



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL – Information Society

Information Society Technologies Advisory Group



Brussels, 4 July 2000

ISTAG-2000/3-1

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

Held in Brussels, June 29th, 2000

Morning Session

1. Opening of the meeting – Mr. A. Airaghi

Mr. Airaghi welcomed two new ISTAG members, Mr. Wierzbicki from Poland (expertise in computer based decision support systems) and Mr. Boyanov from Bulgaria (expertise in networks). The two new members bring considerable expertise and experience to ISTAG and also help bridge activities in the European Union and the pre-adhesion countries. (Full attendance list in Annex.1)

Mr. Airaghi then proposed a change to the order of the agenda (Annex.2) to enable discussion of important matters arising from the Feira Council (19-20 June), in particular, the approval of the eEurope Action plan. In the approved version of the plan the Council asked ISTAG and the ISTC to re-assess the priorities of the IST-programme, with a view to strengthening its eEurope orientation, including Europe's technological position in the information society.

2. Discussions on the eEurope Action plan, IST Programme and FP6 - ALL

Mr. Airaghi pointed out the rather important inter-linking which exists between eEurope and the IST-programme. Moreover, the action plan now includes references to activities which lie beyond the initial eEurope 2002 timetable. To address these issues and the request from Council, Mr Airaghi proposed to set-up an ISTAG working group (WG#6). WG6 would be tasked with preparing a positive response which would include ISTAG's view on the synergies between IST and eEurope and to take account of what might lie beyond in the timeframe of FP6. Bearing in mind the timetable for workprogramme 2001 preparation, and draft guidelines for FP6, the WG6 report would have to be ready for adoption at the September 15th ISTAG meeting.

ISTAG members were in favour of the working group approach and the proposed timetable. There was also a clear consensus on the inter-linking of IST and eEurope and that this could be reflected within workprogramme 2001, particularly as concerns take-up actions that could start in 2001 and 2002. However, ISTAG want to preserve the focus on the vision and the longer term perspective that it addresses. In this respect ISTAG welcomed the changes in the eEurope action plan which now includes a longer term perspective. Clearly, RTD projects which resulted from the 1999 and 2000 workprogrammes will inevitably contribute to the eEurope goals in the longer term (i.e. beyond 2002).

Several ISTAG members stressed the importance of adjusting/updating the vision from time-to-time. In response Mr. Airaghi commented that just one year ago, when the ISTAG vision was formulated, it was thought to be targeting a 10 year time-horizon. However, he now feels that if Europeans are to fully utilise and exploit the potential of UMTS, then the vision should be realised within 5 years.

It was proposed that WG6 (eEurope, ISTAG vision and FP6) would be chaired by Mr. Bravo and with the participation of Mr Schuurmans (WG5 chair), Mr Vortman, Mr Healy, Mr Mogensen and Mr Airaghi. One physical meeting is foreseen before the end of July with work mostly conducted by email. The output should be a document of 2-3 pages in draft by end of July and finalised by mid-September. All ISTAG member are invited to participate via email in response to the first draft.

3. Working Group 5 (Scenarios) update – Mr. D. Broster

Mr. Broster provided a brief update on the preparation of the ISTAG Scenario's 2010 activity supported by WG5. The pre-scenario / brainstorming workshop being prepared by JRC-IPTS will take place on 12-13 July in Brussels. The participants in this preliminary workshop are not expected to be invited to participate in the actual scenario development workshops taking place in October and December. For the main workshops, ISTAG members, IST Directorates and JRC-IPTS have supplied names as requested at the last ISTAG meeting. The pool of 130 experts were proposed and this has been provisionally split into a short-list of 50 with others held in reserve. The final selection of ~20 experts for the October and December workshops will be made by WG5 members, and invitations will be sent out during July. The interim report is scheduled for presentation at the IST2000 Conference being held in Nice (6-8 November). The final report (February 2001) will provide an input to the definition of FP6.

The ISTAG discussed adding 2-3 extra participants to the preliminary workshop, in order to include people from Southern Europe and the pre-adhesion countries. If this is not practicable then ISTAG would like to ensure that pre-adhesion state and non-European experts take part in the October and December workshops.

4. Working Group 4, final report – Mr. A. Bravo

Mr. Bravo focussed his presentation on the changes in the WG4-report since the ISTAG meeting in May. This included taking account of feedback from the IST Programme Consultation Meetings and including points related to eEurope. The main changes are:

- Clarification of the meaning of the words "enabling" and "technologies" in the "Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) specified in the report,
- Indication of how KETs map into the work of the Key Actions,
- Propose to use the words "new communities" instead of "new constituencies",
- Precision and examples added to the section related to "flexibility in implementation".

