



European Forum of Official Gazettes

5th meeting

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Access to Official Gazettes and Legislation – Financing Models

Interim report of the working group

presented by

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1. INTRODUCTION

The working group Access to Official Gazettes and Legislation was founded at the Helsinki-Tallinn Forum in June 2007. The group will be paying particular attention to the financing models for different activities publishers undertake. Through establishing adequate financing models the publisher can offer better services and thus the user can access quality and correct information in a more centralized way. To be able to provide such services the group would like to explore different ways of access to Official Gazettes and Legislation from the publishers' and also users' point of view.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

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

Goals of the group:

- to chart ways in which legislation can be obtained by the user in countries Members of the Forum,
- to divide ways of access into different groups (access on paper, electronic access etc.),
- to evaluate ways of access from the users' and providers' point of view,
- to discuss options of providing legislation and establish a "user-friendly" way of providing law.

*(Other goals may be added during the work of the group and after the analysis of the questionnaire, where ideas from all countries will be accepted, is made.)

Group activities:

- a questionnaire will be sent to the countries Members of the Forum,
- the analysis of the questionnaire will be made by the Chairperson and the Secretariat,
- a working group will be formed from representatives of countries Members of the Forum who will show interest in participating in the working group,
- the working group will hold meetings and report its' results in interim reports, final results of the working group will be presented in the final report.

The following individuals attended meetings of the Working Group:

Chair: Ms Petra Škodlar (Slovenia)
Secretary: Ms Maria Manuela Cruz (Publications Office)
Members: Mr Albrecht Berger (Publications Office)
Ms Lola Pérez-Herrera (Spain)
Ms Inese Kovalova (Latvia)
Mr Artis Trops (Latvia)
Mr Karl Schiessl (Austria)
Ms Sabine Stadler (Germany)
Mr Markus Tanner (Switzerland)
Mr Liviu Alexandru Moraru (Romania)
Ms Biljana Cvetanovska (FYR of Macedonia)
Mr Andon Stefanovski (FYR of Macedonia)

3. MEETINGS

Two meetings of the Working Group have taken place:

- 23rd April 2008 – Brussels,
- 16th June 2008 – Ljubljana.

4. GENERAL INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

After the first meeting of the group in Brussels in April 2008 the group members revised the goals and with adding new interests decided to change the name of the working group into “Access to Official Gazettes and Legislation – Financing Models”. The chairperson presented this suggestion to the Chair of the Forum at the extended chair meeting in Madrid in April 2008 where the new name of the group was confirmed.

Along with the new name the groups interest has widened to the more practical questions of publishing law and obtaining funds to continuously improve the quality of this service. The group is aware that there is a distinction between publishing bodies that are (at least partly) funded by the State budget and those that are not funded by the State budget. The latter have to find their own ways of financing their activities. The recent trend of offering everything free of charge to the public makes the situation for non budget-funded publishers rather difficult. The group would like to explore different activities and ways to finance them. Until now each member has presented the situation in his/her country (the abstracts are enclosed further on in the report). No general conclusions have been withdrawn so far and the questionnaire which was initially foreseen has not been drafted yet either. The group has decided to hold back these activities since various questionnaires with similar contents are circling around simultaneously and it will already be possible to obtain some information from them.

However, the group has come to some general findings and remarks. The subjects we are especially interested in are:

- **the role of the publisher,**
- **the criteria for publishing free of charge,**
- **(commercial) products and services vs. funding.**

Regarding the first subject we are concerned that the role of the publisher in light of the new trend towards general free of charge access to information online is in decline and is changing. The role of the publisher is also under question considering that the electronic version of the official gazettes is gradually prevailing over the paper one. The establishment of a single workflow in the legislative procedure and the publication of data on different internet portals takes material away from the publisher and makes him lose business.¹ It is argued that with the new trend the access to legislation and different data of interest to the public is made easier and that it serves the user. But some questions arise from these argumentations. What is the quality of the data offered in the new manner? Is the data presented in such a way centralized or does the user have to turn to different bodies to access information of his/her interest? We have found different answers to this question. It is our belief that the publisher can offer and assure **quality data, correct information and centralized access.**

Regarding the criteria for publishing free of charge we have come across some contradictions. We were debating especially on what the added value is and when it is justified to charge for this added value or not. This interest is also connected to the new trend of information use. We also had some debates on consolidation as re-use of information. We have not yet found all the answers connected to this subject and this will be one of the main issues of our next meetings.

Together with the above mentioned subjects of interest there is also the matter of (commercial) products and services vs. funds. Of course all good quality products and services need sufficient funds. Recently, it has been hard for some publishers to be able to obtain these funds after losing certain activities and in exchange not receiving any money from the state budget. As citizens are increasingly searching for good quality information the publisher has to be able to provide such services and products. We believe that this can be done by finding adequate financial models based on the equilibrium between being a user-friendly provider and a successful and efficient publisher.

¹ For example according to a directive of the European Parliament and Council (to be decided this autumn) by 2010 or 2011 at the least all publications concerning commercial registers must be done free of charge.

