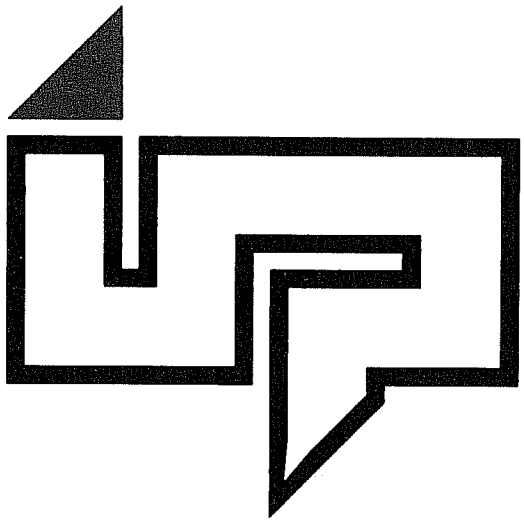
Information Technology in Parliaments

Pułtusk, June 20-22, 1994



Part 2

Kancelaria Senatu RP

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Networking and Electronic Data Exchange in the Bulgarian Parliament

Republic of Bulgaria

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Networking and Electronic Data Exchange in the Bulgarian Parliament

Dimitar Jordanov, Yavor Angelov

Communication is essential for democratic parliaments. In the context of modern technology it means full integration of word-processing applications, databases, electronic mail and advanced communication hardware that stands behind it.

However, providing the backbone for those applications is not a simple task at all. The reasons for that come from versatillity of applications, which usually come from many different vendors and work on different platforms. Another potential threat to the well-being of a communication medium inside a parliament is the ability of information service providers to explain how users can take adventage of the technology potentials.

At last, but not at least, such advanced technology demand high-qualified personnel which is quite difficult to compose and is a result of long-term expertise in both computer technology and legal institutions.

In our opinion, computer specialist easily percieve legal knowledge and practice than ...

Bulgarian parliament's Information department objetive was to provide the medium for communications among the people who work in this law-making institution, between it and other institutions, as well to support the software and hardware intended to help the legal work.

Interior communications

Over 600 people work for the Bulgarian parliament (staff and 240 MPs). As we pointed out connecting them is not a matter of seting up the cables, although the latter is not a simple task itself. What has to be done is build the model of the communications medium.

We at Bulgarian Parliament's Information department chose a Local Area Network (and not a centralized mainframe solution for example) as a reasonable compromise between data security, expandability and price. LANs are becoming increasingly popular in businesses in our country (with Novell's NetWare taking the biggest share of this popularity).

Data security is a serious issue in our Parliament. Lack of communication possibilities for a long time has been a good way to protect one's data--like putting the files on a diskette and in the metal safe. Existence of flawless communications without a good plan for network security and data integrity can pose a real threat to national security and the bulgarian people as a whole. At the communication level our LAN project includes intelligent routers that would make impossible for an intruder to capture network traffic and access data illegally. Along with that, availability of any information, that was once kept in safes to system administrators makes it possible for them to offer better solutions for its storage and maintenance, as well as back it up in case a disaster occures.

LANs are expandable. In the Bulgarian Parliament there are over 250 PCs, over 3.5 km of cable (70% unshielded twisted pair, the rest in thin ethernet cable and fiber optics), 7 expandable HUBs, distributed on 8 floors with potentials for connecting over 1300 users. The HUBs are modular, that is, they allow to add connectivity for more and different types of user protocols and cabling schemes. Between the HUBs and the servers network traffic is going at high speeds and on fiber optics cables. This means that even addition of new HUBs (and potentially more clients) would meen no burden to the communication of the rest participants in the network and performance would depend on the capabilities of the servers only.

