

FEEDBACK ON THE GREEN PAPER ON PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION IN
THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
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9a

Generally speaking, we have been able to obtain all the information we have needed if only we have known where to look for it. It seems that even if there are no restrictions as to who can access certain information, many authorities are more willing to give it to for example to an EIC than an individual company - even though they know the EIC is going to pass it on to the company. It is difficult to say whether this is a question of authority or are the official sources thinking that once they open up to a few companies / persons, the stream of phone calls will be neverending. This is by no means an official policy, only "a gut feeling".

The information could sometimes be presented in more layman's terms because some people lose patience when trying to unravel the core message underneath all the euroslang.

A great deal of community information is available on the Internet, which is excellent. It makes getting updated information and passing it on much easier. The only thing is that one needs to know quite exactly the right site. - We get quite often frustrated phonecalls from people who have tried to find information say on Ecos-Ouverture by starting on the page <http://europa.eu.int>. Still, for those who have access to the Internet and know how to use it, it is fairly easy to obtain a great deal of community information and many seem to be aware of this possibility already. Without the Internet getting up-to-date information may be much harder as the information is so dispersed.

9b One would need more information on where to find information. Yet we have no suggestions on how this could be done.

4a According to our experience, companies are unwilling to pay for public information, even if the information in question is quite important for them. - Usually the smaller the company, the less willing it is to pay.

As to business information providers, it seems to us that they are prepared to pay moderate sums of money if they need the information in their work. If the information is only forwarded to a client and it is probable that it will not be needed again, it does not seem reasonable to have to pay for it (unless, of course, the client can be invoiced).

3 a & b

The establishment of European meta-data is exactly what is needed, but it is difficult to say how this could be realised effectively. A clear and thorough table of contents on the Europa server could help, but the electronic media would probably not be enough.