be inserted in the act to be amended;
- preferably replace an entire provision in the case of amendments;
- no independent autonomous regulations (except the provisions regarding the entry into force of the amendment);
- amending acts must not be amended;
- amendments to annexes containing technical passages are normally made in the annex to the amending act (this rule may be departed from when the amendment is a minor one);
- organizational arrangements to insure the implementation of the drafting rules in a legislative procedure before the act is adopted.

5.4 Correction of mistakes in consolidated texts

The correction of mistakes depends on whether the mistake was already in the amending act or the consolidation was done incorrectly. In case the mistake was already in the amending act there are two main practices. First, if the mistake is in a legal act, it can only be corrected by an amending act. It might depend on legal procedure (mistakes in legal texts can only be corrected by another legal act) or on the type of the mistake (not just an orthographical mistake but affecting the content). Anyway the author of the legal act is notified and necessary measures taken to correct the mistake. In ideal situation the amending act can be corrected before consolidation if the consolidated version is prepared together with the draft of the amending act. Another practice is that the issuer of the legal act is notified and with his consent the official corrigendum is published and the mistake is corrected.

6. Official and legally binding consolidation

6.1. Practice

The following information has been taken from the “ACCESS TO LEGISLATION IN EUROPE — Guide to the legal gazettes and other official information sources in the European Union and the European Free Trade Association”, from the section discussing consolidation.

Consolidated texts are official and legally binding in **Estonia**. Legislation (including consolidation), notices and other documents published in the *Riigi Teataja* (State Gazette of Estonia), which is on paper and in electronic form, have an equal legal force. Amendments to the online edition are made before the amending act is published. Therefore, the consolidated text is published electronically simultaneously with the amendment or together with the amending act when it comes into force.

In **Denmark** consolidated texts are legally binding. There is no systematic consolidation of legislation in Denmark. However the legal gazette publishes primary legislation in its original form (i.e. amending acts separately) as well as in an official ‘restatement’ (published in the form of a *Lovbekendtgørelse*) under the responsibility of the competent ministries. Each ministry is therefore responsible for the consolidation of its own acts.

In **Malta** the collection of the Laws of Malta on the website (Laws of Malta <http://www2.justice.gov.mt/lom/home.asp>) is an official collection of consolidated legislation. Amendments to existing legislation approved by the House of Representatives are integrated within the original text, once they come into force, so that the displayed text is the current version of the legislation. The latest version update (date last updated) is displayed above.

The **United Kingdom** also has an official collection of primary legislation in force (The UK Statute Law Database (SLD) <http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk>). Primary legislation in consolidated form, secondary legislation since 1991 in non-consolidated form (some secondary legislation is also available in ‘revised form’, i.e. in a consolidated version), amendments and annotations.

Consolidation is official also in **Iceland**, but usually it is available six months after the changes made to legislation. *Lagasafn Althingis* (The Parliament Law Collection) is a

collection of consolidated acts from the Parliament (*Althingi*) <http://www.althingi.is/vefur/lagasafn.html>. All legislation passed by the Parliament is in consolidated form.

Systematic collection of **Liechtenstein** laws (*Systematische Sammlung der Liechtensteinischen Rechtsvorschriften* (LR) <http://www.gesetze.li>) is an official collection, but not legally binding.

In **Hungary**, an official web page contains consolidated texts (renewed daily).

Consolidated texts are semi-official in **Italy** and in the **Netherlands**.

Of the other countries, where consolidation is provided for information purposes only, one-half (10 countries) responded to the questionnaire stating that they would consider granting official status to consolidated texts in the future.

In the **Czech Republic** for example system of publication of legally binding electronic and paper versions of acts in consolidated form called e-Sbírka (e-Collection) is being prepared. Part of the project is to create an online and free database containing consolidated versions of both valid and derogated acts in consolidated form which have been published since 2.04.1945.

6.2 Official and legally binding nature

Legislation and other documents published in an official gazette can only be official. Supporting argument to this statement is that all the information posted on the official web sites of public establishments cannot be unofficial. Citizens expect public establishments and the information provided by them to be reliable. If part of the information is unofficial, the web page must provide a relevant notice regarding such information. Yet this gives rise to the question why a public establishment should give unofficial information.

