



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 24 May 2000 (26.05)
(OR. fr)**

8660/00

LIMITE

JURINFO 9

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Working Party on Legal Data Processing
on : 4 and 5 May 2000

I. PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party adopted the agenda as set out in telex T1785 of 17 April 2000.

**2. Approval of the record of the meeting on 28 and 29 October 1999
(13368/99 JURINFO 21).**

The Working Party approved the outcome of proceedings in 13368/99 JURINFO 21 with the amendments in 13368/99 JURINFO 21 COR 1.

II. INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR ACCESS TO COMMUNITY LAW

1. General situation: integration of the CELEX, EUR-LEX and EUDOR systems

The representative of the Office for Official Publications presented the prototype of the integrated system for access to Community law. In the first phase, a common gateway would be opened during the first half of 2001 offering the public and the legal profession a single interface for access to the various information systems managed by the Office for Official Publications (CELEX, Eur-Lex and EUDOR). In the second phase, the three databases and the production chains would be merged. Finally, in the third phase, the sites and legal files managed by the European institutions would be integrated.

The Working Party heard a presentation about the prototype, its two elements (gateway and window) and its functions (search and navigation). The representative of the Office for Official Publications believed that the prototype showed the feasibility of the integration of current systems. This prototype would be submitted for approval by the Interinstitutional Lex Working Party (ILWP) on 22 May 2000. He stated that the prototype made no changes to the current arrangements for free or paying access to legal information.

The Working Party felt that the creation of an integrated system for access to legal documents would constitute a fundamental step on the road to simpler and more user-friendly access to Community legislation and to the case law of the CJEC, also contributing to the transparency of the institutions' actions. The Working Party encouraged the competent bodies to press on with their work so that the first phase could be finished by the middle of 2001 and the second phase commence as soon as possible.

2. Specific questions concerning CELEX (7854/00 JURINFO 2)

(a) Migration to new documentary software

The Commission representative reminded the meeting of the migration from the previous MISTRAL platform to new documentary software, DORIS. The Working Party took note of the continuation of the 2000 CELEX work programme (7854/00 JURINFO 2).

(b) Opening of an "expert" interface

The Working Party took note of the situation on the Celex "expert" interface.

The representative of the European Investment Bank said that there were some problems relating to the current functioning of the "expert" interface for certain specific searches. On the other hand, the French delegation expressed satisfaction with the new system. The Office undertook to examine any problems raised more closely.

(c) National implementation measures (Sector 7) and the EULEX project

The Working Party reaffirmed its interest in the availability of information concerning the transposition of Community Directives into national law, and asked the Office for Official Publications to make every effort to present the initial results of the EULEX project (improved access to national texts implementing Community Directives) to it at the November 2000 meeting at the latest. The Working Party noted that the second phase of the EULEX project was well under way.

3. Other related items

a) Documentation for consolidated texts

The Working Party took note of the launch of a service providing free access to current consolidated texts at the beginning of 2000. This service is part of the Eur-Lex site and will be integrated into the new service mentioned in section II.1 above.

b) List of national legal web sites: oral presentation

The Presidency asked national delegations to forward an updated list of national legal web sites to the General Secretariat of the Council, so that an inventory could be drawn up.

The Working Party noted that, at its request, the Commission had asked the Office for Official Publications to carry out a study to examine the feasibility of creating a single website, offering access to legal databases and other existing legal sites in Member States. The Office would carry out a preliminary assessment in the light of the availability of funds in its budget.

c) Project for integrated access to national legal databases (EULEGIS)

- demonstration and discussion

The Working Party saw a presentation of EULEGIS, currently available on the Internet (www.eulegis.net). This system, which was developed by the Commission under the Telematics for Administration Programme, is in its final stage. It is intended to create a single point of access to the legal databases of Member States.

The Working Party asked the Commission to pass on the results of the EULEGIS project when these had been drawn together.

III. ADAPTATION OF THE WORKING PARTY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

- draft adjustments to the Working Party's terms of reference (7862/00 JURINFO 3)

Delegations considered the possibility of adjusting the terms of reference of the Working Party on Legal Data Processing on the basis of 7862/00 JURINFO 3.

A clear need to adjust them was found, particularly to

- match developments towards an integrated system for access to Community law
- take account of the Council's work relating to the online dissemination of legal information from Member States.

In the light of comments made, the forthcoming French Presidency undertook to submit draft specific terms of reference to the next meeting of the Working Party in November 2000. This text would be sent to delegations in July 2000.

IV. DEMONSTRATION OF NATIONAL LEGAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Working Party watched the following demonstrations:

- the electronic official journal in Portugal (IMPrensa NACIONAL, Casa da Moeda)
- the information system on environmental law in Portugal (SIDDAMB).

V. DRAFT REPORT TO COREPER

- Discussion of draft report (SN 2521/00)

The Working Party discussed the draft report to Coreper. The conclusions are in 8197/00 JURINFO 7.

VI. OTHER AREAS OF ACTIVITY

1. Green Paper on public sector information in the information society: follow-up

The Commission announced that in June 2000 it intended to present a communication based on the replies and contributions received to the Green Paper on public sector information in the information society. It gave an oral presentation of the aims and contents of the measures which would have to be taken at a European level in the context of the action plan for an electronic Europe.

2. Circulation of information within the Working Party by electronic means

The General Secretariat of the Council gave an oral presentation of the progress made on Extranet (site to be used to circulate official documents between the Permanent Representations, the Member States and the Council).

3. Online dissemination of legal data in Member States

- Updating of replies to the questionnaire (8742/99 JURINFO 10).
- Replies concerning electronic signatures

The Working Party noted replies to the questionnaire concerning electronic signatures (8097/00 JURINFO 4).

It also agreed to issue a new questionnaire on the publication on the Internet of laws adopted by Member States (8329/00 JURINFO 8).

- Canvassing of views

The Working Party held a brief exchange of views on recent developments in national legislations with regard to the electronic dissemination of legal data.

It agreed that the record of the situation in Member States should be updated regularly.

VII. ADOPTION OF DRAFT REPORT TO COREPER

The Working Party approved the report to Coreper on legal data processing work in the first half of 2000 as set out in 8197/00 JURINFO 7.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The forthcoming French Presidency announced the various items which it planned to include on the agenda for the next meeting of the Working Party in November 2000.

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