The technology used in our network project is very complex. Here is an example of the path that a network packet (the smallest unit of information, that our communication equipment can handle) should travel to pass data from the client to the server and back to the same or different client. Tipically the client uses an Network Interface Card (NIC) connected with an unshielded twisted pair (UTP) cable to the punch-down block, where 25 such cables are combined into a 50-pin unshielded cable. The latter goes directly to the patch-pannel from where goes in the HUB. The HUB is connected with a fiber optics cable which goes to a central hub, which finally is connected to the servers again with fiber optics cable. Every HUB is also connected with other 50-pin cables and traffic between them is internally resolved. The central hub also is intelligent enough not to bother the servers if traffic can be simply redirected from one segment to another. Our microwave radio equipment, purchased set up with the help of US Congress and its technical team, makes it possible to have the two network segments situated in different buildings be joined. It is also connected to the central hub. The network packet has to travel along the cables and possibly the radio equipment to reach its destination.

Thus every user can communicate electronically with anyone else. And any data can be acessed by anyone who is authorized for it.

Exterior communications

When Bulgarian Parliament's Information Dept. decided what communications with other institutions would look like there was key question answered: What is the difference between communcating inside the Parliament and between it and other institutions?

First, our institution does not own the communication medium and therefore can neither support nor guarantee it would provide pathway for the data to be exchanged with press, governmental institutions and other. Facts are that dial-up telephone lines, a cheap and common solution for data exchange, in Bulgaria are of bad quality and require both special noise-resistant telecommunication equipment and software that is "stubborn" enough try again until the link gets established and data gets transmitted. Our solution is based on X.25 public communication standard over leased lines from the our building to the host from where we are virtually connected to the rest of the world.

Inside our LAN there might request for data transfer while the receiver is a person outside the parliament. This involves exterior communications which we decided to maintain using an UNIX-based server equipped with X.25 connectivity hardware. The request for e-mail and file transfers would be stacked inside the UNIX-server and when a session with the remote host starts would be delivered to it. The host (operated by Sprint International) has a link with Internet and other public networks all over the world, connected with many types of connections from high-speed satellite channels to simple telephone lines. While the actual path of the message from our user may not represent a significant interest, the important fact is that once delivered, our data can make its way through and reach the destination in spite of communication problems.

The reverse operation is also very easy. During sessions with the remote host, our UNIX-server would take any e-mail and files targeted to our users. After it the inbound traffic is sorted and everyone in the LAN receives whatever he has to receive.

Our efforts presently are targeted to obtaining the statute of a X.25 node.

While most people in Bulgarian Parliament understand the importance of implementing new technologies and achieving the objective of Information Dept., there still are some problems before our specialists. Taking the steps which led to development of a project of such scale as described above comprises a part of our job. What is left to be done is to provide support and keep the technology up-to-date with the requirements of a changing world.

Acceptance of the complex computer technologies is a big issue in the Bulgarian Parliament. Some officials misunderstand the inclusion of information technologies in their work as a kind of experiment or a way for their confident information to "slip" away and be sold by intolerant

Computerized monitoring of the progress of the legislative process

Republic of Bulgaria

Dimitar Jordanov
Nick Guentchew

Computerized monitoring of the progress of the legislative process

Dimitar Jordanov

This report is a brief description of the project for monitoring of the legislative process in the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. In the end of the report we will make a short overview of the automation information systems in our Parliament.

1. Brief description of the technology of the legislative process in the Bulgarian parliament:

Issue of the legislative idea and its registration

- OFFER OF BILL: MPs, MINISTRY COUNCIL OR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (ALL POINTED BY BULGARIAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)
- REGISTRATION OF THE OFFERED BILL: ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
- DATA ENTRY FOR THE BILL FULL TEXT AND OTHER STRUCTURED INFORMATION IN THE SYSTEM: WORK PLACE IS NOT CLEAR YET