The fact that an act is legally binding means, above all, that the applicable legislation is published in the official gazette. If a person has received a text for implementation that has been published elsewhere, it is neither certain nor verified that it is legally binding. At the same time, the official text of the adopted act may have been published in some other outlet besides the official gazette intended for publishing the state legislation. Only the text published in the official gazette, however, can be regarded as legally applicable in such a situation. This applies on the condition that the laws or the constitution of that country provides for publication in an official gazette. Attempts should be naturally made to avoid a situation in which the official text differs from the legally binding text. For example, in Estonia, the *Riigi Teataja* Act prohibits the publication of the texts published in the *Riigi Teataja* in other publications, be they on paper or electronic, without a reference or link to the *Riigi Teataja*. The new wording of the *Riigi Teataja* Act prescribes an even stricter prohibition — acts that are to be published in the *Riigi Teataja* may not be published on the web page of a state agency, but links to the *Riigi Teataja* are to be provided if necessary. This also applies when referring to the consolidated texts — it is necessary and technically feasible to add a link that leads to the consolidated text applicable at that particular moment. Such prohibition of parallel publication is intended to avoid differences arising from the errors in the texts regarding official and legally binding texts.

6.3. State liability

Errors in consolidation could potentially result in damages to the citizen who relied on its correctness in good faith. The liability of the public authority is regulated by the institute of state liability in many countries.

As consolidated texts published in the official gazette are currently legally binding only in Estonia, let us see how state liability is applied in there. It is possible to demand, under general civil law bases, remedy or compensation for an official act by which the state caused damage to citizens. The liability of the public authority is regulated by the institute of state liability. A person whose rights are violated by the unlawful activities of a public authority in a public law relationship may claim compensation for damage caused to their person if the damage could not be prevented and cannot be eliminated by the protection or restoration of rights. Compensation for damage caused by a failure to act may also be claimed if the consolidated text is not issued in due course or a measure is not taken in due course and the rights of a person are violated thereby.

The application of state liability presumes that the publication of the legally binding and official act is considered an act of the exercise of the state authority and the obligation to publish flawless acts according to a certain procedure has been clearly prescribed. The liability may also become personal if the state (public authority) files a recourse action against the officials/employees who made the mistake. The application of liability presumes precise delimitation of duties between officials/employees and the identification of the time when the acts were performed by information technology means and the person performing the acts (log files).

The existence of the liability system compels the publisher to assume full liability for drafting and publishing the consolidated texts and provide organisational quality control measures to prevent any mistakes.

Annex 1

	Do you have any drafting rules for new legislation?	Do these drafting rules help to make consolidation easier?
 Austria	Yes. Handbuch der Rechtssetzungstechnik.	No.
 EU	Yes. Interinstitutional Agreement of 22 December 1998 on common guidelines for the quality of drafting of Community legislation (OJ C 73, 17.3.1999, p. 1)	Yes. These rules foresee, among others, consistency of terminology and replacement of whole provisions (not separate words).
 Belgium	Any official rules for drafting new legislation do not exist. However, a publication concerning the procedure and the drafting of legislation have been issued: <i>Principes de technique législative - Guide de rédaction des textes législatifs et réglementaires</i> (published by the Council of State - 2008)	No.
 Czech Republic	Yes. Rules are set out in Rules of legislation of the Government (sub-legal organisational norm of the Government)	No.
 Denmark	Yes. Guidelines from the Danish Parliament, the Ministry of Justice and the Prime Minister's Office. <i>Vejledning om lovkvallitet</i>	Yes. Since most legislation follows the guidelines, it will present itself in the same form and especially following the guidelines for amendments. This may make the working process for consolidation easier.
 Estonia	Yes. Government of the Republic Regulation No. 279 of 28 September 1999 "Technical rules for drafts of legislative acts" <i>Õigustloovate aktide eelnõude normitehnika eeskiri</i>	Yes. New text is clearly defined from the basic text and can be incorporated into the consolidated version with definite validity date. The section or provision which is amended is worded and the new text is added.
 Finland	There is a publication "Bill Drafting Instructions" also in English. <i>Hallituksen esitysten laatimisohteet</i>	Yes. The rules provide concise and detailed instructions for the drafting of laws.
 France	Yes. There is a book like a guide which helps the writers of text. It was made by the council of state with the Secrétariat général of gouvernement, this Guide for the elaboration of law and reglementary text is also guide of legistique.	No.