5. ACCESS TO OFFICIAL GAZETTES AND LEGISLATION

In this section we would like to provide information on access to official gazettes and legislation and financing models in some of the countries members of the working group. First we offer an overview on the general situation in the European Union and after that case studies of Austria, Germany, Latvia, FYR Macedonia, Slovenia and Spain are explained.

5.1. ACCESS TO LEGAL GAZETTES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: FROM FEE-BASED TO FREE INFORMATION ²

Since the end of the 1990s, the means of access to current legislation have changed dramatically. Most Member States created websites containing PDF copies of the legal gazette, in addition to the already existing legal databases. Access to these websites was in most cases subject to subscription fees.

From about 1997 on, the activity of giving access to the legal gazette online was considered under a new angle, namely under the aspects of e-Government and of "public sector information", due to which, access became increasingly free of charge. Today, the principle of giving free access to the legal gazette online is applied in nearly all Member States.

Parallel to this, a paradigm shift took place. The websites of legal gazettes were no longer seen as merely a free source of public information, but as a way to rationalise the promulgation (official publication) of legislation. At the same time and upstream of the discussion on electronic promulgation, many countries started to make the technical logistics of the legislative process more efficient by introducing electronic file processing, document administration and file management, thus creating a seamless electronic workflow for the "production chain" of legislation. In some countries this development has already led to its final consequence, namely that there is no longer any official paper edition of the legal gazette.

Where a paper edition subsists, it only has a fraction of the subscribers that existed before the online access became free of charge. Therefore, legal gazettes have to find new means of funding their tasks of editing the official texts and making them available. These funds can come from the State's budget but can also be generated by new value-added services...

5.2. THE CASE OF AUSTRIA ³

Business Areas of Wiener Zeitung, that is the daily newspaper and the „Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung“ („Official Journal of Wiener Zeitung“)

1. Fee-based publications in the printed “Official Journal of Wiener Zeitung” which is published daily together with „Wiener Zeitung“ (daily newspaper)

- Any incorporations of capital companies in the Austrian Commercial Register in compliance with § 10 Unternehmensgesetzbuch (“Business Enterprise Code Act”);
- Annual financial statements of the about 700 largest Austrian stock companies in compliance with § 277 Unternehmensgesetzbuch (“Business Enterprise Code Act”);
- Announcements of various federal agencies, e.g. ministries, election agencies, Austrian Financial Market Authority, financial agencies, Austrian National Bank, wage agreements (partly in compliance with laws, partly by free choice);
- Important reports of stock companies to the public and stockholders (by free choice) such as demergers, amendments of articles of a company, announcements on dividends etc;
- Job postings for line functions in the federal services respectively in the subsidiary federal agencies and for some universities (by free choice).

All contents of „Wiener Zeitung“ (daily newspaper and Official Journal) can be read free of charge online under www.wienerzeitung.at.

² The text was provided by Mr. Albrecht Berger, Publications Office of the EC.

³ The text was provided by Mr Karl Schiessl, Austria.

2. Online Services by “Wiener Zeitung”

- www.lieferanzeiger.at in compliance with Bundesvergabe-gesetz (“Federal Act on Public Tenders”): web based platform for collection and dissemination of public calls for tender; sole OJS eSender in Austria; has to be used by all federal agencies, is used by free choice by non-federal agencies. The software for this service was developed by Wiener Zeitung and is also in use in Croatia as of 01.01.2008;
- www.auftrag.at (value-added service): news service on public tenders (EU, Austria: federal tenders above and below threshold, regional tenders, some regions of neighbour countries); possibility of search masking by profession, size of tender, region etc, furthermore possibility to download tender documents;
- www.firmenmonitor.at (value-added service): database of companies, mail service pertaining to incorporations in the Austrian Commercial Register.

3. Printing and distribution of the Bundesgesetzblatt („Federal Law Journal“) and some other official journals

- About 5000 subscribers still buy the (non-authentic) printed „Federal Law Journal“ although its authentic publication is done via internet;
- Other printed official journals: Official Journal of the Austrian Ministry of Finance, Official Journal of the Austrian Ministry of Justice;
- Wiener Zeitung is running an online service pertaining to the „Federal Law Journal“ inclusive of a mail service and the possibility to view the parliamentary materials; this service is well accepted although there is a federal (authentic) online service pertaining to the „Federal Law Journal“.

4. Printing and distribution of the reports of the Rechnungshof (“Austrian Court of Auditors“)

5.3. THE CASE OF GERMANY⁴

Abstract on the system for dissemination the official gazettes and legal information in Germany

1. Bundesgesetzblatt (Federal Legal Gazette)

Part I: Federal laws, ordinances, official orders and announcements in particular cases

Part II: International agreements and treaties, legislation to implement them, related proclamations and laws regarding custom tariffs

Editor: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)

Authority responsible for the publication: Bundesamt für Justiz (Federal Office of Justice)

Publishing body: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsgesellschaft mbH (Federal Gazette publishing house, a private company)

Paper version (legally binding): financed by sales revenues

Online version (www.bundesgesetzblatt.de, not legally binding): subscription based

The read-only version is free of charge.