Bill edition/preparation

- PREPARATION FOR VIEWING IN THE PRESIDENCY: LEGISLATIVE AND/OR LAW DEPARTMENT
- DEALING: CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
- HEARING AND REPORT PREPARATION: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES
- AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IS WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DATA ENTRANCE OF THESE REPORTS, AS WELL AS WELL AS WHETHER THE PROTOCOLS OF DISCUSSIONS INSIDE THE COMMITTESS SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE INFORMATION SYSTEM
- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

First hearing

- HEARING, PROPOSALS, VOTING: MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT
- CHANGES BASED ON STENOGRAPHIC RECORDS: LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES, RELATED WITH THE MATTER, AS WELL AS LEGISLATIVE AND/OR LAW DEPARTMENT
- LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Second hearing

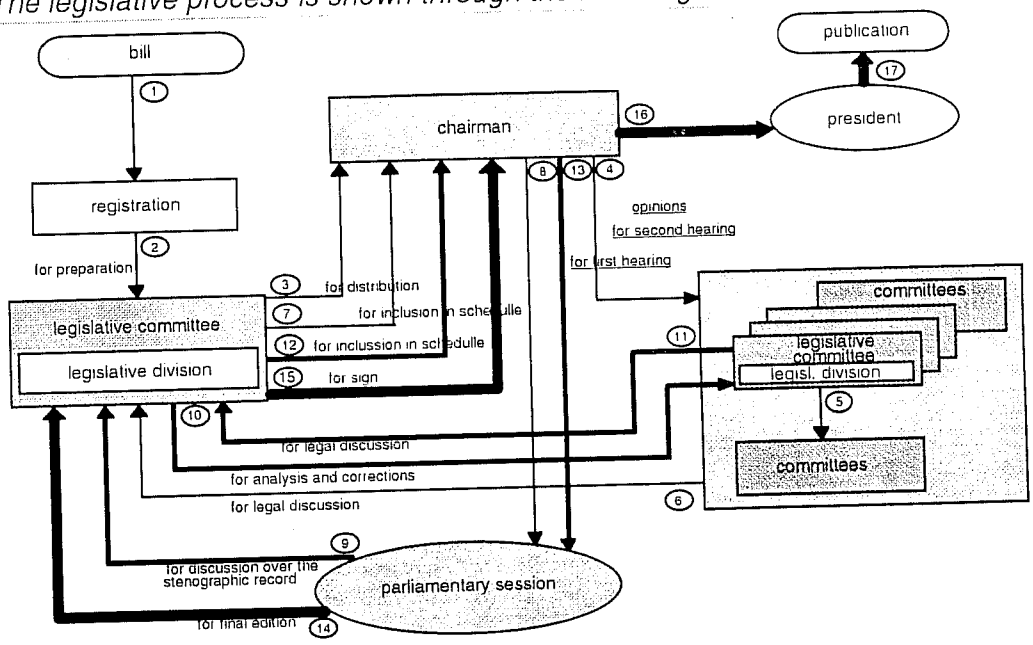
- HEARING, PROPOSALS, VOTING: MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT
- FINAL CHANGES BASED ON STENOGRAPHIC RECORDS: LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES, RELATED WITH THE MATTER, AS WELL AS LEGISLATIVE AND/OR LAW DEPARTMENT
- SIGN OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Publication[1]

- TEXT PREPARATION: "STATE GAZETTE" DEPARTMENT
- PRE-PRESS WORK: INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

[1] In this report there is not place for the case when the President of the Bulgaria make decision to get back the bill for new hearing in the Parliament (article 101 from the Constitution and article 69a from the Regulations of the work of National Assembly).

The legislative process is shown through the following scheme:



2. General description of Legislative Process Automation Project

It is intended to be accomplished in a computer network environment, which would simplify communications and present full information about every bill, namely the history of changes and its present status. Theoretically, it is possible to receive this information on each workstation in the computer network environment, however issues connected with security and controlled access are also a concern.

2.1. Objects in the legislative process system

Here are the basic semantical units, holding information about the bill over which the necessary changes could be made.