 Germany	Yes, manual for legal formality. <i>Handbuch der Rechtsförmlichkeit</i>	Yes. The drafting rules make sure that the amendments are clear and consistent, there's minimum risk of misinterpretation.
 Greece	Yes.	No.
 Hungary	Yes, Act No. XI/1987 on Legislation, Act No. XC/2005 on Freedom of Electronic Information (latter provides for drafts of legal acts to be published on websites of the relevant ministry so citizens and non-governmental organisations can give their opinion).	Yes technical editing rules, e.g., special expressions have to be used for certain types of amendments; amending provisions have to precede repealing provisions.
 Italy	No.	
 Latvia	Yes, just permissive drafting rules with a recommendatory status. Respective Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers as drafting rules currently are in a development process.	No.
 Lithuania	Yes, Order No.104, 08.17.1998, adopted by Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania. <i>Dėl įstatymų ir kitų teisės aktų rengimo rekomendacijų</i>	Yes. To change full particular article of the law even if very little changes (like several words) have been changed into original document.
 Luxembourg	There do not exist any official rules for drafting new legislation. However, two publications concerning the procedure and the drafting of legislation have been issued: the "Guide pratique sur la procédure législative et réglementaire" (published by the SCL - Mr. Daniel Andrich) and the "Traité de légistique formelle" (published by the "Conseil d'Etat" - Mr. Marc Besch)	No. No specific rules for operating consolidation are available.
 Malta	Yes. The Interpretation Act - Chapter (Chapter 249) provides necessary guidelines to make provision in respect of the construction and application of Acts of Parliament and other instruments having the force of law and in respect of the language used therein.	Yes. Technical editing rules, e.g. definitions to be used, gender, the effect of repeal in future Acts, amendment or repeal of Act in same session, languages to be used (EN or MT).

 Netherlands	Yes, Directives on legislation. <i>Aanwijzingen voor de regelgeving</i>	Yes. Uniform standards about how amendments should be formulated makes it easier to understand what changes should be made to the existing text.
 Poland	Yes, Regulation of the Prime Minister of the 2002 June 20th about rules of legislation technicals <i>Zasady techniki prawodawczej</i>	Yes. Legally binding guide of preparing consolidated text. It is used by legislators working on the drafts of consolidated texts and regulations edited officially in paper version.
 Portugal	No.	
 Romania	Yes, Law no. 24/2000 concerning legislative procedure for drawing up normative documents, as well as Government Decision no. 1226/2007 with a view to the ratification of the Regulations concerning the proceedings, at a governmental level, for drawing up, advising and presenting public document drafts, as well as other documents in order to be adopted/approved.	No. Provisions are general and do not contain technical details.
 Slovakia	1. Legislative rules for creating Laws (passed by parliament) 2. Legislative rules of the Government (passed by the government; applicable for creating governmental draft Laws and for secondary legislation)	Yes. Drafting rules exactly specify how to prepare amendments. Amendment prepared strictly according to legislative rules is generally easier to consolidate. However, it will be more suitable to specify not only legislative rules for creating of new legislation but also the consolidation itself.
 Spain	Yes ("Insertese digital"). There is a guide which helps the writers of text. It was made by the Secretariado del Gobierno.	No.
 Sweden	Yes. Guidelines for legislative drafting, the Green book. The guidelines contain both technical rules, such as rules about preambles, notes, provisions about entry into force and transitional provisions, and substantial rules, for example, the form of rules of appeal or penalty.	Yes. Some of the drafting rules are meant to make it easier to consolidate legal texts, for example, a technical rule saying that you should not describe changes in articles theoretically in amendments. You should instead rewrite whole articles. This method makes it possible to "cut and paste".
 United Kingdom	Yes. The Guide to Legislative Procedure gives detailed guidance on all aspects of a bill's preparation and parliamentary passage. The Office of	No

	Parliamentary Counsel's Drafting Techniques Group produces recommendations and papers from time to time on particular drafting issues.	
 FYR Macedonia	Yes, in the Rules of the procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, part IX. ADOPTION OF LAWS AND OTHER REGULATIONS, there are proposed the drafting rules for new legislation which is adopted by the Assembly. In the Rules of the procedure of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia there are proposed the drafting rules for new legislation which is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.	No specific rules for operating consolidation are available.
 Turkey	Yes, Procedures and Principles on Preparation of Regulations ("By-Law") It contains technical rules about the legislation.	Yes. Some of the drafting rules are meant to make it easier to consolidate legal texts, for example, a technical rule saying that you should not describe changes in articles theoretically in amendments. You should instead rewrite whole articles. This method makes it possible to "cut and paste".
 Iceland	Yes, recently published manual with guiding rules and examples.	
 Switzerland	Yes, there is a guide used by the parliament and the government.	Yes. The rules define e.g. how references between laws are to be written or how changes in other laws are to be defined.
 Serbia	No	



