



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL – Information Society

Information Society Technologies Advisory Group



Brussels, 29 February 2000  
**ISTAG-2000/1-1**

**DRAFT “OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS” OF THE MEETING OF THE  
INFORMATION SOCIETY TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP (ISTAG)**

Held in Brussels, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000

**1. Pre-meeting discussions on e-Europe**

The pre-meeting dinner provided the opportunity for Mr Verrue to present the e-Europe initiative and to discuss its implications with ISTAG members in advance of their meeting. Discussions highlighted the importance of the "Action Plan" (under preparation by the Portuguese Presidency) and in particular the potential impact of concertation and leveraging effects which the plan could deliver.

**2. ISTAG morning session (ISTAG only)**

During the morning session ISTAG members held further discussions on e-Europe, developed their ideas for "working groups", discussed the timetable for workprogramme 2001 preparation and the tentative list of consultation meetings proposed by the Commission. The outcome of these morning session discussions is reported within point 3.3. below.

**3. ISTAG afternoon session (ISTAG + Commission) : Opening remarks - Angelo Airaghi**

Mr. Airaghi opened the meeting and invited Mr. G. Metakides to give an IST programme update and a report on the implementation of the first call.

**3.1 IST Programme Update – Mr. G. Metakides**

Mr. Metakides reported that from the first call, 90% of the selected proposals have been committed on the 1999 budget with 84% of contractors signing contracts within 1999. Compared with the past, the time between the closing of the call and the starting of work has been reduced from nine to six months for most projects.

For the second call (with an indicative budget 400 MEuro) a total of 1,140 proposals were received. Evaluation of proposals has started and will be reported by mid-March, with an implementation plan expected by the end of March. Electronic submission has again been low (10% as for the first call). The new version of the "ProTool" software will be promoted in March in conjunction with the third call which opened 10<sup>th</sup> February 2000.

Mr. Metakides presented an outline timetable for the preparation of WP2001. The aim is to maintain continuity with WP2000 in terms of overall vision, but to achieve further focus and an improvement in the implementation instruments. Consultation meetings at programme level are planned to take place in April and May. ISTAG's input is expected from their May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and a first workprogramme 2001 draft will be developed during June and July. An ISTC opinion will be requested in October so that a draft-version of the workprogramme could be presented at the IST conference in November 2000. A Commission Decision on the workprogramme and a sixth IST call is expected in December 2000.

### **3.2 Planning of Activities for WP 2001 – Mr. G. Comyn**

Mr. Comyn provided further details on the planning for WP 2001, explaining that the overall process is the same as last year but starting earlier. Drafts of WP2001 will be discussed at the ISTAG meetings of 29<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> September and the final version at the 27<sup>th</sup> October meeting.

Mr. Comyn also presented a list of Programme Consultation Meetings for WP 2001. These meetings will address programme themes which are critical to the vision and span more than one Key Action. The aim of these meetings is to bring “multiple constituencies” together and help strengthen the programme integration and impact. The Programme Consultation Meetings will be complemented by events organised at unit and Key Action level. ISTAG will be kept fully informed on the outcome of the consultation meetings. ISTAG members acknowledged that consultation meetings can give important input for WP 2001 but expressed some concerns about whether they would help bring focus. Mr Comyn said that focus would be addressed during the drafting phase.

Mr. Comyn then presented the "Integrated Programme Portfolio Analysis" (IPPA), which will replace the PIM which followed the first call. The objective of IPPA is to provide an analysis of the response to a specific call and an accumulated / integrated analysis of the response to all calls (the programme portfolio). IPPA will also analyse the portfolio against the programme vision and identify possible clustering topics. The draft-version of the IPPA-analysis of call 1 and 2 will be ready mid-April and be provided to ISTAG, and in particular to WG4.

### **3.3 ISTAG activity update – Mr. A. Airaghi**

Mr. Airaghi summarised ISTAG's morning session discussions which covered e-Europe, the continuation of WG4 activities and the creation of two new ISTAG working groups.

#### Communications on “eEurope” and “Towards an European Research area”

ISTAG will send in a few of weeks a short position paper to the Commission expressing their support for the Communications on “eEurope” and “Towards an European research area”. ISTAG also indicated its willingness to provide advice on e-Europe. Mr Healy will co-ordinate the preparation of this paper.

#### WG4 “Roadmap”

ISTAG feels that it is necessary to get a better understanding of how the ISTAG vision is being implemented in the IST Programme. The "radar diagrams" (included in the PIM study) provide a useful analytical tool for measuring this “fit”. Such an exercise should not be academic but pragmatic, but the interpretation of the radar diagrams will need careful communication. It was agreed that WG4 (Mr Bravo) and Commission staff should meet before the end of March to discuss the possible axes for radar diagrams. The preliminary results of IPPA should be made available to WG4 in early April. WG4 should then produce a report in time for discussion by all ISTAG at their May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### WG5: Scenarios

ISTAG agree to set up a new working group with Mr. Schuurmans as the Chairman. The objective will be to initiate and monitor a scenario building activity. The outcome of the activity may provide input to the IST Programme but will mainly contribute to the preparation of FP6. It is proposed to use a similar methodology to that developed by the JRC (Seville) for the IPTS futures project (this follows from the presentation of Mr Jean-Marie Cadiou at ISTAG's October 1999 meeting). ISTAG members (maximum 7 or 8) proposed for WG5 are Mr. Schuurmans, Mr Airaghi, Mrs Cronberg, Mr Feneysel, Mr Morgensen and Mr Halkias. ISTAG also feel it is important to include Eastern European expertise in the scenario building activity. An initial WG5 meeting is to be arranged to define the IPTS study objectives and terms of reference. The working group will then guide and monitor progress and report periodically to ISTAG. The main output can be expected in about 12 months. Mr. Schuurmans stressed the importance of ensuring that sufficient resources be committed to the activity.

