



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE GENERAL – Information Society

Information Society Technologies Advisory Group



Brussels, 22 November 1999

ISTAG-99/4-1

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

Held in Brussels, October 29th, 1999

1. WELCOMING REMARKS – MR. C WEYRICH

Mr. Weyrich opened the meeting and announced his retirement from the ISTAG due to mounting business commitments. He thanked ISTAG members for their support and work during 1999 and welcomed Mr. Airaghi as the new Chairman. In return, ISTAG members and Commission staff thanked Mr Weyrich for his efforts and guidance as Chairman.

The “operational conclusions” of the 17th September 1999 meeting and the agenda proposed for the current meeting were adopted without changes.

All the presentations and reports used in this meeting are available on the CIRCA website.

2. COMMISSION AND DGXIII UPDATE – MR. G. METAKIDES

Mr. Metakides presented a number of overview statistics for the first IST call for proposals. IST had received some 2,500 proposals of which roughly 20% had been retained for negotiation. He pointed out that the charts which classified “type of organisation” groups some industrial research departments with academic research – this would be further analysed and clarified for future calls. It was also noted that the size of proposals (overall scope and costs) and the success rates vary amongst the Key Actions and is considered normal. Consequently, one should not draw too many conclusions from overall programme averages.

For the Fifth framework programme there is a new procedure for negotiation and contracting where the Commission Decision comes after conclusion of negotiations. This procedure reduces the overall timescale from submission to contract to eight months (was typically nine months in FP4), but this is still considered to be too long.

The second IST call for proposals was published October 1st 1999 with a closing date for fixed deadline proposals on January 17th 2000. The second call completes the calling of Action Lines in the 1999 workprogramme and includes a comprehensive set of “take-up” actions.

A third IST call, based on WP2000 is expected to be published at the end of January 2000 with a closing date at the end of March 2000.

3. PROGRAMME INTEGRATION & MANAGEMENT REPORT – MR. D. LLOYD-WILLIAMS

Mr Lloyd-Williams explained that the Programme Integration and Management Study (PIM) had been initiated by the IST programme using a group of independent experts. The study has analysed retained proposals in order to identify overall workprogramme coverage and possible synergies and clusters which could further programme integration. A first report was provided in July '99 and a supplementary study was also undertaken in September to identify the extent to which proposals addressed aspects of the ISTAG vision. The first PIM identifies some topic areas which appear to be under-addressed along with potential gaps in medium term RTD. The PIM study provides a “baseline” which can be built on by a series of studies examining proposals selected from subsequent IST calls. In particular, these studies can provide a means of assessing the “response” to the orientations ISTAG have introduced to the workprogramme revision. In this respect, the “radar” chart showing the number of proposals addressing specific IST/“vision” topics is thought to be worth further development. ISTAG members found the PIM report useful and hoped that the Commission would repeat the exercise on future calls.

4. WORKPROGRAMME 2000 – MR. G. COMYN

Mr. Comyn announced that the next draft of the WP2000 would be available to the ISTAG on the 11th of November. It is also planned to present a stable draft of the workprogramme to the IST Conference in Helsinki (20th November) and shortly afterwards to secure the positive opinion of the ISTC. The Commission’s internal written procedures could then take place in the first weeks of December, which would allow for the third call for proposals to be targeted for end-January 2000.

The main changes from the 1999 workprogramme can be seen in a more focused Action Line descriptions. Workprogramme 2000 has a reduced budget compared to 1999 (~950 MEuro cf. 1200 MEuro) and the “sharper” descriptions should help to control over-subscription. ISTAG’s vision has been incorporated into the introductory “chapeaux” of the workprogramme and Key Action descriptions as well as in the details of Action Lines descriptions. There has been a positive reaction to the revised workprogramme, internally in the Commission, by ISTC, and by constituencies involved in consultations. A roadmap of calls has been constructed and it is expected that there will be three calls for proposals during 2000.

ISTAG members acknowledged that their vision was embedded in the revised workprogramme and were generally pleased with the outcome and in particular, that the drafting timetable had been met.

5. “FUTURES” PROJECT (JRC) – MR. J. M. CADIOU

Mr. Cadiou had been invited to present some aspects of the work undertaken by the IPTS “Futures” project as it a promising input to the work of ISTAG. He explained that the goal was to identify key drivers for change in the next decade and how these could impact policy areas (e.g. technology, employment, competitiveness). The presentation highlighted both global and European drivers resulting from fiscal developments, life science revolution, the environment, convergent information and communication technology and information society developments. The main EU drivers include shifts in social and demographic trends, deregulation, the Euro, enlargement of the Union. The main concerns for Europe will be addressing skills mismatch and an ageing workforce which necessitates substantial investment in the life-long learning and training. Detailed IPTS reports can be made available to ISTAG (mounted on CIRCA).

Mr. Cadiou invited ISTAG to the IPTS conference in Brussels on 10-11th February 2000.