ISTAG discussed how to generate technological road-maps, in particular for the KETS (recommendation 4) and how these could be used in the context of understanding the portfolio of IST project work. The Commission were asked to look into the use of existing mechanisms (e.g. accompanying measures / working groups) to support such roadmap activities in WP2001.

In a general discussion on "recommendation 5", (a recurring discussion), the Commission was asked if these points (fast-track proposals, multi-phase projects) could be implemented in WP2001. Mr. Metakides explained that the boundaries for FP5 are such that current procedures are close to optimum. Revision of procedures should be part of a radical reform of FP6 and this point could be taken up by the new WG6.

ISTAG adopted (with minor modifications as discussed) the report of WG4 and proposed to name the document "Recommendations to implement the ISTAG Vision" as an ISTAG input to WP2001.

ISTAG will provide further input to WP2001 in its WG6 report in September.

5. Preparations for afternoon session – Mr. A. Airaghi

ISTAG discussed and adapted the presentation which Mr. Airaghi would make to Mr. Liikanen to reflect the morning discussions and decisions. This presentation is contained in Annex.3 of this note.

Afternoon Session

Mr Airaghi welcomed Commissioner Liikanen and Mr Verrue to the ISTAG meeting.

6. Welcoming remarks – Mr. R. Verrue

In his opening remarks, Mr. Verrue underlined the importance of ISTAG. The group has already provided the IST-programme with strategic orientations and now they are asked by the Council and the Commission to help to build a bridge between IST and eEurope. He concluded by stating that ISTAG recommendations would be very actively followed up the Programme management.

7. Review of ISTAG's work in 2000 – Mr. A. Airaghi

Mr. Airaghi presented an outline of ISTAG work (Annex.3). This included a review of activities and recommendations from 1999 and a summary of current and ongoing work for 2000. He gave an overview of the report "Recommendations to implement the ISTAG Vision" which provides input to WP2001 and described the main synergies between IST and eEurope as discussed by ISTAG members. Mr Airaghi informed Mr Liikanen that during the morning ISTAG had set-up a new working group tasked with reporting in mid-September on "eEurope, ISTAG vision and FP6". This later group had been set up to draft a response to the request from Council and Commission contained in the eEurope Action plane adopted in Feira just one week earlier. Finally, looking further to the future, he described the ISTAG scenario's 2010 activity which would provide an important input to FP6 early in 2001. He concluded by stating that the main task of ISTAG over the coming two years would be to provide recommendations and input to the development of FP6.

8. Information Society Priorities – Mr. E. Liikanen

Mr. Liikanen thanked Mr Airaghi for the presentation and the initiative to form a working group to respond to questions on eEurope related issues. He explained that a priority of eEurope is to accelerate the setting up of an appropriate legal environment. Two weeks ago the Commission has accepted the new framework for electronic communications and the French presidency has also expressed a strong commitment to this issue. Mr. Liikanen is therefore confident that by next year a legal framework will be in place.

Another priority of eEurope is to move forwards on 10 Key Areas where actions at the European level would add value. The timetable chosen, 2002, is short enough to keep the attention of the member states, but too short to do serious research, said Mr. Liikanen. On the other hand however, eEurope does partly address the same areas as the IST-programme and a further fine-tuning of the priorities of the IST-programme is needed. (Mr. Liikanen's speech is contained in Annex.4).

Mr. Airaghi asked Mr. Liikanen to clarify the funding aspects, because sentences in the eEurope Action Plan such as "adequate funding will be provided within the IST-programme" could lead to the misunderstanding that research money is used to do something else.

Mr. Liikanen answered that indeed, in an earlier version of the plan, figures were given indicating IST-funds for the eEurope initiative. However these figures were not fully discussed and are therefore not included in the final version. Also, discussions are ongoing with Structural Funds, to give more priority to IT-related projects. The same is true for programmes in Education, which start to be more IT orientated.

On a question regarding the lack of people with IT skills, Mr. Liikanen answered that a first priority of the Commission is to get more women involved and a second priority is to get more elderly people participating. Training programmes for the elderly have proven to be very successful.