On the first level in the computer system are considered the following objects

2.1.1. Types of objects

TITLE (HEADER)

The header holds identificatory information structured in a table. Thus basic operations (data inquiry) would proceed over suitable data structures.

A possible header could consist of:

- *bill number (number under which it is registrated)*
- *law-depositor*
- *date of deposition*
- *short title*
- *full title*
- *comments*
- *motives*
- *consequences from the appliance of the bill (comments from experts)*
- *status of the bill (place inside the legislative diagram)*
- *date of first hearing (actual, not scheduled)*
- *date of second hearing (actual, not scheduled)*

EVENT HISTORY (QUEUE)

The history logs the events concerning the bill (reports, opinions and so on).

- *event type: full text of opinions, reports, and proposals for changes*
- *event initiator*

- *event date*
- *bill number from the head object*
- *comments*

BILL (BODY)

From law's viewpoint this is the bill in a particular moment. The bill is a text with a well-defined structure the basic operations make up a inclusive set of a general text editors capabilities (Microsoft's WRITE for example). A customized text editor could be written, specially intended for law-connected texts.

- *bill number from the head object*
- *full text of the bill*

STENOGRAPHY RECORDS

They fit in a pre-defined structure, show below, not subject of the present presentation.

date of the stenography

full text (discussions in plenary floor, containing sense references for changes in bill's text)

Stenographic records' store, retrieval and processing are already accomplished.

SCHEDULE

- *bill number from the head object*
- *date 1*
- *date 2*
- *...*
- *date N*

The schedule is a preliminary plan for the bill moving.

Every object has a registratiory part and is arrised by an event: identifier and descriptory section, which is possible to contain references to the bill text.

Our supposition is that the most commonly used operation would be overview of the history. Possibly there would be some query in the registration part and the references.

Thus, we define there general non-overlapping states of the bill named:

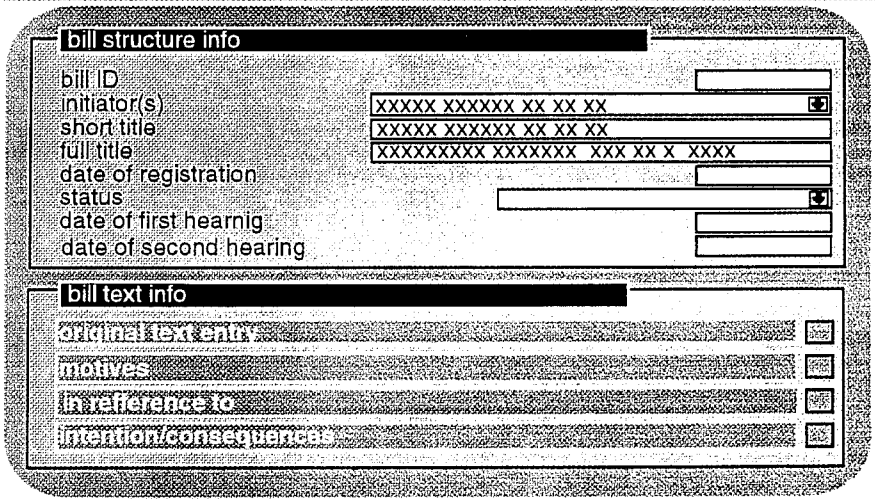
- *bill-draft*
- *after first reading*
- *official bill: after the second reading*

Each object has a exact internal structure, describing the data, that is supposed to change.

2.1.2. Screens for Data entry about the objects

These screens server for entry of the necessary information about the objects. For all objects, excluding the title, a preliminary search for bill is being made.