2. Bundesanzeiger (Federal Gazette)

Contains in the official part (Amtlicher Teil): Promulgations of ordinances, notifications and official announcements.

Furthermore, the Federal Gazette contains judicial announcements and compulsory announcements of private companies (Gerichtliche und sonstige Bekanntmachungen).

Editor: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)

Authority responsible for the publication: Bundesamt für Justiz (Federal Office of Justice)

Publishing body: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsgesellschaft mbH

Paper version (legally binding): Apart from the responsibility for the official part (Amtlicher Teil) the management of the Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*) and the electronic Federal Gazette (Elektronischer Bundesanzeiger) is wholly entrusted to the Bundesanzeiger Verlagsgesellschaft as its own business. The Bundesanzeiger Verlagsgesellschaft takes the proceeds from publication and subscriptions. A licence fee is deducted from the proceeds and paid to the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Online version (www.bundesanzeiger.de): In the internet there is only a table of contents available which is free of charge

⁴ The text was provided by Ms Hannah Busse, Germany.

3. Elektronischer Bundesanzeiger (Electronic Federal Gazette)

Consists of the official part (Amtlicher Teil) which contains promulgations of urgent ordinances and announcements and of other parts such as: Judicial announcements, compulsory publications of private companies, announcements of annual financial statements, publications concerning investment matters etc.

Editor: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)

Authority responsible for the publication of the Official Part: Bundesamt für Justiz (Federal Office of Justice)

Publishing body: Bundesanzeiger Verlagsgesellschaft mbH

Online version only (www.ebundesanzeiger.de, legally binding): free access

4. Bundesrechtsdatenbank (database containing federal law) (www.juris.de)

Contains the entire body of current federal law as well as its previous versions consolidated and documented – with informative character only

Editor: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)

Authority responsible for the publication: Bundesamt für Justiz (Federal Office of Justice)

Publishing body: juris GmbH (a private company, 50,01 % owned by the State)

Access: subscription based

5. Gesetze im Internet (laws in the internet) (www.gesetze-im-internet.de)

Contains consolidated federal legislation (Gesetze und Rechtsverordnungen) but no amendments (Änderungsgesetze und –verordnungen) – with informative character only. Contains current legislation only, no previous versions and no documentation as in Bundesrechtsdatenbank

Editor and authority responsible for the publication: Bundesministerium der Justiz (Federal Ministry of Justice)

Publishing body: juris GmbH

Access: free

6. Deutscher Bundestag (www.bundestag.de/bic/index.html)

Contains parliamentary protocols (Plenarprotokolle) and prints of the Bundestag and Bundesrat (Drucksachen des Bundestages und Bundesrates) since the 8th parliamentary term – with informative character only

Editor and authority responsible for the publication: Deutscher Bundestag

Publishing body: Babel GmbH (a private company)

Access: free

7. Apart from these databases there are more completely private legislative databases, websites and printed collections of legislation.

5.4. THE CASE OF LATVIA⁵

- Official Publisher: VSIA „Latvijas Vēstnesis”, www.lv.lv

Private company owned by the Government (represented by the Ministry of Justice), 85 employees.

- Products and services:

- Official gazette “Latvijas Vēstnesis” (Latvian Herald); published from 25.02.1993. Issued on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and, if necessary, also on other days.

Printed version:

Content distributed in A3 format, 2572 copies printed. Consists of three parts:

- **State information and documents** (legislation, including international treaties, topicalities and press releases from state institutions);
- **Parliamentary information and transcripts of sittings;**
- **Notices** (commercial register and other legal notices (publication based on approx. 100 laws and 100 regulations) calls for tenders are not published).
 - weekly annex (on Fridays) “Privatizācija. Zeme. Nekustamais īpašums” (Privatization. Land. Real Property)

⁵ The text was provided by Mr Artis Trops, Latvia.

Electronic version (www.vestnesis.lv) contains the same information that is available on paper, but is not official. Information is presented in HTML format and is accessible online from 1995, free access from 2007. A complete archive from year 1995 and advanced search functionality is available.

- Weekly journal “Jurista Vārds” (Lawyers word) - aims to stimulate development of legal thinking and jurisprudence, showing growth of Latvian legal system and providing a forum for expert discussions about topical problems of legal system. Also available online www.juristavards.lv
- Weekly journal “Komersanta Vēstnesis” - aims to stimulate development of legal and successful business practices of small and medium-sized enterprises in Latvia, in particular focusing to the regions. Also available online www.kvestnesis.lv
- Online legislation data base “www.likumi.lv” - provides free access to all laws and regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers and their current consolidated versions, as well access to judgements of the Constitutional Court. Accessible online from 2001, first online legal data base accessible free of charge.
- Books.

• Financing:

No money from the State’s budget, costs are covered by income from publication of notices and sell of products.

5.5. THE CASE OF FYR MACEDONIA⁶

1. *Income sources of financing the Public Enterprise according to the current legislation*

The main activity of the company is publishing of the laws, other regulations and acts in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", as well as issuing of an official journal "The Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia", as an public interest activity.

