



Brussels, 25 January 1999  
**ISTAG-99/1-1**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY GROUP (ISTAG)**

Held in Brussels, January 13, 1999

### **1. WELCOMING REMARKS - MR. R. VERRUE (DIRECTOR GENERAL DGXIII)**

Mr. Verrue underlined the importance of the ISTAG role, both in terms of bringing a strategic input to IST programme development and also in providing a *longer-term-view* on related policies and regulations. These aspects are both key to ensuring the programme, and its context, have the necessary flexibility to keep in pace with global developments, to deliver value for money and to be relevant for Europe. He concluded by thanking ISTAG members for "accepting the challenge".

### **2. OPENING**

In his opening remarks, Mr. Weyrich stated that he had high expectations for the work of ISTAG, he looked forward to open discussions on strategy (rather than detail) and he was particularly pleased to be chairing such a prestigious multi-national, multi-disciplinary group, rich with experience of technologies and services. The draft agenda for the meeting was adopted.

### **3. STATUS OF PREPARATIONS**

Mr. Metakides presented an overview of IST, its status and budgetary allocations, a timetable of preparations leading to the first calls for proposals and an outline of operational aspects.

ISTAG commented on the importance of securing a competitive position for European players. This in turn implies bringing focus to selected RTD topics and, in particular, on giving the message that programme participants should regard EU support as providing "additional" resources to leverage their position, to take risks, to respond to challenges, to become more competitive.

*Mr. Weyrich summarised the discussions by noting the constructive suggestions for adding more elements or focus to the '99 workprogramme, but in view of the timetable he recommended that ISTAG accept the 1999 workprogramme and focus their attention on the 2000 workprogramme. As concerns the comments on whether to target "competitiveness" or "society" he concluded that both needed to be healthy. Furthermore, enterprises should regard EU support as a kind of catalyst leading to wealth creation. Competitiveness is clearly a central programme issue and as such should be further reinforced.*

#### **4. THE WORK OF ISTAG**

ISTAG raised questions on their relations with the Advisory Groups of the other FP5 Programmes, on the possibility of establishing subgroups and on their interactions with the Programme Committee (ISTC). ISTAG also asked that the "volume of papers" be kept to a minimum, in particular the Commission should consider how to make greater use of graphical representations, e-mail and web-based services to support the work of the group.

*Mr. Verrue and Mr Metakides agreed that ISTAG should be connected with the other FP5 Advisory Groups and that ISTAG, as required, are able to form subgroups that report back to the main group. It could make good sense to link ISTAG with the ISTC and this would be further examined.*

#### **5. OVERVIEW OF THE INPUTS TO THE WORKPROGRAMME FOR 1999**

Mr. Comyn presented an overview of the written inputs received from ISTAG and ISTC and how they had been accommodated into the December 22, 1998 workprogramme draft. He outlined *proposal evaluation criteria* as defined for FP5 and IST, and described the cross programme theme mechanisms.

#### **6. DISCUSSION ON THE REVISED WORKPROGRAMME 1999**

ISTAG consider the changes to the workprogramme to be an improvement. There were some suggestions on strengthening some aspects (e.g. the role of internet, consumer protection and privacy, etc.). There was a strong recommendation to reinforce the dialogue with the software industry (targeted forums, workshops) with the goal of refining the software R&D model so as to strengthen the time to market factor. "Cross-Programme Actions" (CPAs) and "Cross-Programme Clusters" (CPCs) are seen as important integrating mechanisms, but there were concerns that the workprogramme descriptions are confusing. Additionally, the text for CPA.3 "Design for All" requires clarification.

There were many comments on "evaluation criteria". In particular, ISTAG felt that too many criteria could lead to a "flat" evaluation result unless the weightings were carefully defined to distinguish the different types work and actions.