Bill Header/Body entry screen



- *upon discussion by the committees (the queue becomes "longer")*
- *during first hearing (element about it appears in the stenographic record)*
- *changes in the body (after first hearing)*
- *addition of new elements in the queue*
- *during second hearing (element about it appears in the stenographic record)*
- *changes in the body (after second hearing)*
- *addition of new elements in the queue*

Generally the DocLaw has the following meta-structure:

title	queue
body1 (bill-draft)	queue1 - opinions and reports from legislative committee
body2 (after first hearing)	queue1- stenographic record 1, report from legislative committee
body3 (law)	queue1- stenographic record 2

2.4. Problems

- *there is no unified record, classification, and indexation of the laws in Bulgaria.*
- *there is no Regulation of administration's work, which could /// define the functions, responsibilities, communications between the departments*
- *data entry for the databases, as information is stored on paper and there aren't OCR-products working in Cyrillic.*
- *data storage and search/retrieval of needed information from massive full-text databases (TRS systems) is the second complex issue; the third one is connected with maintaining the already constructed databases with up-to-date information. This problem is more on a organizational basis and concerns data is more probably to change.*

Full text databases of legal Documents

Republic of Bulgaria

Nick Guentchew
Dimitar Jordanov

Full Text Databases Of Legal Documents

Data query is a key component in many parliamentary information systems. Standardized data models which are supported in DBMS-es do not include support for texts. Therefore, extensions of well-established DBMS or specialized products should be used.

There already are specialized text-retrieval products on the market. If the final objective should be to create a database containing each and every legal document issued in Bulgaria, there are two key problems to be solved:

- DOCUMENTS SHOULD EXIST IN ELECTRONIC FORM
- TEXT-SEARCH RETRIEVAL SOFTWARE IS NEEDED

The first one is easy to solve with multitude of OCR products. A choice of properly localized for the particular country should be made.

A possible solution of the second problem could be a highly adaptive software, able to handle issues with text-base creation and/or maintenance, and having a suitable user interface.

We tested the following products (both familiar to Bulgarian users):

- BRS
- ADABAS TRS

The tests of each included creation of text-base from the stenographic records of Bulgarian Parliament's sessions. Along with that we initiated development of our own software based on our experience with these two products and computer reference products such as Computer Select and Microsoft Encarta as well.

In the process of creation of legal documents word processing plays some role. This would mean integration of the word processing module with the text-retrieval one.

The main issues of some concern connected with text-retrieval are:

- WHAT SHOULD BE THE RELATION BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL TEXT (POSSIBLE FORMATTED IN SOME WAY) AND ITS EXTRACTED FORM (THE RAW TEXT, WHERE SEARCH IS MADE)? WHAT EXTENT OF DUPLICATION OF THE TEXT WILL BE CHOSEN AND WILL THERE BE ANY LOSS OF FORMATTING INFORMATION?
- WHAT MECHANICS FOR USER INTERFACE CREATION WOULD BE PROVIDED (AS USERS DIFFER ON THEIR PROJECT/SEARCH NEEDS BASIS)

BRS

demands that the text should be pre-processed, that is should be converted to Text Only format, before it could be inserted in the database. Thus we have a file (non-formatted) with no connection with the original (possibly formatted) document.

BRS has a very specialized interface for text-base creation and maintenance and can be used only by qualified person. Text-retrieval itself can controlled by every Windows application that makes the proper calls to the search engine through DDE-protocol. This gives the ability of building flexible solutions using text-retrieval in specialized systems.

Adabas TRS

is a extension of the well-known Adabas DBMS, that has the option of working with texts inside Natural as a component of Natural NDM. The key problem is the tendency of all systems to be limited inside Software AG's product medium. Plus, the Windows client interface we tested was in a very "raw" form. User interface is based on Natural's programming facilities.

Choosing Adabas TRS for text-bases with over 100,000 documents is not a bad idea. However we did not decide whether to use Adabas TRS as the size of the our text-base probably would be smaller.
Neither of BRS and Adabas TRS does not allow integration with Microsoft Word.