The laws, other regulations and acts are published in a printed/paper form since 1945, in electronic/digital form - CD/DVD since 2001 and at the web data base editing since the end of 2003. PE Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia has an extensive digital archive dating back from 1945 to date.

The Company offers two types of subscriptions to the Official Gazette: subscription to the printed/paper version and to the online version. The printed/paper version is the only official and legally binding.

The printing activities are carried out by a Printing House, selected by a public procurement procedure, pursuant to the contract between the company and the Printing House.

Financing of the Public Enterprise Official Gazette of the RM is regulated by a special Law.

According to the law the Company is self-financed through its own revenues.

The major income originates from subscriptions to the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia in printed/paper form. Small portion comes from subscriptions to the electronic/online form and to the OG legal registry in printed/paper form.

Also one of the significant portions of income originates from payments for publications (courts announcements, notary announcements, public procurement tenders, etc.) and from payments of books, CD-ROM editions (annual).

According to the current legislation publishing of the Laws and other legal acts in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" which is obligatory according to the law, is free of charge.

Publishing of the other acts, courts announcements, notary announcements, public procurement tenders, etc., is according to the valid price list stipulated by the Management Board decisions, based on Governmental approval.

According to the Governmental decision, during the 2007, PE Official Gazette of the RM reduces the prices for the announcements for 60%, within the framework of the Regulatory guillotine project.

Also the major portion of the courts announcements were transferred to Central register of Republic of Macedonia for the purpose of the [„One - Stop - Shop system”](#) for registration of the companies and other legal entities in the country.

According to the provisions of the new Public procurement law, only public procurements which are above 20.000 euro are allowed to be announced in Official Gazette of the RM, and for the rest of the procurements which are below 20.000 euro there is no obligation for announcing in the Official Gazette of the RM, but only in web site of the Public Procurement Biro.

Having regard all above mentioned restrictions, results are lowest income ever since for the PE Official Gazette of the RM.

⁶ The text was provided by Ms Biljana Cvetanovska, FYR Macedonia.

Furthermore, the Public Enterprise is in constant pressure to allow to all citizens of the state, the Free access to the legislation, not only as it is in the printed/paper version of the legal gazette, but also for the whole web data base to be free of charge.

So, if we gave up the subscription for the same, the incomes from subscription of the printed version of Official gazette will be drastically decreased, and consequently the incomes will be not enough to continue the normal functioning of the Public Enterprise.

Because of the all mentioned facts, it is very important to find a right solutions for the citizens and for the Public Enterprise, and one of our proposition would be for the competent ministry to prepare a new special law for the PE Official gazette of the RM, by which publishing of the Laws, and other legal acts in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" which is obligatory according to the law, would be charged with special privileged prise.

In this regard we are making constant efforts for finding new sources of self financing, such as improving the Publishing activity - variety types of books and legal editions, and also other types of activities, such as organizing experts seminars and tutorials.

2. Free access to the regulations

The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia have free access through the public website of the PE Official Gazette of the RM to the Official gazettes editions from 2001 - 2007 and to the online Register (regulations titles) of all the published regulation from 1991 to date.

Free use of the whole regulations in the RM uploaded on the web data base also was enabled in one of the bookstores of PE Official Gazette of the RM, and this activity will continue in the other bookstores which will be opened.

PE Official Gazette of the RM has provided information booths with free access to the whole web data base at public areas among which: The faculties of law in the country and in the National University Library, as well as in the basic Court (Court of first instance) in Skopje.

3. Web Data base

On the web data base of the PE Official gazette of RM (www.slvesnik.com.mk) can be found an extensive data base of all regulations in force, and some of terminated regulations, dating back since 1945 up to date, in digital/electronic form. All legislation uploaded on the web data base is situated in 22 chapters and 67 sub-chapters, accordingly to the systematization of its Registry and allows easy searching.

The web data base contains major functionalities which are much more user friendly than the printed/paper version of the Official gazette.

Web data base functionalities:

- metadata:

- title, issue name, issue number, year of publishing/publication, date of publishing/publication, authors service, document type, consolidated or not, Constitutional court decisions, area and subarea, keywords (level 1 and level 2), status (in force or not), reference to basic legislation, reference to modified acts, date of entering into force, postponement of enforcement, date of enactment, date of application, date of repeal/termination, transitional and final provisions - when the regulation terminates another regulation, content, etc.

- Sentence of the Constitutional Court's Decision.

(The Constitutional Court shall repeal or invalidate a law if determines that the law does not conform to the Constitution. The Constitutional Court shall repeal or invalidate a collective agreement, other regulation or enactment, statute or program of a political party or association, if it determines that the same does not conform to the Constitution or law. The decisions of the Constitutional Court are final and executive.)

- the on-line version contains hyperlinks to other related acts (see: functionalities)

- notification of the amendments for the chosen legal act, or notification of the amendments for a group of acts from the chosen area/subarea of the Legal Data Base.