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

Indexing and Search: Initial report

presented by

Mr Aleš Gola

Head of Unit

Unit of Publication of Collection of Laws
and Collection of International Treaties

Legislation and Coordination of Regulations Department
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic



Working Group “Indexing & Search” Initial report

Aleš Gola, London, 10. – 11. September 2009



Working Group Indexing & Search

Terms of Reference



2

Starting point of Working Group Indexing & Search 1/5

- EFOG WGs & digital legislation creation
 - activities
 - important research on many basic questions
 - focus on technological and organizational aspects
 - results
 - either directly solving problems
 - or suggesting solution at minimum



3

Starting point of Working Group Indexing & Search 2/5

- EFOG WGs & shift of the focus
 - to end user
 - to financial aspects
- Result of this shift of the focus
 - WG on Consolidation
 - WG on Indexing & Search
- WGs on Consolidation, Indexing & Search work
 - aim at Publication offices practices
 - with highest possible respect to Publication offices as providers of public service and last but no least also as legal information market competitors



4

Starting point of

Working Group Indexing & Search 3/5

- Legal information systems (LIS)
 - form the most important resource on legal information
 - especially those which are official
 - aggregate huge amount of documents
 - therefore we feel urgent need to solve the problem of search and access to requested information in the shortest time



5

Starting point of

Working Group Indexing & Search 4/5

- Let's compare our work to solving the equation
- One equation with two unknowns
Index and Search
- This equation represents the main subject of our working group

In other words: how to index document and how to build search process (document retrieval) to find this document (preferably in one click 😊)



6

Starting point of

Working Group Indexing & Search 5/5

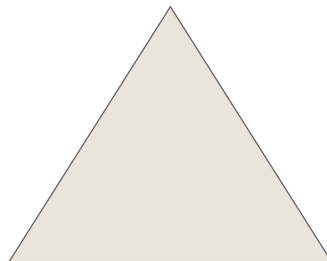
- Efficiency of search system depend on quality and complexity of indexing processes
- Accessibility (searchability) is holistic problem involving also
 - metadata
 - document structure
 - document linking
 - interface design
 - participation of users etc.
- Users needs
 - users need information, not documents
 - as a result they need to build their own knowledge and experience

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7

The framework of the WG

Expectation of users



Technology

Organizational and
financial limits

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8

Goals of the working group

- Comprehensive research on current practices of indexing & search methods and efforts
- Determining best practices and technologies that can improve accessibility of documents (with indexing and search at focus)
- Highlighting practices and technologies which are most benefitable for users and at the same time economically sustainable (or even offer savings)
- Presenting model solution of accessibility of documents for official LIS

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Relations to other WG (former or existing)

- WG „Access“
 - financial and organizational issues
- WG „Legal XML“
 - issue of document structure and metadata
- WG „Data capturing at the source“
 - information capturing (and especially indexing) at the source
- WG „Consolidation“
 - hierarchy of different versions of the document

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10

Topics of the WG Indexing



1/5

- Both approaches
 - fulltext indexing
 - descriptive indexing
- Controlled vocabularies
 - legal content specifics
 - multilingualism
- Automated indexing
 - pros and cons
 - limits and opportunities
 - methods
 - document structure recommendations



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Topics of the WG Search



2/5

- Search paradigm
 - different options for different groups of users
- Accuracy of search results
 - how to provide best possible results at „one click“
- Technology aspects
 - efficiency questions (investments & human work)
- Potential of new techniques
 - suggesting
 - broadening search queries
 - dynamically grouped views of search results
 - „adjust-to-user“ and „correct answer to wrong question“ approach



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Semantic approach

3/5

Semantic approaches provide possibilities

- of improving of understanding of legal documents by automated pointing on their meanings
- to build knowledge by discovering context
- for improving search efficiency

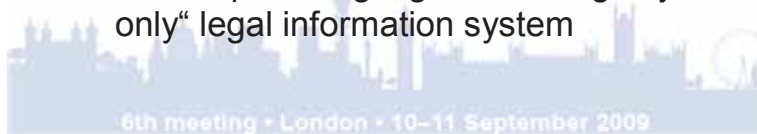
Semantic approaches are very new in legal informatics. They simply deserve attention of our working group.



