

# **Re-use of Public Sector Information: a motor for innovation and growth**

**TOWARDS eEnvironment 2009 Conference**

**Juan Pelegrin, DG Information Society and Media  
European Commission, 26 March 2009**



# *Public sector information: a key resource*

- Public sector: big producer and holder of information
  - Geographical information, transport, meteorological, legal and administrative information, statistics...
- Online access, but also a rich potential for re-use
- It's big- economic value - MEPSIR: €27 Billion



## *What is at stake ?*

- New added value products and services
  - Combining data from different sources
- Cross-border re-use
- Full PSI re-use potential remains unlocked
- Debate Europe vs. US model at federal level

The basic idea is re-use by others, not exploitation by the Public Sector Body only!

...but problems remain



## *PSI Directive 2003/98/EC*

- Adopted in November 2003, First time European legislation in this area
- Transparency of re-use conditions
- Non-discrimination
- Limits to charge
- Means of redress....



## Where are we ?

- Directive fully transposed – infringements launched – review in 2009
- PSI re-use increasing (MICUS, GFII)
- Substitution of PSI
- Cambridge study: marginal costs recommended
- New applications, explosion of web 2.0/ user created content - showmethebetterway
- New sharing of information initiatives: OA, Wikis, SEIS, INSPIRE, Marine Data...



# Barriers - Stakeholders Consultation

- Reusers claim that they still face many problems when trying to re-use PSI as:
  - PSI is not available for re-use
  - PSI difficult to find
  - Charges are too high and not justified (e.g. climatological data)
  - Restrictive licensing agreements
  - Public task concerns
  - Limited awareness/co-operation from PSI Holders
  - No official redress mechanisms

PSI re-use potential largely unmet



# Reusers “wish list”

- Make PSI re-use compulsory
- Marginal Cost Pricing
- Independent Regulators (inc. redress mechanisms)
- Address/limit public task PSI Holders
- IARs/ PSI Portals (SEIS)



# Key role of Member States

- Ensure correct implementation and application of PSI Directive (e.g. monitor exclusive deals)
- Deployment measures that facilitate re-use
  - Can go beyond the directive (SLOV)
  - Establishment of bodies responsible for PSI (UK OPSI)
  - Asset lists, web portals (SEIS)
  - Charging (marginal costs - AU/ES Cadastre)
  - Non discrimination
  - Conflict resolution mechanisms/Watchdog of PSCH
  - Co-operation with private sector (win-win strategy)



# PSI re-use and SEIS

- Share common goals/ complementary actions
- SEIS could be a considerable PSI asset:
  - It will facilitate access to and re-use of environmental information
  - Potential to boost the development of e-services by taking advantage of data-sharing infrastructures and readily available information
- PSI Directive provides the necessary framework for this development to occur



# *Conclusions*

- PSI has enormous potential
  - Make it work for the economy and the environment
- Review of PSI Directive ongoing
- SEIS has the potential to become platform and springboard for re-use of Environmental Information
- Proactive open data policies provide results
- Re-users will make use and add value to the information if available