- alert system available,

- download,

- available for making e-collection.

The electronic data base of regulations is currently/daily updated.

5.6. THE CASE OF SLOVENIA⁷

Uradni list Republike Slovenije d.o.o. (The Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia Ltd.) is the company in charge of publishing the official journal. It is also in charge of administrating the Legal Information System and E-Tendering Portal. We also have a publishing house for books which mainly focus on law and related subjects.

The company is owned by the government but we do not receive any funds from the state budget.

⁷ The text was drafted by Ms Petra Škodlar, Slovenia.

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA:

- exists from 25th June 1991
- legal ground for the Official Journal:
 - The Constitution (Article 154)
 - Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia Act
 - Regulation on publishing in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia
- 3 parts:
 - Legislation Part (legal acts by the National Assembly, Government, Ministries, Local Authorities etc.)
 - Notices Part (notices, notifications by courts, calls for job posts etc. – only those having legal ground for publishing; no commercials are published)
 - International Treaties (ratified international treaties)
- 2 versions:
 - printed version – only Legislation Part and International Treaties; number of copies printed: 6.000; accessible through subscription (subscriptions: 5649); subscription fee: 119,53 euros/year
 - online version – free access (from 2006) (www.uradni-list.si)
- UL-Online subscription – subscription fee: 145,22 euros/year or 37,56 euros/month; added value (notifications via email, full text search, cut outs, etc.)
- publications are paid by the bodies/companies who publish in the official journal (different fees for different types of publication)

THE LEGAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (www.pisrs.si):

- from 30th March 2008
- legal ground → Regulation on the Legal Information System
- purpose → connects all state registers of legislation and the collection of Uradni list; enables free access to legislation through internet
- enables 3 types of views of a document (basic view, professional view, analytic view) which offer different information
- future plans:
 - to include local authorities,
 - to include consolidated acts,
 - to include translations of texts.

E-TENDERING SYSTEM (www.enarocanje.si):

- from 26th June 2007
- legal ground:
 - Public Procurement Act (Article 113)
 - Public Procurement in the water, energy, transport and postal services Act (Article 108)
- purpose:
 - to modernize business with public procurement
 - to assure publication on one site and thus easier access
 - to reduce costs of publication
 - to reduce time periods for procurement
- Standard Forms for Public Procurement – 13 EU forms (corrigendum different) + 4 national forms
- tenders published daily
- Access:
 - free access
 - UL-Online subscription (added value connected to the CPV code).

5.7. THE CASE OF SPAIN⁸

Approach to Spanish Official Gazettes:

The State Agency Boletín Oficial del Estado (BOE) is a public organisation attached to Spanish Ministry of the Presidency. The Agency is in charge of printing, distributing and selling the Official Journal (BOE), The Official Gazette of the Companies Official Register (BORME), and is responsible for publishing reports, compilations o legal texts and carrying out the official printing of assignments requested by Ministries and other public entities. We also create legislative, legal or doctrinal databases from the BOE, BORME and other legislative publications.

The text of the provisions, settlements and acts published in the BOE are considered official and authentic. The content of the **OFFICIAL SPANISH GAZETTE (BOE)** is structured around the following Sections:

Sections	Content
SECTION I General provisions	• ORGANIC LAWS, LAWS, ROYAL LEGISLATIVE DECREES and ROYAL DECREE-LAWS. • LAWS passed by the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES of the AUTONOMOUS REGIONS. • REGULATIONS and other provisions with a general nature. • REGULATIONS DERIVED from the GOVERNING COUNCILS of the AUTONOMOUS REGIONS.
SECTION II Authorities & personnel	Including two Subsections: • II.A. APPOINTMENTS, SITUATIONS AND INCIDENTS. • II.B. PUBLIC COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESSES, which also includes job offers in the civil service as well as calls for training courses for civil servants.
SECTION III Other provisions	Includes PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY PUBLICATION that do not have a general nature nor correspond to other Sections.
SECTION IV Administration of Justice	Includes EDICTS, NOTIFICATIONS, SUMMONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS from the Courts and Tribunals
SECTION V Announcements	Includes ANNOUNCEMENTS, which are listed as follows: • V.A. TENDERS and CALLS FOR WORKS and SERVICES. • V.B. Other OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. V.C. PRIVATE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The official journal also includes a section, presented in separate booklets, which compiles the Sentences of the Constitutional Court.

The printed version is accessible through subscription (233,43 €/year); the number of printed copies is 12.500. Until January 1st 2009, it is the only authentic version.

Since 2000, the official gazette contents are free available for the citizen on the Web www.boe.es. The electronic version, not authentic by the moment (it will be authentic just the next 1st of January), is accesible in the web, either directly (pointig a calender to the publishing date) or through databases Iberlex and Gazeta.

Gazeta (1.171.000 documents) contents historical collection of the BOE since 1661 to 1960. **Iberlex** includes about 140.000 documents and provides National legislation since 1960, Autonomic Regions legislation since 1980 and European legislation since 1952 which can be searched attending the publishing date, name of reference, category, subject, specific words, or gazette number.