13

Document & Information & Knowledge 4/5

- Ultimate usage of what is already in the legal documents
- Potential of collecting descriptive information and metadata about legal content during whole „production process“
- Potential of enhancing LIS by processing
 - user behavior
 - feedback from users
- Idea of providing legal knowledge system, „not only“ legal information system



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- User participation on creating content of LIS – social web functionality
- Communication with users – helpdesk, feedback, statistics
- New methods of information presentation
 - Internet no more only for web browsers
- New methods of effective informing of the users
 - RSS feeds
 - information push
 - mobile technologies

Working Group Indexing & Search

Facts and Results

Facts about WG

- Chair: Mr. Aleš Gola (Czech Republic)
- Secretary: Mr. Holger Bagola (Publication Office)
- Members from:
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Estonia
 - Germany
 - Poland
 - Publication Office of the EU
 - Romania
 - Slovakia



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Meetings and Results

- Meetings:
 - 19. and 20. March 2009 (Luxemburg)
 - 28. and 29. April 2009 (Praha)
- Terms of Reference
- Terminology of the WG
- Presentation of German (JURIS) and Slovak (EPI)
- Draft Questionnaire on Indexing and Search



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WG Indexing & Search

European Forum of Official Gazettees
Working Group Indexing & Search On-Line Questionnaire

Czech Republic [Go to the questionnaire](#) [Summary](#) [Logout](#) 7

Summary

Indexing (20)

☐ Done: 12

☐ Concepts: 0

☐ Not applicable: 0

☐ Unfinished: 8

Search (24)

☐ Done: 20

☐ Concepts: 0

☐ Not applicable: 0

☐ Unfinished: 18

Common issues (22)

☐ Done: 13

☐ Concepts: 0

☐ Not applicable: 0

☐ Unfinished: 7

Total (76)

☐ Done: 45

☐ Concepts: 0

☐ Not applicable: 0

☐ Unfinished: 31

[View all your answers](#)

The questionnaire is not checked-in.

Welcome

and thanks for logging in. We hope that this online form of Questionnaire can bring more advantages because you can read answers of your colleagues from other European countries and they can read yours likewise.

In the window on the left side you can see statuses of your answers.

As you can see questions are divided into three sections: Indexing, Search and Common issues.

If logging for the first time all answers should be in the status **Unfinished** that means **Not edited**.

When you answer any question, you can **submit it as a complete** or **save it as a concept** for finishing it later on.

If you don't want answer concrete question for any reason **submit it as impossible**.

Your answer can be modified to the initial state (deleted) anytime by pressing a button **Reset**. Also the status of any answer you can change anytime.

Pressing the link "More ..." in the bottom of the left side of the window a new page with all questions and all your answers and their statuses will be opened in the new window or tab of your browser e.g. for printing purposes.

Now please go ahead with answering by clicking on the link **Go to the questionnaire** and don't forget to check-in the questionnaire when finished.

Thanks again for your kind cooperation!

code & design: elin sk, SK, hosted by [europa.eu](#), supplier of the legislation database for the Slovak electronic legislation processes

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WG Indexing & Search

Indexing Search Common issues

Question #7 Current status: Complete

107. Do you use more than one controlled vocabulary? please describe if they are interconnected and how.

☐ No

☒ Yes, please describe if they are interconnected and how.

Additional notes

Links, Attachments

[Add a link](#) [Add a file](#)

You can save the answer as a concept for future editing. If you are done with the answer you can submit it either as complete or not applicable (in case you think that there is no appropriate answer to the question). You can also reset your answer to set it to its original state.

[Save as concept](#) [Complete](#) [Not applicable](#) [Submit](#) [Reset](#)

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WG Indexing & Search Questionnaire

- Complex questionnaire – covering:
 - technical and organizational aspect of indexing
 - search
 - controlled vocabularies
 - documentary aspects
 - and others
- Prepared as user friendly online questionnaire
- Draft stage, release September/October 2009
- Possibility to create online database of data on I&S (with future updating?)

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WG Indexing & Search Invitation to WG

- WG invites and welcomes new participants willing to exchange experience and present their ideas



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http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/opoce/ojf/info/data/prod/html_rest/project_8.htm



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Working Group Indexing & Search

Thank you for your attention!

Your questions?



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European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

Journaux officiels –Documentation française

presented by
Mr Didier François
Director of the Official Journal
France

Journaux officiels –Documentation française:
Direction générale des publications officielles⁴

(Directorate General for Official Publications)

Our objective: to be the standard public office for public information and publishing.

