

FORTHCOMING DG INFSO INITIATIVES 2011

1. CWP 2011 – Annex II initiatives

Annex II of CWP 2011 contains a list of possible strategic and priority initiatives for delivery in 2011 and beyond. These initiatives are grouped by policy area by the SG. Roadmaps for these initiatives are available in the following site: http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/roadmaps_2011_en.htm#information.

The CWP 2011 includes under Annex II the following DG INFSO initiatives:

Commission adoption foreseen for Q2 2011

- Commission Recommendation on eCall¹

The Commission Recommendation will be addressed to the Member States targeting Mobile Network Operators on the transmission of eCall, including the Minimum Set of Data (MSD) from the in-vehicle systems to the Public Service Answering Point (PSAPs)². The guidelines would be based on the single European emergency number enhanced with location capabilities (E112) and the set of standards related to transmission of the eCall, including the implementation of the eCall discriminator (eCall flag) in the mobile networks. This proposal is linked to the DAE pillar "ICT-enabled benefits for the EU society" and will be subject to an impact assessment.

- Communication on Digitisation and Digital preservation

This Communication will:

- 1) give an overview of progress in the MS on digitisation and digital preservation;
- 2) report on the development of Europeana, Europe's digital library;
- 3) report on the findings of the 'Comité des Sages on digitisation';
- 4) call on MS to tackle areas where they have not delivered until now, and
- 5) outline the next steps from the side of the Commission.

¹ This initiative will be subject to an impact assessment.

² A PSAP is the physical location at which an eCall arrives first. With this term, we address all the different kinds of e.g. public or publicly recognised emergency call centres in the MS.

- Proposal for a Council Recommendation to enhance a network and information security through standards and guideline in public procurement³

This Council Recommendation will aim to promote the adoption of IT security standards in public procurement (e.g. ISO/IEC 15408: Evaluation Criteria for Information Technology Security). This initiative is also linked to DAE key action 6, contributing to a reinforced high level Network and Information Security Policy.

- Report on the outcome of the review of the functioning of the Roaming Regulation

Under the amended Roaming Regulation the European Commission must produce a report to the European Parliament and Council by 30 June 2011, reviewing the functioning of the Regulation and assessing whether its objectives have been reached. As required by Article 11(1) of the amended Roaming Regulation, the Report must review the developments in wholesale and retail roaming charges for voice, SMS and data communication services; the availability and quality of services including those which are an alternative to roaming.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q3 2011

- Possible revision / clarification of universal service provisions in e-communications⁴

This initiative (Communication and/or proposal for Commission Recommendation) is a follow-up to the Commission Declaration on universal service to the EP in the context of the negotiation of the Telecom Package in 2009. Its purpose is to examine whether the provisions on universal service (Chapter II of Universal Service Directive 2002/22/EC) need to be updated, especially in view of the broadband targets under the Digital Agenda (linked to DAE pillar "Fast and ultra fast internet access").

Commission adoption foreseen for Q4 2011

- Web accessibility Action Plan⁵

This action implements part of the Digital Agenda pillar on "Digital literacy, skills and inclusion". There is a need for concerted action to make sure that new electronic

³ This initiative will be subject to an Impact assessment.

⁴ This initiative will be subject to an Impact assessment.

⁵ This initiative might be subject to an Impact assessment.

content is also fully available to persons with disabilities. In particular, public websites and online services in the EU that are important to take a full part in public life should be brought in line with international web accessibility standards. It is also worthwhile to stress that the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disability contains obligations concerning accessibility.

Based on review of options, the Commission should make proposals by 2011 that will ensure that public sector websites (and websites providing basic services to citizens) are fully accessible by 2015.

- Communication on Scientific Information⁶

The Communication, to be elaborated jointly by INFSO and RTD, is a follow-up of the 2007 Communication on 'scientific information in the digital age' that was adopted as part of the digital libraries initiative. The Communication will take stock of the developments in the area of access to scientific information, will call on the MS to honour the commitments they took in 2007 through Council Conclusions, and will outline the next steps the Commission will take. It will, amongst other things, define a position on the possibility to extend the open access mandate from the current pilot areas to the whole of FP8. It is linked to the pillar on research and innovation of the Digital Agenda, which foresees the possible extension of the pilot on open access.

Wide access to and sustainability (i.e. managed access over time) of digital scientific information (publications and data) are crucial for the research and innovation capacity of Europe. The actions in this area are needed to increase the impact of investments in R&D, including those made through the Framework Programmes.

The issue of 'open access' to scientific publications is politically sensitive, given the polarised positions of scientific publishers and the scientific community.

- Communication on Privacy and Trust in digital Europe⁷

This initiative is key to the implementation of the DAE pillar "Trust and Security". It is directly linked to the action on guidance on implementation of Telecoms rules on data privacy and personal data (DAE action 35).

In the course of the revision of the Telecoms Package, a number of issues were raised that should be addressed in order to enhance the level of protection of the rights of users of e-Communications. In particular, the European Parliament has called for more clarity regarding the legal status of IP addresses, behavioural on-line advertising, protection of privacy in Web 2.0 applications such as social networking services, and the rights of users of private networks. The Communication should be complementary to the review of the EU data protection framework by DG JUSTICE.

