

## **Green paper on government information**

**1**

In order to ensure the handling of available public sector information we suggest to begin with public information of public administrations. This definition can be extended if experiences with the handling are made.

**3a**

Yes, the establishment of European meta-data would help the European citizens and business in finding their way. The set of meta-data should include information related to the pricing and availability (links) of public information.

**3b**

It should be realised through an harmonised standard. This should be a common standard for the categorisation of the public sector information created by the EU. It should not be a task of the EU to provide the information (exceptional for EU-related information). Under the conditions of subsidiary the provision of information should be the task of the producer of the information.

The access rights to public sector information have to be harmonised.

**3c**

The directories should be established according to existing standards. They should not only contain business (branch) information (NACE-Codes) but also statistical, political, social and cultural information.

**4a**

The pricing policies should not exclude citizen from public sector information. Prices should be set by market mechanism in each country and used to make information electronically available. A discussion about certain information available free of charge should take place.

However if businesses need the information they will have to pay for it. But our experiences show that it is very difficult (Especially for SMEs) to convince them to pay for information in general and for public sector information in specific.

**4b**

Because a different pricing policies would create differences in opportunities for citizens and businesses it should be ensured that the same pricing policies are applied throughout Europe.

**5**

Commercial activities of public sector bodies in the provision of public sector information effect the competition on the information market. It should be ensured, that private participants on the information market have access to public data under the same conditions as the public participants.

**9a**

The easy accessibility of public sector information is a goal which should be pursued by EU-Institutions itself. A great variety of EU and EU-related information sources exist but there is currently no adequate set of meta-data describing these information sources.

**9b and 10**

Although technological as well as organisational questions are an important issue in the provision of public sector information. We are convinced that the legal aspects which create the framework under which these information is made accessible is the most important part of EU policy.

**Further results of the discussion on the Green paper organised by MIDAS-Net:**

The problem of commercial exploitation of information belonging to private persons are not solved yet. Another interesting question is whether copy rights can be used to ensure data protection as well as universal access to public sector information. The US freedom of information act has several times been named as a model of for European information policy.

Participants were discontented with the fact that the green paper does not include any vision or potential solutions for EU-policies. So a discussions became rather difficult.