The *Documentation française* (French Documentation) and the *Journaux officiels* (Official Gazettes) directorates are two of the Prime Minister's administrations that do very similar work: publishing public documents and administrative and official information.

I will not explain what the *Journal official* directorate is here, since you are familiar with it, but it would surely be useful to provide you a few notes on the history and missions of *Documentation française*, the second directorate in the project, to give you a better idea of why this merger is relevant and why they complement each other.

La direction de la documentation et de la diffusion (the French documentation and circulation directorate), the forefather of what is now *Documentation française* was created on 19 October, 1945 when two services that had been formed in 1942 during World War II were combined: the *service de documentation et d'études d'Alger* (the Algiers documentation and research service) and the *service de diffusion clandestine de Londres* (the London underground broadcasting service).

Initially part of the French Ministry of Information, in 1947 it became part of the French Secretariat General of the Government and has remained so until today.

A decree on 30 December 1950 set forth its permanent roles and responsibilities: for the first time in France, an administrative service was assigned the role of gathering a body of general documentation and publishing documents containing general information on France, foreign countries and global issues.

Over time, by testing and using technological advances, it expanded its operations in inter-ministerial documentation and publishing management and played a key role in creating information databanks.

In 1990, it took on the second major part of its current missions. It was entrusted with producing an inter-ministerial public administrative information system. At the time it was on Minitel and today it is on the Internet.

More recently, this mission has been expanded to provide online services and responses by telephone to user requests for administrative information.

These changes have resulted in the current missions of *Documentation française*, which are as follows:

- gather documentation on France, Europe and the world;
- organise, publish and circulate studies and information documents from public sources;

⁴ No final decision has been made on the name "*Direction générale des publications officielles*".

- publish and circulate the administrations' publications;
- serve as a public information centre for administrative, political, economic, social and global news;
- offer multi-channel access to administrative information.
-

Three figures from the 2008 Activity Report attest to the significance of these missions:

- 405 publications, including 282 for other administrations and public institutions;
- a little over 50 million unique visitors on the websites;
- 1.4 million requests for administrative information by telephone (700 questions asked per day).
-

As of 31 December, 2008 *Documentation française* had 366 staff members.

I – The Project.

A) Background.

1) Increased collaboration between the Journaux officiels directorate and documentation française.

For many years, these two directorates have been increasingly working together to take full advantage of any synergies by combining some of their operations.

In broad outline:

- *Documentation française* circulates works done by the *Journaux officiels*;
- *Journaux officiels* is the official printer for *Documentation française*, which no longer has its own printing facilities;
- the two administrations share one budget, a supplemental budget separate from the general state budget.
- they share the same IT department and bookkeeping office.

2) Three challenges to meet.

- A technological challenge: updating the information systems, digitising the publishing process and the rise of multi-channel circulation.
- A regulatory challenge: reconsideration of the traditional structure. For example, the scheme for publishing legal announcements or perspectives on public consultation procedures or impact studies on developing the legal standard.
- An economic challenge: monopolies are being called into question for threatening the current budget model based on funding a large majority of the budget through civil and commercial announcements and public market announcements.

3) The overall revision of public policies.

Following the election of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, a general public policy revision was launched in the summer of 2007. It is an ambitious government reform that aims to drive reforms that are crucial for French citizens, the public service and funding.

With regards to the *Journaux officiels* and *Documentation française* directorates, on 12 December, 2007 the *Conseil de modernisation des politiques publiques* (Council for the Modernisation of Public Policies) confirmed that their missions of publishing, circulating and information are required for the good operations of the democracy and enforcement of a State of law.

However, it requested a sweeping modernisation of their production methods in the framework of a new single directorate to meet the changing demands, needs and techniques.

B) The project.

The *Direction générale des publications officielles*¹ (Directorate General for Official Publications) will be created on 1 January, 2010 through a merger/restructuring of the two existing directorates. The two brands '*Journal officiel*' and '*Documentation française*' will be retained, since they have a strong image and are widely recognised.

1) Asserting itself as the standard public service for public information and publishing.

The objective is to be a single data operator, a product of the synergy and complementary nature of the two directorates, thereby creating one chain for production, publishing, acquisition, aggregation, structuring and circulation to provide public access to products and services using traditional support materials, such as paper, and more modern resources, such as, of course, the Internet.

By optimising the synergies of the two existing directorates, it will become the public service of reference for applying new technologies to public information and publishing.

One of the goals at issue is making this service's resources available to all the administrations, from conception to printing, and optimising the use of these resources and reducing costs for the entire administration.