⁶ This initiative will be subject to an impact assessment.

⁷ This initiative will be subject to an impact assessment.

In the event that the review exercise would not address all privacy issues relevant for online services, the Communication may also consider further legislative initiatives.

- Review of the Directive on Re-use of Public sector information 2003/98/EC⁸

Shortly a public consultation will be launched covering the full breadth of the Directive. However, specific areas where changes in the Directive could be envisaged are: 1) the scope of the instrument, 2) limitations on charges for the re-use of public sector information 3) clarifying the principle that all material that is generally accessible is also re-usable for non-commercial and commercial purposes. The legislative proposal is foreseen for adoption by the Commission in the 4th quarter of 2011.

Public sector information is an important source of potential growth of innovative online services (in 2006 the overall market size for public sector information in Europe was estimated at EUR 27 billion). The re-use of these information resources has been partly harmonised, but barriers remain for the development of cross-border applications and services, e.g. high prices, unfair competition in the market by public sector bodies, restrictive licensing conditions, lack of transparency, and lack of machine readable formats.

The essential role of public data as a basis for new information products and services is now more widely recognised than in 2002 when the Commission made its original proposal for a Directive, so it should be possible to make progress on this topic at European level.

- Revision of the electronic signature Directive 1999/93/EC⁹

The 2008 eSignature /eIdentification Action Plan seeks an EU-wide solution to cross-border use of online public services. On the basis of a progress report envisaged for 2010, the Commission will assess whether further horizontal and/or sectoral initiatives are needed.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q2 2012

- Communication on shared use of radio spectrum

The Communication is planned in order to foster the collective use of spectrum (CUS), a license-free approach that promotes innovation and flexibility. The Communication will describe this spectrum management model and its role in the balance of various models. It will give an overview of the current use of CUS, the similarities and differences to other management approaches, the advantages and benefits of the model as well as the challenges which need to be addressed. This

⁸ This initiative might be subject to an Impact assessment.

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initiative comes directly under the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (Key action 8 of the Digital Agenda), to be adopted in September 2010, and is central to implementing DAE goals under the internal market (DAE action 19) and broadband (DAE action 49) pillars.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q4 2012

- "Mutual recognition of eIdentification and e-Authentication"

The proposal for an EP and Council Decision will aim to establish a minimum set of principles for the mutual recognition of national e-Identification and e-authentication mechanisms when e-ID is used across borders. This is a key action under the Digital Agenda pillar on "ICT-enabled benefits to EU society" (key action 16).

2. Other initiatives outside of CWP 2011

These are initiatives in DG INFSO's internal Rolling Work Programme. The most important ones are as follows¹⁰:

Commission adoption foreseen for 31.03.2011:

- Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection" Achievements and next steps: towards global cyber-security".

The Communication, to be adopted in the 1st quarter of 2011¹¹, will take stock of the implementation of the Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) Action Plan and contain the principles for Internet resilience and stability at the European and global level. The CIIP initiative is of high political significance and plays an important role in the Digital Agenda. It is linked to the **Digital Agenda's key action 6, measures aiming at a reinforced and high level Network and Information Security Policy**, as well as to four other actions related to strengthening the global risk management in the digital and physical sphere, the organisation of cyber security exercises at the European and global level and the establishment of a network of Computer Emergency Response Teams covering all Europe. The results of the stocktaking exercise presented in the Communication will feed into the discussions at the Ministerial Conference planned by the Hungarian Presidency for April 2011.

Commission adoption foreseen for 06.04.2011:

- Communication "The European Union's policy approach to the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12)"

¹⁰ Roadmaps for these initiatives can also be found:
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/roadmaps_2011_en.htm#information

¹¹ This initiative will be subject to an extensive Impact assessment.

The Communication will set out the EU priorities for the next ITU WRC conference. In contrast to previous conferences (approx. every 4 years), this process will be steered by the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (Key action 8c of the Digital Agenda), to be adopted in September 2010.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q2 2011:

- Commission Recommendation Joint Programming Initiative "More years – Better Lives" on multi-disciplinary research related to Ageing

This concerns development of a joint research initiative between Member States to develop a common roadmap and research agenda for ageing research across all relevant disciplines (also outside ICT), establish shared research infrastructures and implement common priorities and joint actions building on the national research programmes. The initiative was already accepted by the Competitiveness Council on 26 May 2010¹² on the basis of a proposal for a Joint Programming Initiative lead by the German Ministry for Education and Research. It complements the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) and FP7 ICT & ageing research actions by addressing European coordination of national longer term multi-disciplinary research related to ageing. In addition it will also help to underpin a possible European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing by bringing synergies to longer term research activities that can feed into subsequent innovation and uptake of innovative active and healthy ageing solutions. This JPI is thus already mentioned a possible contribution in the drafts of the EIP. It also contributes to the priorities of Digital Agenda pillars 7 ("ICT-enabled benefits for EU society") and 5 ("Research and Innovation"). The planned Recommendation is part of a set of joint programming initiatives coordinated by DG RTD.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q3 2011:

- Green Paper "Green, digital lighting: Solid State Lighting for a low carbon economy"

Lighting now consumes around a fifth of the world's electricity. Solid State Lighting (SSL) is a technology that is using Light Emitting Diodes that are based on semiconductor materials. SSL offers the means to substantially reduce Europe's energy consumption and hence contribute to reaching the 20/20/20 EU targets and help mitigate climate change. Accelerating the transition to SSL in Europe offers two more major benefits: better light quality with lower total lifetime costs for users, and support to the competitiveness of Europe's lighting industry which is facing stiff competition, in particular from the Far East. In 2011, DG INFSO plans to publish a Green Paper on SSL to explore the barriers and to put forward policy suggestions. The Green Paper on SSL is addressed by DAE action 72. Discussions on the subject will

¹² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/114644.pdf

involve several DGs (ENER, ENV, RTD, and JRC) and, following these interactions, DG INFSO has called for the creation of a dedicated Inter-Service Working Group on SSL, which includes these DGs as well as ENTR, MARKET and SANCO.

Commission adoption foreseen for Q4 2011:

- Communication "e-Health Action Plan – make eHealth real – for patients, professionals and the economy"¹³

The initiative is linked to the Digital agenda pillar "ICT-enabled benefits for EU society", in particular to the Key Action 13 (to equip Europeans with secure online access to their medical health data by 2015 and to achieve by 2020 widespread deployment of telemedicine services), to the Key Action 14 (to propose a recommendation defining a minimum common set of patient data for interoperability of patient records to be accessed or exchanged electronically across Member States by 2012) and to the target to achieve, by 2015, EU-wide standards, interoperability testing and certification of eHealth. The Communication will present a roadmap for 2011-15 laying out targets and operational steps towards the wide roll out of interoperable electronic health records, telemedicine services.

- Communication "High Performance Computing: Europe's place in a Global Race"

The Communication is linked to the Digital Agenda's pillar on Research and Innovation, in particular, the promotion of financial support to joint ICT research infrastructures and innovation clusters (DAE action 53). Following the setup of the PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) Member States have realised that a common strategy is needed in the field of High Performance Computing to stay competitive in science and innovation on a global scale. The Communication will put forward a strategy and action plan to develop a EU-wide high-performance computing infrastructure.

- Commission Recommendations on "cost methodology for key access products" and on "non-discriminatory remedies including functional separation"

These two proposals aim to reinforce the single market for telecoms services and are linked to DG INFSO activities to provide guidance to NRAs on consistent implementation of the regulatory framework. The Framework Directive provides in Article 7 for a consultation mechanism between NRAs and the Commission to bringing about consistent regulation of specific national telecoms markets, with a view to consolidate the internal market. This is the so-called Article 7 consultation mechanism under which the Commission reviews draft national regulatory measures and has the power to either comment on such drafts or even "veto" them in specific circumstances. The Commission reviews its activities under Article 7 on a regular

¹³ This initiative might be subject to an Impact assessment.

basis, by way of Communications. The most recent Communication, i.e. of 1 June 2010, highlighted, amongst other things, that (i) the methodologies applied by different NRAs for defining cost orientation and (ii) non-discrimination remedies differ unnecessarily. In line with this, the DAE establishes in sub-chapter 2.1.4 (pages 13 and 14) that the Commission will prioritise the provision of guidance on key regulatory concepts under the electronic communications rules, in particular costing methodologies and non-discrimination rules.

DG INFOSO reports still to be adopted in 2011:

- **DG INFOSO will adopt several reports** in the course of 2011 (some of which are required by the underlying legislation (as indicated in the table). The most important are:
 - Communication reporting the outcome of the review of the functioning of the **Roaming Regulation** with a possible legislative proposal¹⁴ (adoption foreseen for 2nd quarter 2011).
 - **Digital Agenda Scoreboard (SWP)**: charting progress on the Digital Agenda in the annual publication in May of a scoreboard including: socio-economic developments in the main policy issues / key performance targets and an update of progress on the full set of policy actions in the Digital Agenda (adoption foreseen for 2nd quarter 2011).
 - Communication "DAE Annual progress report" which will present the **results of the first annual Digital Assembly** to take place on 16-17 June 2011 (adoption foreseen for 3rd quarter 2011).

ANNEX III OF CWP 2011 – INITIATIVES FOR SIMPLIFICATION

- Annex III of the CWP 2011 contains a list of simplification and administrative burden reduction initiatives.
- DG INFOSO has only one proposal for simplification: Revision of the e-signature Directive 1999/93 with a view to provide a legal framework for cross-border recognition and interoperability of secure eAuthentication systems. This initiative will be accompanied by an impact assessment.

¹⁴ This file was mentioned in President's Barroso's letter on CWP 2011 of 7 September 2010 to President Buzek. The initiative will be subject to an Impact assessment.