6. WORKING GROUP.4 “TRANSFER & COMPETITIVENESS” - MR. A. BRAVO

At a previous ISTAG meeting Mr. Bravo had agreed to develop further ideas for a fourth ISTAG working group dealing with “Transfer and Competitiveness”. He reported that from an initial meeting of working group (comprising several ISTAG members and their invited experts), the following main lines had been identified:

- (a) To explore “strategic roadmaps”
- (b) To compare IST orientations with related initiatives in other world regions
- (c) To examine further “value-creating” dissemination activities

7. ISTAG’S AGENDA FOR WP-2001

Following a more general discussion amongst ISTAG members, Mr. Airaghi summarised the options for year 2000 activities (leading to an inputs to the WP2001 revision) as follows:

- (a) Scenario building (including links with IPTS);
- (b) Gap identification (matrix, roadmaps, links to PIM(s), etc.). This activity can be started immediately by the writing of some “terms of reference”;
- (c) Maintenance of the ISTAG vision. This is not intended to lead to dramatic annual changes, but could lead to refinement, and should be a permanent ISTAG mandate;
- (d) Making recommendations on the overall calling, evaluation, selection and contracting process. As a first step information needs to be collected by a volunteer;
- (e) Actions for Europe to maintain strategic advantage

Mr. Airaghi proposed that ISTAG set up a small reflection group with Mr. Schuurmans as Chair to develop these ideas further in the coming months.

WG-4 under the chairmanship of Mr. Bravo will work on the roadmaps, matrix and PIM issues in close liaison with the Commission.

8. MEETINGS FOR 2000

The next ISTAG meetings are scheduled for:

- February (Brussels) (*exact date to be confirmed*)
 - 12th May (Brussels)
 - 29th June (Brussels)
 - 15th September (Brussels)
 - 27th October (Brussels)
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List of participants at the ISTAG meeting of October 29th, 1999

ISTAG	Claus	Weyrich	(Chairman)
	Angelo	Airaghi	(Chairman)
	Alain	Bravo	
	Michel	Feneyrol	
	Michael	Healy	
	Rosemary	Horwood	
	Paul	Lagasse	
	Gregers	Mogensen	
	Cesare	Mossotto	
	Ann Marie	Nilsson	
	Ursula	Pachl	
	Martin	Schuurmans	
	Javier	Uceda	
	Jakob	Vortman	
	Hannes	Werthner	

<i>Unable to attend</i>	<i>Tarja</i>	<i>Cronberg</i>	
	<i>Peter</i>	<i>Cochrane</i>	
	<i>Paolo</i>	<i>Galluzzi</i>	
	<i>Arnoud</i>	<i>De Kemp</i>	
	<i>Luc</i>	<i>Wagner</i>	
	<i>Christos</i>	<i>Halkias</i>	
	<i>Juhani</i>	<i>Kuusi</i>	
	<i>Bernard</i>	<i>Larrouturou</i>	
	<i>Wolfgang</i>	<i>Merker</i>	
	<i>Ian</i>	<i>Purves</i>	

Commission	Spiros	Konidaris	
	George	Metakides	
	Michel	Richonnier	
	Rosalie	Zobel	
	Gerard	Comyn	
	Mike	Reeve	
	David	Broster	
	Nick	Heenan	
	Khalil	Rouhana	
	Ulric	Fayl	

Guests	Jean-Marie	Cadiou	
	Ken	Ducatel	
	David	Lloyd Williams	

Information Society Technologies Programme Advisory Group
Friday, 29th October, 1999
Brussels

Agenda

28th October 1999: Pre-meeting dinner at the 'Restaurant A la Carte' of the European Commission at 20h00 located in Rue de la Science 29 – 1049 Brussels

29th October: Venue: Hotel Intercontinental EUROPA
 Salle " Mayfair "
 Rue de la Loi 107
 B - 1040 Brussels
 Tel: +32-2-2301333

9:30	Welcome and Opening remarks Approval of the agenda	Claus Weyrich
9:45	Commission and DGXIII update IST Programme update Statistics from first call for proposals	George Metakides
10:15	PIM Report - Work carried out - Future consequences	David Lloyd-Williams (consultant)
10:45	- Reaction and Discussion	
11:00	WP-2000 - Strategy - Focus - Embedded Orientation - Integration	Gerard Comyn + IST Directors
13:00	<i>Buffet Lunch in Salon " Magritte "</i>	
14:00	"Futures" Project (Joint Research Centre)	Jean-Marie Cadiou Director for the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS)
14:20	Reaction and Discussion	
14:45	WG "Transfer and Competitiveness"	Alain Bravo
15:05	Agenda for WP-2001 - The method, the content, the timing	A. Airaghi
16:30	Close of Meeting	Claus Weyrich

N.B.: Chambre d'écoute will be in salle "Manhattan - Carlton"