2) Sustaining the budgetary balance.

This is happening through several means; discussions and expert assessments are ongoing.

- ✓ Reduce costs.
- ✓ Revise the price structure for public data reproduction rights.
- ✓ Sell advertising space.
- ✓ Develop paid services that are more extensive than those that will continue to be offered free of charge.
- ✓ Collect royalties or compensation from other administrations for services rendered.

The group work : "Access to official gazettes and legislation - Financing Models" in the forum showed there is great interest in these ideas.

¹ No final decision has been made on the name "*Direction générale des publications officielles*".

3) *Modernising the printing methods.*

The purpose of this modernisation is to move from using a tool that is highly adapted to press publications, expected to decrease, to one that is more multifunctional and capable of printing both the traditional materials, which will continue even though they are in sharp decline, and bookwork to meet the needs of the administrations.

A process is under way to acquire a rotary press for these purposes.

II – The missions.

A) Legal circulation.

Legal circulation involves all the data that is mandatory to publish or requires specific safeguards for security and accuracy.

Besides the specific function of publishing “Laws and decrees”, it aims to be done exclusively online. Existing publications will gradually be digitised for this purpose.

It covers two areas:

1) Public service access to law.

This is the core of the *Journaux officiels*’ traditional missions: circulating legal standards, consolidating them and circulating legal databases.

2) Public service for economic and financial transparency.

In relying on the JO’s expertise in legal announcements, this entails ensuring true transparency of the economic and financial world, for which there is an increasing need.

It pertains to several development projects:

Plans have been made to develop the *Journal officiel*’s website into a veritable online gazette that can include summaries of published texts and even editorial spaces linked to current events and generated by the *Documentation française*’s expertise.

In terms of circulating economic and financial information:

- Creating a digitising platform for public market procedures to monitor developments in the advertising methods of markets;
- Creating a digitised platform to collect, verify, archive and digitally circulate civil and commercial announcements in terms of French data as well as putting it in the European regulatory framework.

The long-term goal for the project and the *Journal Officiel* website is to combine the official data and the more editorial-type features.

B) Administrative information.

This entails both informing users of their rights and obligations and then simplifying their processes by providing access to online procedures.

For this objective to be fully realised, it must be able to rely on inter-ministerial cooperation.

One multi-channel centre for administrative information will be created to:

- organise the structure by creating a single shared knowledge base for the Internet, telephone and e-mail;
- streamline the human and material resources.

The new Directorate will also serve as an inter-ministerial operator for electronic administration.

The new Directorate will be developing its online training offer by extending the traditional publication and documentation activity for administrative exam preparation and continuing education for public-sector workers.

C) An inter-ministerial role in public publishing.

The objective is to improve control of the government editorial activity while offering the new administration's expertise and capacities to all the administrations.

In this regard, it will:

- only publish materials on paper if deemed necessary;
- determine and make sure acceptable rules are enforced in the trade sector;
- ensure the quality and consistency of products.

III – Organisation.

A) Status.

Like the *Journaux officiels* and *Documentation française* directorates currently, the new directorate general will also be a central administration directorate in the Prime Ministers services.

Therefore, it will not have a distinct legal status, but will continue to be provided a supplementary budget. It will thereby continue to derive its revenue from its activity and not from general state budget funding.

B) The steering committee.

In light of the new directorate general's highly inter-ministerial role, a steering committee for public publication of administrative information and legal circulation will be formed for the Prime Minister. This committee will define an inter-ministerial public policy in public publication, administrative information and legal circulation—areas where the future Directorate will be a major operator. The Committee will provide assessment, expertise and consulting services.

Its objectives are:

- to control publications;
- ensure public online access to the documents under optimal conditions of authentication and comprehensiveness;

- coordinate the Ministries' efforts to provide citizens the best possible access to their rights, obligations and processes;
- develop the data generated or received by the government.

This Steering Committee will be comprised of a group of experts from the worlds of publishing, culture and training as well as high-ranking officials.

The directorate general will provide this steering committee's secretariat services.

C) Personnel.

These changes are part of the ongoing staff reduction effort that began many years ago at *Journaux officiels* and *Documentation française* alike, in line with continuing education plans to retain or acquire new skills. The reform is being implemented in close consultation with staff representatives.

As of 1 January, 2006 the staff had a little more than 1,400 people and this number will be reduced to 1,055 by 1 January, 2010 and is expected to reach approximately 970 by 2012.

D) Tentative organigram.