Regarding the issue of "fast tracking procedures for research", Mr. Liikanen answered that a flexible programme presupposes a flexible administration. The Commission is working on this. One of the proposals under discussion at the moment is to oblige every project to have an external auditor (with auditor fee included in funding). Also there's discussion on accepting lump sums in projects.

Mr. Airaghi thanked Mr. Liikanen for his presentation and the discussion.

9. IST Programme update – Mr. G. Metakides

Mr. Metakides presented an update on IST Programme implementation.

For the recently evaluated third call a total of 738 proposals were received and after evaluation 37% are "ranked" (i.e. not rejected). The selection (implementation plan) of the third call will be discussed with the ISTC on 26-27 July so that contract negotiations should start in August and contracts are expected to be signed between October and December.

Looking back at the statistics of selected proposals from the first and second calls, he illustrated that 23% participation comes from large enterprises, 25% from SMEs, 23% from higher education, 17% from research centres and 12% from "others" (including public organisations).

Looking forwards, he explained that a "pre-announcement" for the fourth call was published on 15th June and the call will be open between the 15th July and 31st October. The content of the call is as indicated in the roadmap of WP2000. This will be followed by the fifth call open from mid-September 2000 to mid-January 2001 with an indicative budget 200 M€. This call will take account of the results of the IPPA study on the first two calls.

Mr. Metakides then presented the timetable for WP2001 preparation. A first draft will be sent to ISTC and ISTAG on 26-27 July and this draft will be discussed on the next ISTAG meeting on the 15th of September. The ISTC opinion is planned for 18th of October (workprogramme 2001 can then be distributed at the IST2000 conference in Nice at the beginning of November). A Commission decision is foreseen in December 2000. The sixth call (using WP2001) is planned from February – May 2001 (indicative budget 350 MEURO) and the seventh call from June – October 2001 (indicative budget 500 MEURO).

10. Overview of IST2000 – Mr. D. Gonthier

Mr. Gonthier gave a presentation of the draft-programme for the IST2000 conference, which will take place from 6-8 November in Nice. The (regularly updated) programme can be found under <http://istevent.cec.eu.int>. Some ISTAG members are directly involved in sessions at the conference. In particular, Mr Schuurmans is invited to present the ISTAG Visions 2010 interim report and Mr Airaghi is invited to participate in the closing session which will focus on WP2001 and the inputs which ISTAG have provided.

After discussion ISTAG members agreed on a meeting on the 9th November (morning only) in Nice.

11. Update on Key Action II activities – Mrs. R. Zobel

Mrs Zobel focused her presentation of Key Action II on the changes which are taking place in the transition from an industrial to a digital economy. These fundamental changes drive the research, take-up and support activities for KA2. To illustrate these points she highlighted issues such as :

- the internet-worked enterprise,
- treating knowledge an asset,
- re-structuring of industries towards e-business,
- changes to individuals from "freelancing" to "e-lancing".

Summarising project activities in KA2, Mrs Zobel pointed out that from calls 1-2, Key Action II has selected some 167 proposals for a total funding of ~222 M€ (this includes RTD, Take-Up and Accompanying measures projects). This is about a half of the available KA2 budget.

Important challenges to be addressed in WP2001 include reinforcing the current focus on visionary research, high-multiplier take-up activities and interoperability. There is also a clear link with eEurope: accelerating eCommerce in Europe and smart cards. Looking further to the future, the ambition for FP6 is to have more flexible and responsive procedures, to aim at well-focussed initiatives and to address long term research challenges.

12. Any other Business

- The presentation on "IST Programme Consultation Meetings" was postponed until September.
- Mr. Healy will send information to the ISTAG on the new national research programme in Ireland. The first call of proposals (budget 500 M€) will take place in July with a focus on Information & Communication Technologies and Biotechnology. The projects are expected to have an impact in the 10-15 year timescale.
- All presentations are available to ISTAG members on their CIRCA website.
- Mr. Verrue thanked Mr. Airaghi for hosting the ISTAG-meeting in the Finmeccanica building.

