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DIRECTORATE GENERAL – Information Society

Information Society Technologies Advisory Group



Brussels, 5 October 2000

ISTAG-2000/4-1

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

Held in Brussels, September 15th, 2000

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

Mr. Airaghi opened the meeting noting that there may be need change the order of the agenda to accommodate late arriving members who were experiencing difficulties due to local road blockades.

2. IST Programme update – Mr. S. Konidaris

Mr. Konidaris started his presentation by giving an overview of the independent Observers' report on the evaluation of the third call for proposals. It was concluded that the evaluation continued to be fair, impartial and well managed and that improvements in the process had been made for all aspects. Mr. Konidaris felt that the report reflected the efforts the Commission had made to continuously improve the evaluation process by taking advantage of shared experiences. However, he also pointed out that the programme is not aiming for a 100% uniformity as there is an ongoing need to reflect essential differences in the nature of the work of Key Actions.

The overall acceptance rate of proposals in Call.3 was 29%. There are differences between the Key Actions. For instance in Key Action 4, where the call focussed specifically on mobile radio, the acceptance rate was higher (at 41%), as was also the case in Research Networking (78%) which called for testbeds - another very focussed area with relatively few players. The Commission decision on Call.3 and the contract signatures are expected to take place between October and December 2000.

The "overall acceptance rate" taking account of the first three calls, 22% (proposals) and 19% (requested funding). Responding to a question from an ISTAG member, Mr. Konidaris said that a success rate of around one-in-three or one-in-four is felt to be satisfactory.

Call.4 is currently open and has a deadline of 31 of October. It is planned to reach Commission decision and first contract signatures by April-May 2001. Call.5 is scheduled for publication at the end of September with a closing date of 15th January 2001.

Looking to the longer term future, Mr Konidaris pointed out that at the beginning of October DG-Research plan to issue a communication on “Realisation of the European Research Area: orientations for actions of the Union in the domain of research (2002-2006)”. This will be followed in February 2001 by the commission proposal for FP6. ISTAG-members will receive copies of the ERA-communication as soon as it's published and both ERA and FP6 will be discussed on the next ISTAG meeting in Nice on the 9th of November. As a preparation for this meeting, ISTAG members are invited to send comments on the ERA-communication and its implications for FP6 to Gerard Comyn and David Broster.

3. Commission update – Mr. R. Verrue

Mr. Verrue stated that it's the clear intention of the Commission to use ISTAG as much as possible for strategic input on FP6. The ERA-communication is a general document on the research policy of the Union and discussions on FP6 are still in their early stages, but in the next few months strategic concepts regarding FP6 will have to be formulated. Mr. Verrue then went on to explain that for FP6 integration will continue to be a key issue.

A number of key strategic choices will have to be made on:

- Organisation of the concept of the programme and important issues such as:
 - Long term versus short term research
 - Smaller numbers of much larger projects?
- Core technological choices and priorities
- Management issues
- Budget.

Input from the ISTAG is expected, especially on the first two points. Mr. Verrue therefore would like to see a meeting between ISTAG and the Commissioner to discuss the draft-communication and FP6 before it goes to Commission decision.

On the regulatory side a major element of legislation is now under discussion, namely the “unbundled access to the local loop” which is considered an essential step towards facilitating broadband access in Europe in the shorter term.. This move is unusual in the sense that it is a Regulation (which means that it’s directly applicable in all member states after publication in the Official Journal) and the Commission has chosen this route because until now national initiatives have been disappointing. It hoped that text will be adopted in the Telecom Council on the 22nd of December.

Then followed a discussion on why the US is making better progress than Europe on advancing the "New Economy"?. It became clear that there are no “easy” answers to this question. Points raised in the discussion included :

- US have a more dedicated strategy for investing in a high power infrastructure
 - however Europe has a better position in mobile.
- Telecom deregulation has started earlier in the US
 - but Europe is proceeding quicker than was expected).
- In US the IT technology for business-to-business e-Commerce is much further developed, which partly explains the higher productivity in the US.
 - In Europe the focus is more on the consumer aspects of e-commerce.
- In software Europe appears to be 3-5 years behind.
- US companies take much more risk with security and confidentiality than European firms and Private investors in the US are much more supportive of start-ups.
- In Europe research institutes and the public sector invests more in research than industry, in the US it’s the other way round and there’s a closer relationship between universities and industry.
- The US has a much more uniform market.

Mr. Airaghi concluded that this had been an important discussion, also in the context of FP6, and it should therefore be resumed at the next ISTAG meeting.

4. Working Group 6 report

Mr. Healy presented the draft-report of Working Group 6 on "eEurope, the ISTAG Vision and FP6". In the following discussions ISTAG-members expressed their support for the draft-report and gave suggestions for small changes. Mr. Airaghi concluded that the updated report could be distributed as a working document and important input to informal discussion with the ISTC (scheduled for 28th September). Mr. Airaghi, Mr. Bravo, Mr. Lagasse and Mr. Uceda confirmed that they would attend the meeting where it is expected that ISTC delegates from seven countries will attend.

Mr. Airaghi thanked the Working Group for a job well done and in a short time (summer holiday!). Mr. Verrue also thanked WG 6 for their valuable input.

5. Working Group #5 “Scenarios 2010 update”

The update was given by Mr. D. Broster (despite best efforts, Mr. Schuurmans was unable to get to the meeting due to truck-driver’s blockades). Mr. Broster reported that IPTS had held a small workshop on 12-13th July in order to prepare a briefing package for the first of the scenario workshops. The first workshop “Scenarios for Ambient Intelligence circa 2010” will be held in Brussels on 6-7 October with a the second scheduled for 7-8th December. A group of 20 experts (from the list collected in May) have

been invited and agreed to attend both meetings. The number of participants may increase slightly in order to keep a balance of backgrounds. In between the two workshops, IPTS will further elaborate the background material to support the emerging scenarios which will be then further explored in the second workshop in December.