Iberlex offers dispositions in PDF and HTLM format. The second one includes notes about date since or until the disposition is in force, amending acts, instruments affecting or cited, and other concordant subjects.

Other databases include Reports of the State Lawyers Office and the Advisory State Council. About 2,5 millions documents are available in all databases.

In 2007 the BOE Web bore 668 millions hits, 86.000 of them turned over databases.

Taxes are the main source of income of the Agency, coming from the announcements published in both, BOE and BORME, official gazettes; about 20/18% of these taxes are paid for public calls of tender.

⁸ The text was provided by Ms Lola Pérez-Herrera, Spain.

6. SUPPLEMENT: SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO LEGISLATION AND OFFICIAL GAZETTES IN COUNTRIES, MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION⁹

Table 1: Paper version of the legal gazette

Country	Paper version	Price for paper version
Austria	Bundesgesetzblatt	4 000 pages: 652 € plus additional pages published. The printed version is available as of 1945 through the private company Vienna Newspaper (Wiener Zeitung GmbH).
Belgium	Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad / Belgisches Staatsblatt	Copies produced on demand: 1.63 € for 10 pages, afterwards 0.54 € per unit of five pages
Bulgaria	Darzhaven vestnik: ofitsialno pechatno izdanie na Republika Bulgaria - ofitsialen razdel	Subscription price: 78 leva (39 €)
Cyprus	Epissimi Efimerida tis Dimokratias tis Kyprou	Subscription price: 103 € per year
Czech Republic	Sbírka zákonů / Sbírka mezinárodních smluv	Collection of Acts: CZK 5 000 (198.8 €) Collection of International Treaties: CZK 3 000 (119.3 €)
Denmark	Lovtidende - There is no paper publication any longer.	/
Estonia	Riigi Teataja (RT)	Subscription price: Part I: 2 400 EEK (153 €) All four parts: 3 990 EEK (255 €)
Finland	Suomen säädöskokoelma Finlands författningssamling	Subscription price: 288 € / year
France	Journal officiel	Subscription price: 79 € / year
Germany	Bundesgesetzblatt	Subscription price: Part I: 90 € / year Part II: 90 € / year
Greece	Efimeris tis Kiverniseos tis Ellinikis Dimokratias	Depending on the Issue, from 0 to 2,250 € / year; Issue A : 225 € / year
Hungary	Magyar Közlöny	Subscription price: 121.212 HUF (490 €)
Ireland	The Acts of the Oireachtas and statutory instruments are published as separate titles and not as part of a legal gazette.	/
Italy	Gazzetta Ufficiale	Subscription price: 438 € for general series including supplements/year
Latvia	Latvijas Vēstnesis	Subscription price: 60.00 LVL (85.70 €)/year
Lithuania	Valstybės žinios	Subscription price (2007): 374.40 LTL (108 €)/ year
Luxembourg	Memorial	Subscription price: Memorial A/B: 146.94 € / year, Memorial C: 744.85 € / year; Public administrations: free
Malta	Il-Gazetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta	Subscription price: MTL 105 (244.58 €) with supplement /year; MTL 74 (172.37€) without supplement/year
Netherlands	Staatsblad / Staatscourant / Tractatenblad	Subscription price: 0.15 € / page (Staatsblad); 363 € / year (Staatscourant); 0.15 € / page (Tractatenblad)
Poland	Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Dz.U.)	Subscription price: 1520 PLN (429.60 €) / year
Portugal	Diário da República	The paper version has not been published since 31 December 2006. However, series I is available to citizens only, upon request, for a subscription price of 300 € per year.

⁹ The information was gathered with the help of the preliminary draft version of *Publication of, and access to, legislation in Europe - Guide 2009*, provided by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Romania	Monitorul Oficial	Subscription price: Part I: 1.670 lei (440 €) / year; Prices per year for parts III to VIII vary between 430 and 2.250 lei (113 € - 592 €).
Slovakia	Zbierka zákonov Slovenskej republiky	Subscription price: The price amounts to approximately 12 000 SKK (370.70 €) per year. A deposit must be paid beforehand.
Slovenia	Uradni list Republike Slovenije	Subscription price: 119.53 € / year
Spain	Boletín Oficial del Estado	Subscription price: 233.43 € / year
Sweden	Svensk författningssamling	Subscription price: 1417 SEK (149.70 €)
United Kingdom	Acts of Parliament and statutory instruments (and the equivalents from the devolved Parliament and Assemblies) are published as separate titles and not as part of a legal gazette. There are annual bound editions of both the statutory instruments and all the acts of Parliament produced in a year. These are bound and published in numerical order.	/