13. Future meetings

- 15th September 2000 (Brussels)
 - 9th November 2000 (morning session, Nice)
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Annex 1, List of participants at the ISTAG meeting - June 29th 2000

ISTAG	Angelo Kiril Alain Christos Michael Rosemary Paul Bernard Gregers Ann Marie Ursula Jacob Hannes Andrzej Piotr	AIRAGHI BOYANOV BRAVO HALKIAS HEALY HORWOOD LAGASSE LARROUTUROU MOGENSEN NILSSON PACHL VORTMAN WERTHNER WIERZBICKI	Chairman
<i>Unable to attend</i>	<i>Tarja Michel Paolo Juhani Wolfgang Cesare Ian Martin Javier Luc</i>	<i>CRONBERG FENEYROL GALLUZZI KUUSI MERKER MOSSOTTO PURVES SCHUURMANS UCEDA WAGNER</i>	
Commission	Erkki Robert Frans Spyros George Rosalie Gérard Jean-Claude Michael Michael David Dominique Khalil Norman Marian	LIIKANEN VERRUE DE BRUINE KONIDARIS METAKIDES ZOBEL COMYN HEALY REEVE ARENTOFT BROSTER GONTHIER ROUHANA SADEH SANDERS	

Annex 2, ISTAG Agenda - June 29th 2000

**Information Society Technologies Programme Advisory Group
Thursday, 29th June, 2000**

Finmeccanica - Main Board Room, 40, Boulevard du Regent, Brussels

Adopted Agenda (*revisions in italics*)

09:00	Opening remarks	Angelo Airaghi
	- approval of the agenda	
09:15	<i>Discussion on ISTAG response to eEurope.....</i>	<i>Angelo Airaghi</i>
	<i>- proposed new working group #6</i>	
10:15	Working Group 5 update.....	David Broster
10:30	Working Group 4 report.....	Alain Bravo
11:30	"Recommendations for WP2001 & beyond"	Angelo Airaghi
12:00	Preparations for afternoon session	Angelo Airaghi
--:--	<i>Report on Programme Consultations Meetings.....</i>	<i>Gerard Comyn</i>
	<i>- (postponed to next meeting)</i>	
12:30	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>	
14:00	Welcoming remarks.....	Robert Verrue
14:05	Review of ISTAG's work in 2000.....	Angelo Airaghi
14:20	Information Society Priorities.....	Commissioner Liikanen
14:40	Discussion	ALL
15:00	IST Programme update	George Metakides
	- response to 3 rd Call, announcement of 4 th call	
	- workprogramme 2001 timetable	
15:15	Overview of IST2000 (Nice, 6-8 November 2000)	Dominique Gonthier
15:30	Update on Key Action II activities.....	Rosalie Zobel
16:15	Any other business	All
	
	- dates of future meetings	
	* 15 th September 2000	
	* 27 th October / 9 th November (IST2000 Nice)	
16:30	Close of Meeting	
	



Overview of ISTAG work

Angelo Airaghi
ISTAG Chairman

ISTAG activities

- 1999 - operated with three working groups
 - provided strategic-level advice
 - developed the “vision of ambient intelligence”
 - used to bring focus and vision in workprogramme 2000
- 2000 - set up three working groups
 - how to implement the vision in WP2001 and beyond
 - to develop scenarios for Information Society circa 2010
 - to address eEurope, ISTAG vision and FP6
- 2001-2002
 - support to IST programme, including roadmaps for KETs
 - contribute to definition and set-up of FP6

ISTAG's recommendations for 2001

- Emphasis on the medium to longer term
 - also higher-risk/higher rewards projects
- No one dimension for a project
 - adapt to accommodate larger projects
- New communities and partnerships to be sought
- Experiment with flexible implementation
 - Quicker reaction to market and technology change
 - Possibilities for modifying projects : structure & time frames (e.g. multiphase projects)

Synergies with eEurope

- eEurope and IST share inter-linked objectives
 - to be reflected within workprogramme 2001
 - while maintaining focus on the vision
- Synergies with eEurope within the 2002 Time-frame
 - Take-up actions starting in 2000 and 2001
 - Transport, tourism, health, education and training, content,
 - Smart-cards, best-practices in eCommerce (SMEs, consumers)
 - Dissemination and awareness
- Longer term activities contribute beyond 2002
 - RTD Activities in the 1999, 2000 workprogrammes that are already supporting eEurope
 - Their impact will become more evident in the near future

IST scenario development

- Develop a longer term vision of the challenges and opportunities for sustained global competitiveness of the European IST industry circa 2010
 - Illustrated by 3-4 scenarios, highlighting the key technological, economic, social and political factors
 - Workshops in July, October, December 2000
 - Interim report at IST2000 conference, November 2000
- Final report February 2001 as input to FP6 definition

Annex 4, Mr Liikanen's speech to ISTAG - 29th June 2000

Firstly I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you on the relation between the research and policy aspects of Information Society. It is a particularly exciting time in the development of our Information Society policy. The new telecommunications framework proposals are on the table. The eEurope Action Plan has been endorsed by Heads of State and Government. All of this means that we are entering a new policy context.