#### WG6: "Competitiveness of IT Industry"

ISTAG discussed the parameters for ensuring the competitiveness of European industry. It was agreed that Mrs Horwood should prepare a paper providing focus on the main issues to be addressed and the terms of reference for an ISTAG working group. This topic will be further discussed at the 12<sup>th</sup> May ISTAG meeting and if consensus is reached then the working group will be launched in May. The main output of WG6 is targeted to FP6.

#### European Research Procedures

ISTAG members expressed concerns that the procedures for the Framework Programme were too rigid and slow. This is especially a problem in a fast moving area like ICT. Following a suggestion by Mr. Metakides it was proposed to invite the Chairman of the "continuous monitoring panel" to the next ISTAG-meeting.

#### Workprogramme 2001 Consultation Meetings

ISTAG members are invited to comment to the Commission on the proposed list of meetings which were sent by e-mail in advance of the ISTAG meeting. The Commission will send the revised (further focused) list to ISTAG and ISTC at the beginning of March.

#### **4. Other matters**

- For the foreseeable future (meetings already planned for 2000), ISTAG will not hold a closed informal session as a preliminary to its meeting with the Commission.
- It is proposed to include in the agenda presentations on the content of specific parts of the IST programme. FET and Key Action 2 have already offered presentations for the 12<sup>th</sup> May meeting.
- After discussions about possibly extending the duration of ISTAG meetings to more than one day, it was decided to stay with the current one-day agenda. As members are anyhow travelling to Brussels the evening before a meeting it was decided to start meetings earlier (~ 08:30) and finish later in the afternoon (~18:00). Members should therefore take this into account when making travel arrangements for future meetings.

#### **5. Next meetings**

The next ISTAG meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May, 9.00 - 16.30, in Brussels.

Further ISTAG meetings in 2000 are on :-

- 29<sup>th</sup> June 2000 (Brussels)
  - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2000 (Brussels)
  - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2000 (Brussels)
  - November 2000 - ("IST Conference 2000", France)
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List of participants at the ISTAG meeting of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000

ISTAG	Angelo Alain Tarja Michel Christos Michael Rosemary Juhani Bernard Ann Marie Ian Martin Javier Jacob Hannes	AIRAGHI BRAVO CRONBERG FENEYROL HALKIAS HEALY HORWOOD KUUSI LARROUTUROU NILSSON PURVES SCHUURMANS UCEDA VORTMAN WERTHNER	Chairman
<i>Unable to attend</i>	<i>Paolo Paul Wolfgang Gregers Cesare Ursula Luc</i>	<i>GALLUZZI LAGASSE MERKER MOGENSEN MOSSOTTO PACHL WAGNER</i>	
Commission	Robert Frans Spyros George Wolfgang Rosalie Mike Gérard Dave Khalil Marian	VERRUE (pre-meeting) DE BRUINE KONIDARIS METAKIDES BOCH (for M. Richonnier) ZOBEL REEVE COMYN BROSTER ROUHANA SANDERS	
Guests/Observers	Michael Alessandro Bernard	ARENTOFT BARBAGLI LIBERTALIS	

**Information Society Technologies Programme Advisory Group**  
**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2000**  
**Brussels**

**Draft Agenda**

*Dinner 16<sup>th</sup> February 2000 19:30 - "Restaurant à la Carte", Rue de la Science 29, Brussels)*

ISTAG Meeting Venue: HOTEL EUROVILLAGE  
80 Boulevard Charlemagne  
1000 Bruxelles  
Tel: +32-2-230 85 55, Fax: +32-2-230 56 35

Morning Session (ISTAG only)

9:30	Opening remarks ..... - Approval of the agenda	Angelo Airaghi
9:45	Update and discussion on Working Group 4 .....	Alain Bravo
10:30	Scenario building .....	Martin Schuurmans
11:30	ISTAG activities leading to WP2001 ..... - initiatives to be started - links with other global activities - discussion	Angelo Airaghi

Afternoon Session (ISTAG and Commission staff)

12:30	<i>Buffet Lunch in restaurant "Le Village"</i>	
13:30	Commission and DG-INFOS update.....	Robert Verrue
13:50	IST Programme update ..... - Response to 2 <sup>nd</sup> call, future calls	George Metakides
14:10	Calendar of activities in 2000 ..... - IST workshops and consultation meetings plans - Revision of PIM - Outline plan to WP2001	Gerard Comyn
14:30	ISTAG activity update ..... - summary of the morning session - discussion	Angelo Airaghi
16:00	Any other business ..... - dates of future meetings - ISTAG membership update	
16:00	Close of Meeting .....	

*Note:- There will not be a "chambre d'écoute" at this meeting*