It is still planned to produce the final scenario's report in February 2001. However, in the light of knowledge about the Commission's timetable for ERA/FP6, ISTAG members discussed possibilities for accelerating the scenario's activity. Mr. Schuurmans (by telephone) stated that if the scenarios activity would be too late as input to FP6, then ISTAG should consider stopping the activity. However, ISTAG members clearly supported continuing the work and rather suggested the production of an earlier Scenario's "overview" or "synopsis" report by Christmas 2000. This could provide a timely input and allow the IPTS work to continue as planned with the full report being available in February 2001. Because of the tightness of these time-tables, Mr Schuurmans and IPTS are asked to present the outcome of the first scenario workshop to an informal ISTAG meeting (7th November afternoon) during the IST2000 conference in Nice (venue to be arranged). During the IST2000 conference, Mr. Schuurmans is participating in full plenary sessions where he will bring the current state of the scenario's work into the discussions.

6. Workprogramme 2001 draft version 2.0 – Mr. G. Comyn

Mr. Comyn presented the draft-Workprogramme 2001 (v2.0) commenting particularly on the focus and priorities and the implementation of the vision under the main headings of each Key Action. In discussions, ISTAG-members expressed their general satisfaction with this workprogramme draft. Detailed comments and suggestions (also received from absent members by email) will be taken into account in the next draft Version 3.0 will be sent to the ISTAG and ISTC on the 4th of October. ISTC is expected to give their positive opinion on the 4th of November, and the Commission Decision would then follow during December. There are two calls planned for workprogramme 2001, the first being IST Call.7 is scheduled for mid-January 2001, with Call.8 planned for June2001.

7. Programme Assessment & Monitoring reports – Mr. A. Airaghi

Mr. Airaghi drew ISTAG's attention towards two recently published monitoring reports. The first being the Five Years Assessment Report (1995-1999), chaired by Mr. A. Pompidou and the second being the External Monitoring Report of the IST-programme. Both reports will influence the discussions on FP6. The Commission have made the full reports available to ISTAG members on CIRCA and members will shortly receive the summaries and recommendations of both reports by email in preparation of the next ISTAG meeting in Nice.

8. Update on Key Action I activities – Mr. M. Richonnier

Mr. Richonnier presented an overview of Key-Action-I "Systems and Services for the Citizen", describing how all the work in Key-Action-I is fully driven by the ISTAG-vision of ambient intelligence. For Key-Action-I this means "on-the-move", "at home", "at work" and "in the body", and agreed with a comment from an ISTAG member "that perhaps this should be supplemented with 'at leisure'."

Key-Action-I builds on the Telematics Applications Programme (TAP) from FP4. A study had shown that 78% of the projects, which finished between 1996 and 1998, had produced new products or services at the end of 1999 and that 48% of the participants recorded actual employment growth.

The strategy of Key-Action-I is to focus R&D on innovative application systems (long as well as medium term R&D), which have promising exploitation prospects. Innovation for Key-Action-I means that the application system to be developed is not yet on the market, that they don't duplicate already existing projects and that projects clearly demonstrate how they will advance the state-of-the-art. Mr. Richonnier concluded his presentation by giving examples of projects taken from current Key-Action-I clusters.

9. Any other business

- Due to time restraints the full presentation on Research Networking was postponed. Mr. Konidaris however, drew the attention to the Géant-project, which has funding of ~80M€ and aims at high-speed interconnection of research networks (2,5 – 10 Gigabit/s). Several ISTAG-members

expressed an interest in learning more about this project and it was agreed to hold a special session on infrastructure related issues.

- ISTAG agreed to address the specific position of accession countries at a future ISTAG-meeting
- Information regarding logistics etc. for the Nice-meeting will be sent to the ISTAG-members in the week of the 18th of September.

10. Future meetings

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| - ISTAG/ISTC contact meeting | * 28 th September 2000 | Brussels |
| - IST2000 Conference | * 6-8 th November 2000 | Nice |
| - ISTAG-WG5 debriefing | * 7 th November 2000, 16:00 – 17:30 | Nice |
| - ISTAG meeting | * 9 th November 2000, 9.00 – 13.00 | Nice |
| - ISTAG meeting | * January 18 th (provisional) | Brussels |
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Annex 1, List of participants at the ISTAG meeting - September 15th 2000

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

Annex 2, Agenda of the ISTAG meeting - September 15th 2000

Information Society Technologies Programme Advisory Group
Friday, 15th September, 2000
Brussels

Draft Agenda

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

09:00	Opening remarks - approval of the agenda	Angelo Airaghi
09:10	Commission update	Robert Verrue
09:20	IST Programme update	Spyros Konidakis
09:40	Working Group #5 "Scenarios 2010 update"	Martin Schuurmans
10:00	Working Group 6 report..... - discussion & follow-up	Michael Healy
11:30	Workprogramme 2001 draft V2.0..... - (including PCM inputs) - discussion	Gerard Comyn
12:30	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>	
14:00	Programme Assessment & Monitoring reports... - discussion	Angelo Airaghi
14:30	Update on Key Action I activities..... - discussion	Michel Richonnier
15:30	Update on Research Networking - discussion	Spyros Konidakis
15:50	Any other business - dates of future meetings * 9 th November (IST2000 Nice)	All
16:00	Close of Meeting	

** the planned presentation on KA3 activities has been postponed until a later date.*