You have been kept up to date with recent developments on eEurope. Your group have provided written input to the process. I want to use the opportunity to inform you on the implications of the Feira European Council for the initiative, which will also have implications for your work. Our objective in eEurope is to bring Europe into the new economy. I believe that eEurope provides an answer to this challenge. It sets out **what should be done, by whom, by when** to achieve this objective.

These actions are clustered around three key objectives:

- Cheaper, faster, secure Internet
- Investing in people and skills
- Stimulate the use of the Internet

This Action Plan was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government. They requested the institutions, Member States and all other actors to ensure its implementation by 2002

'...and to prepare longer term perspectives for a knowledge based economy encouraging info-inclusion and closing the numeracy gap.'

In addition, the Council endorsed moves to develop a 'European Research Area' particularly through benchmarking research policies and establishing high speed research networks. I would like to underline **the importance of action at all levels**. eEurope is not just about action by the Commission, or even by the Member States. It is about mobilising all actors, including industry and commerce at all levels from local to European, to meet the challenges of the new economy.

We now face the task of moving to a more operational stage in eEurope. As the Feira conclusions indicated, the Action Plan poses a challenge to many actors, including Member States and the European Commission - and, indeed, to this Committee. **It invites ISTC and ISTAG to consider how the IST programme can strengthen its eEurope orientation.**

The IST programme already contributes towards many eEurope priorities. In fact, these issues are in the eEurope initiative because of the work of the IST programme. **eEurope and IST are therefore linked and reinforce each other.** The endorsement of the eEurope Action Plan will have **no implications for the indicative levels of funding set by the Council decision on the programme.** It requires that the work programmes give appropriate priority to eEurope objectives. It may also help to establish more effective 'fast track' procedures for priority work, including eEurope-related activities.

In concrete terms the implications of eEurope for the IST Programme can be summarised as:

- **Firstly**, several of the action lines in eEurope address issues already covered by specific IST Key Actions and Cross-Programme Actions - smart cards, security, health, access for people with special needs etc. **What eEurope has done is set out some specific priority activities**

complementary to the scope of the IST Programme. Therefore the IST RTD projects and accompanying measures already ongoing, or to be launched in the coming two years, will further leverage and reinforce the achievement of eEurope goals.

- **Secondly**, several of the eEurope priorities have a cross-programme element, which does not fit easily into any one specific Key Action. The in-built flexibility in the IST Programme has already been used to establish Cross-Programme Actions - smart cards activities, amongst others, are an example. The Commission intends to **mobilise this potential in other eEurope areas.**

One example would be support for the development of the World Wide Grid where much of the middleware and applications to be developed fall outside the current Key Action approach of the IST programme. A focused cross-programme action is likely to be the most appropriate response in such cases. The Advisory Group will of course be fully involved in the process of developing eEurope oriented activities within the 2001 and 2002 work programmes.

- **Thirdly**, and perhaps more importantly, **eEurope will have implications for the future.** The initiative itself is focused on a short time scale - all actions should be completed by 2002. However eEurope is about the move from the old to the new economy. Research policies must respond to the challenges posed by the new economy in a lasting and dynamic way.

In addition to endorsing the Action Plan, the Feira Council also challenged us to 'prepare longer term perspectives' for the knowledge-based economy. **We need to think innovatively about how we can construct a programme for the future** which will have the flexibility to respond to the changing situation in Internet time, not traditional time. This will not be an easy task. Achieving a balance between short-term flexibility and long-term vision will clearly be a challenge. However, I believe that **it is a challenge which we must address.**

ISTAG is fulfilling a significant role in the evolution the IST Programme. We look forward to your forthcoming recommendations for 2001 and beyond, as well as the results of more long term visionary work which I know you are currently undertaking. **The advice of industry is a very important input to our work.** You are well aware of the difficulties which too much bureaucracy can pose for industry. You are also aware of the speed of change and the limitations on flexibility in the current context.

The ISTAG mandate will be renewed in October 2000 to cover the period 2001-2002. I will hold discussions with your Chairman, Angelo Airaghi on the agenda for ISTAG during this period so that ISTAG can play a full role in the transition to FP6.

I look forward to working together with you over the coming months and years to ensure that the IST programme addresses the key issues.