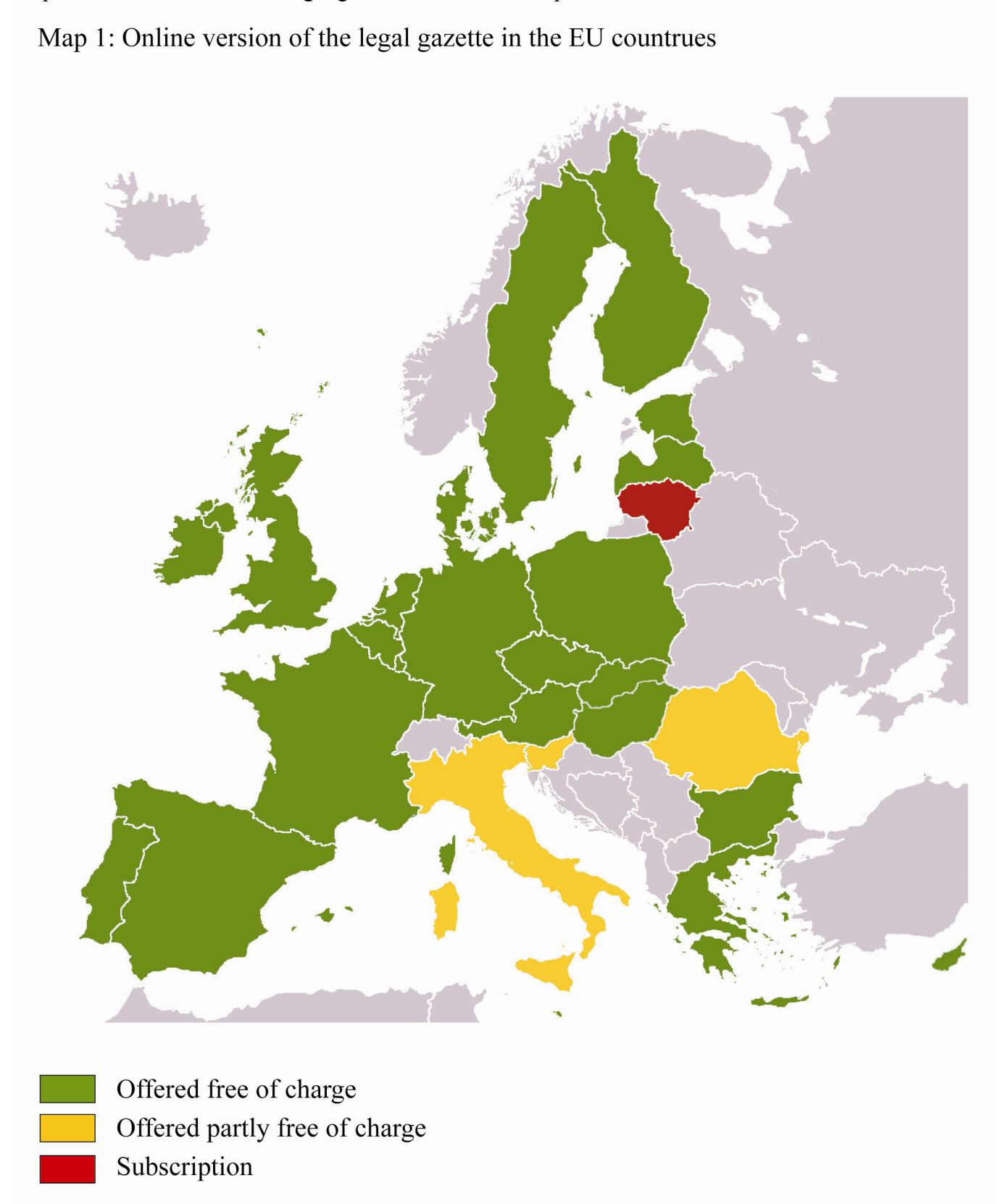
Table 2: Online version of the legal/official gazette

Country	Online version available at	Price for online version
Austria	www.ris.bka.gv.at	Free
Belgium	www.ejustice.just.fgov.be	Free
Bulgaria	dv.parliament.bg	Free
Cyprus	www.cygazette.com	Free
Czech Republic	www.mvcr.cz/sbirka/index.html	Free
Denmark	www.lovtidende.dk; www.ministerialtidende.dk; www.retsinformationen.dk	Free
Estonia	www.riigiteataja.ee	Free
Finland	www.finlex.fi	Free
France	www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr; www.legifrance.gouv.fr	Free
Germany	www.bundesgesetzblatt.de	Read only version: free; Subscription version 135 € per user/year
Greece	www.et.gr	Free (read only version)
Hungary	www.magyarkozlony.hu	All issues from January 2005 are free.
Ireland	www.irishstatutebook.ie; www.oir.ie; www.irisoifigiuil.ie	Free
Italy	www.gazzettaufficiale.it; www.guritel.it	Free: Gazettes published up to 60 days previously 260 €/ year; Gazettes since 1989 containing only General Series (laws and decrees)
Latvia	www.vestnesis.lv	Free
Lithuania	www.valstybes-zinios.lt	151.20 LTL (44 EUR)/year
Luxembourg	www.legilux.public.lu	Free
Malta	www.doi.gov.mt	Free
Netherlands	www.overheid.nl/op; www.staatscourant.nl	Free
Poland	www.rcl.gov.pl; www.cokprm.gov.pl	Free
Portugal	www.dre.pt	Free

Romania	www.monitoruloficial.ro	Summaries are free. Full text through subscription.
Slovakia	http://jaspi.justice.gov.sk	Free
Slovenia	www.uradni-list.si	Free; the subscription version (145.22 €/year) offers additional features
Spain	www.boe.es	Free
Sweden	www.lagrummet.se	Free
United Kingdom	www.opsi.gov.uk	Free

Map 1: Online version of the legal gazette – state on 1st September 2008

Map 1: Online version of the legal gazette in the EU countrues



Footnote: In Romania access to online version will be free of charge from 1st October 2008.