A deputy director general will help the director general in all activities.

He will have a small team to provide the following three basic services:

- lead the change process turning two directorates into one, followed by modernisations;
- provide oversight and expertise;
- represent and participate on behalf of the directorate general in professional and global arenas.

For now, three sub-directorates will be formed: one for the secretariat general services, one for legal circulation and public publication and one for information and electronic administration.

This structure in no way substitutes a full merger of the two existing directorates. In an effort to take no risks of disrupting the operations of vital public services, a decision was made to begin with a structure that juxtaposes more than actually merges some services.

This structure is expected to change and the goal is to be in a position in two years to make further changes and combine the two production sub-directorates into one.

* * *

This extensive restructuring project is an opportunity for us
to issue another challenge: to manage responsible development:

In effect, Article 6 of the Environment Charter is included in the French Constitution and requires that we encourage sustainable development by accommodating environmental protection, economic development and social progress.

Government bodies must set an example and promote public service values, and sustainable development has become a crucial vehicle for these values. The new directorate wishes to make a contribution to this effort in the context of its missions. It is committed to putting sustainable development at the core of its governance and activities.

Consequently, I am proposing a work group be established in the Forum for this purpose, which is a new area for us and, if you are willing, the Directorate General for Official Publications could oversee this work. I ask that you make your first contribution by endorsing Chairman Alan Pawsey to come help us draw up a list of good practices.

Thank you for your attention.

* * *



European Forum of Official Gazettes

6th MEETING

LONDON

10 - 11 September 2009

European Forum of Official Gazettes 7th meeting - Rome 2010

presented by

Mr Alfonso Andriani

Direzione della Gazzetta Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana



European Forum of Official Gazettes

7th MEETING

Rome

September 2010



The Digital Revolution
in the publication of
Legislative Information

Legal Entailments



The diffusion of the “digital” Official Gazette and, in particular, the “legal value” attributed to it, gives rise to *legal entailments* related to:

- Information diffusion
- Text revision
- Privacy
- Security
- Normative innovation for acts publication



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The digital revolution: legal entailments

The process of replacing the paper version of legal information with a digital one, widely discussed in all meetings of the European Forum of Official Gazettes, is actually taking place within the countries of the European Community.

Ongoing changes have made it possible to propose innovative services aiming to make law more accessible and helpful for the user. As a consequence, several technical and procedural questions have become evident, in particular for many of the topics already treated by the working groups: archiving, consolidation, text authentication, indexing and searching, and financing models.

Nevertheless, diffusion of a digital official gazette, apart from its legal value, gives rise to further legal implications that have never been discussed during Forum meetings.

In particular, we are talking about the following matters.

— Information diffusion

Every act comes into force from the 'publication date' on the official gazette. In the past, this sentence was sufficient to clarify the actual first moment of law validity, which was directly correlated to the production and distribution times of the paper document. Nowadays, it is necessary to consider the date, hour and minute of digital publication, affirming that the 'law comes into force at the moment of its visibility on the Internet'. As a consequence, it becomes necessary to guarantee the diffusion of a document on the Internet before 12 midnight on its publication date.

— Text authentication

Any text correction activity must be carried out before publication of the official gazette. The possibility of changing or replacing with a corrected version a document that has already been seen or downloaded by a user must be eliminated.

— Privacy

Sensitive personal data are often published in official gazettes. The potential damage arising from the diffusion of such information could be intensified by the digital spread of the documents and the activity of search engines.

— Security

The digital signature guarantees the content of the digital version of the official gazette, but how is it possible to ensure prevention of local manipulation of the paper version of the same document?

Conclusions

It seems, therefore, appropriate to propose serious reflection concerning the legal value of the digital version of an official gazette compared with its paper version in order to consider the aforementioned topics. As a consequence, at the next meeting in Rome, any contribution from countries that have already analysed and even solved these or similar questions will be gratefully received.

It also seems essential to underline the necessity of standardising procedures concerning the activity of 'net data exchange' with reference to acts to be published, with particular attention to correct certifications and conformity guarantees (certified E-mail, XML transmission) and to acts' homogeneous nature in order to ensure free-of-charge diffusion of primary and regulatory acts with consequential exclusion of a quantity of documents that, as in Italy, would fill the official gazette.

It is time to fix an agreement to be subscribed to by the members of the European Community, with the aim of successively reviewing each country's laws regarding acts to be published.

On this point, the intervention of all the legislative offices of the European justice ministries is necessary and hoped for at a technical level of arrangement.