*Summarising the discussions, Mr. Weyrich proposed to reduce, to three or four, the number of CPAs activated during 1999. For CPCs, he proposed that they be presented as an "open" mechanism leaving project participants to spontaneously develop clusters.*

*Following an explanation by Mr. Airaghi (who was directly involved in the Commission's consultations on evaluation criteria), Mr Weyrich concluded that there was little "margin" for ISTAG to advise at this time. He underlined concerns on the number of criteria and their relative weightings and asked for further information on the "FP5 Evaluation Manual" and their application in the IST Programme. ISTAG would return to this subject in a future meeting.*

#### **7. DISCUSSION ON THE 1999 CALL ROADMAP**

Discussions ranged from identifying priorities and schemes for grouping closely related Action Lines in a call, through to ideas for merging the first two calls and advancing the date of the third call. It was noted that there were many possible combinations of call schemes, but the logistics for evaluation, selection and negotiation places some constraints on the practicality of call dates.

*Summarising, Mr Weyrich requested that all Action Lines be called as soon as possible with the bulk of them included in the first two calls. Action Lines dealing with studies spanning a Key Action (e.g. those numbered x.1.1) could be moved to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Call. Cross-*

*Programme Actions should be called early, in order to gain experience. The content of the third call should be judged in the light of an analysis of the response for the first calls, either to fill-in gaps or to reinforce priorities.*

*In response to a questions, Mr. Metakides confirmed that: budgets were allocated to Key Actions and not Action Lines or groups of Action Lines; that contract commitments arising from the third Call would come from the 2000 budget; that project duration, size and constitution should be in-line with the project's objective without preconceptions. Electronic submission of proposals would be possible in the near future, but fully paperless submission is some way off. Mr Comyn confirmed that Programme Support Measures would be open for continuous submission from the first call, with "Take-up" measures mainly addressed in the third call.*

## **8. PLANNING ISTAG'S FUTURE ACTIONS**

Mr. Reeve suggested a timetable for ISTAG meetings and activities that would lead to a final version of the 2000 workprogramme being adopted in December 1999. ISTAG activities include receiving an analysis of the response from the first two calls, gathering and considering studies from "forward-looking bodies", consultant reports, etc. in order to develop strategic ideas in terms of integration, priorities and additional cross-programme themes. ISTAG interactions can be both physical and virtual (web and e-mail based) and subgroups could be established to focus on certain topics.

*After discussions, Mr. Weyrich suggested that each ISTAG member prepare short list of strategic issues and topics. These should be sent to the Commission (Mr. Reeve) for collation. ISTAG would then identify a small number of these for further elaboration with a view to proposing orientations for the 2000 workprogramme. The Commission were asked to make an inventory of already available studies and to establish facilities for the virtual meetings.*

*The following calendar of physical and virtual meetings were agreed.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Physical/Virtual</u>	<u>Focus</u>
31-May-1999	(P)	Future Orientations
June/July 1999	(V)	Development of a working document
17-Sept-1999	(P)	Action line identification and evolution
October-1999	(V)	Draft 2000 IST Workprogramme
15-Nov-1999	(P)	Finalisation of 2000 IST Workprogramme

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List of participants at the ISTAG meeting of January 13, 1999

ISTAG	Claus	Weyrich	(Chairman)
	Angelo	Airaghi	
	Jose	Alves	
	Alain	Bravo	
	Peter	Cochrane	
	Arnoud	De Kemp	
	Michel	Feneyrol	
	Paolo	Galluzzi	
	Christos	Halkias	
	Rosemary	Horwood	
	Juhani	Kuusi	
	Paul	Lagasse	
	Bernard	Larroutourou	
	Wolfgang	Merker	
	Cesare	Mossotto	
	Ann Marie	Nilsson	
	Ursula	Pachl	
	Ian	Purves	
	Martin	Schuurmans	
	Javier	Uceda	
	Hannes	Werthner	
<i>Unable to attend</i>	<i>Romain</i>	<i>Bausch</i>	
	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Berthelsen</i>	
	<i>Tarja</i>	<i>Cronberg</i>	
	<i>Chris</i>	<i>Horn</i>	<i>(Vice Chairman)</i>
Commission	Robert	Verrue	
	George	Metakides	
	Frans	De Bruine	
	Michel	Richonnier	
	Mike	Reeve	
	Gerard	Comyn	
	Jacques	Bus	

David

Broster