Table 3: Other forms of offering legislation to the user

Country	Other versions	Other official collections of consolidated legislation available	Price for official database
Austria	CD-ROM Sammlung (1945–2006) + yearly updates	www.ris.bka.gv.at/bundesrecht	Free
Belgium	No CD ROM	www.juridat.be	Free
Bulgaria	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Cyprus	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Czech Republic	No CD ROM	A system of publication of legally binding electronic and paper versions of acts in consolidated form called e-Sbirka (e-Collection) is being prepared	/
Denmark	No CD ROM	www.lovtidende.dk ; www.ministerialtidende.dk	Free
Estonia	No CD ROM	ERT (Electronic State Gazette)	Free
Finland	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
France	CD-ROM Lois et décrets	www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr	Free
Germany	Bundesgesetzblatt CD-ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation at federal level	/
Greece	CD-ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Hungary	CD-ROM Hivatalos Jogszabályok Gyűjteménye	Hatálylyos Jogszabályok Elektronikus Gyűjteménye (electronic database of legislation in force)	Subscription based
Ireland	CD-ROM eISB [electronic Irish Statute Book]	As far as we know, no official collection (collections that are published by or on behalf of a State authority, containing legally binding texts) of consolidated legislation exist	/
Italy	CD-ROM	Ministry of Justice through the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato	Subscription based
Latvia	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Lithuania	Valstybės žinios CD	www.kodeksai.lt	Subscription based
Luxembourg	CD-ROM/DVD Mémorial	www.legilux.public.lu/leg/textescoordonnes/codes/index.html	On-line: free; paper version: available in bookshops, on payment
Malta	CD-ROM only for supplements, since 2003	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Netherlands	CD-ROM VNW Verzameling Nederlandse Wetgeving	A collection of consolidated legislation in which the texts have legally binding value does not exist in the Netherlands	/
Poland	No CD ROM	Full text versions of certain statutes and regulations are published in the paper version of the Legal Gazette (Dziennik Ustaw)	Subscription based
Portugal	CD-ROM Diário da República Electrónico	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Romania	CD-ROM at request	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists	/
Slovakia	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists.	/
Slovenia	CD-ROM, DVD-ROM	www.uradni-list.si	Free
Spain	CD Boletín Oficial del Estado	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists.	/
Sweden	No CD ROM	No official collection of consolidated legislation exists.	/

United Kingdom	/	www.statutelaw.gov.uk/Home.aspx	Free
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Table 4: Form of financing of the legal gazette

Country	Financing
Austria	State budget
Belgium	State budget
Bulgaria	Sales revenue and state budget
Cyprus	The budget of the Government Printing Office is included in the Government's main budget. The Office itself earns a considerable income from selling publications as well as various other resources which are transferred to the State budget
Czech Republic	Sales revenue and the State budget
Denmark	State budget
Estonia	The on-line State Gazette is financed solely from the State budget, whereas paper version costs are covered by sales revenues
Finland	Publication of the legal gazette is financed through a combination of sales revenue and the State budget
France	Revenues and State budget
Germany	Sales revenues
Greece	The publication of the Official Journal is financed from its revenues
Hungary	The publication of the legal gazette is financed solely from sales revenue, which includes the sale of prints, CD-ROM/DVDs and the price of providing access to on-line databases.
Ireland	Solely from sales revenues
Italy	Subscriptions
Latvia	From sales/advertising/announcements and other services
Lithuania	Solely from sales revenues
Luxembourg	State budget and State revenues
Malta	Both from sales revenue and from the State budget
Netherlands	Publication charges and sales revenues
Poland	State budget
Portugal	State budget
Romania	The publication of the Legal Gazette is financed solely from sales revenues - as an integrated public enterprise (publishing house and printing works); the company finances its own activities
Slovakia	The administration concerning the printing and distribution of Zbierka zákonov is carried out by a private company (legal person) on a contractual basis with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. All related costs are covered by the private company
Slovenia	Financing comes from sales revenues (subscription and individual sales), the publishing prices charged for all documents and the notices published
Spain	The Official Bulletin is financed by advertisements, call for tender announcements and procurement of services and products, as well as subscriptions (for the paper and CD-ROM versions only)
Sweden	The print version is published by a self-financing private company (Thomson Fakta AB).
United Kingdom	Sales revenue

Map 2: Financing of the legal gazette in the EU countries

Map 2: Form of financing of the legal gazettes in the EU countries