Our approach

We had intentions to use a standard text-retrieval software. Unfortunately problems with localization (Bulgarian language and Cyrillic alphabet) are not completely resolved even in the word processors on market. So we took decided to create our own tool.
Our approach is based on several reasonable principles:

- OPENNESS: ADD FAMILIAR MODELS OF DATA AND INTEGRATION WITH FAMILIAR DBMS-ES
- EASE: ADD DOCUMENTS DIRECTLY FROM A STANDARD WORD PROCESSOR
- MODULARITY: INCLUDE IN MORE COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Our software preserves the original file, while extracting the text from it (and storing it in compressed form). The original file should not be manipulated in any way in order to go in the textual database. A link with it is maintained, and if the user decides to view it (in the original form), the application, used to create it can be used. There are three basic components in the software:

- USER INTERFACE
- SEARCH ENGINE
- TEXT BUNDLE

User interface

The user interface is Windows-like and requires Microsoft's Windows to run. The user can easily create new text-base (the directory and file it will reside in), open an already created text-base, update text-base, browse the dictionary (words from the documents in the text-base). The main feature is search for words and phrases in the text-base. The result--a set of documents can be viewed by the built-in text-visualizer or by user-specified one.

Search engine

The search engine processes user search-requests. An user search request (also called query) is a logical expression containing terms and phrases. Terms can be one of: simple, prefix, suffix and complex.
Simple term is a word, like "law". It can be or can't be present in the dictionary. Search requests containing simple terms are processed very effectively and nearly don't depend on the size of the dictionary. User can choose to enter them with the QUERY or DICTIONARY features.
Phrase is a language element, like "Contract regulations law". A key point in processing phrasal requests is connected with the place of words in text, more specifically the distance between them. In our solution we determine if two terms are separated by not more than 8000 characters, that is, they reside in the same "paragraph". The search strategy includes two actions: find all paragraphs that contain the terms from the phrase and then go in the raw text to verify if they really are adjacent.
Prefix terms are those that begin in a specify end but can have a random ending, like in "comp*". Such search requests are handled effectively be going in the dictionary right on the first term, that matches the pattern and scrolling the subsequent entries until no-match occurs.

Suffix terms "*ing" can be processed in two ways. One possible solution is two have a reverse dictionary, where entries are sorted alphabetically, but the significance decreases from the last letter to the first one. The other solution (which we chose) is to scan the entire dictionary for matches. As the second way is also the only way to resolve requests like "*th*" we discarded the idea about the reverse dictionary. This tradeoff in performance is not significant, because we think queries like "*th*" would not be a common practice, as the result is to a certain extent unpredictable.

The inverted list of terms (dictionary) is organized in a B+tree form (balanced tree). The basic functions of the search engine are:

- FIND A TERM IN DICTIONARY, USING FAMILIAR TECHNIQUES FOR SCANNING B+TREES
- FIND A COMPLEX TERM IN THE DICTIONARY OR A PHRASE IN THE COMPRESSED TEXT-BASE, USING PATTERN MATCHING
- INCLUDE A NEW DOCUMENT IN THE DICTIONARY AND THE COMPRESSED TEXT-BASE, USING ALGORITHMS FOR B+TREE MODIFICATION AND CONTROLLED GROWTH

Request analyzer is another part of the search engine. The request is translated into reverse polish notation, and is afterwards computed.

Text bundle

The text bundle contains all documents to be found in the text-base, bracken down to "paragraphs". LZW compression algorithms are being implemented as a good compromise between size and performance.

What are the limitations of this software solution?

The maximum number of documents plus the number of paragraphs can be no more than about 32000.

Advantages of this software for text-retrieval are:

- POSSIBILITY FOR INTEGRATION WITH POPULAR DBMS (LIKE INFORMIX)
- NO-HASSLE DATABASE UPDATES, ELIMINATING THE NEED TO PRE-PROCESS THE SOURCE DOCUMENTS.
- INCLUSION IN SPECIALIZED SYSTEMS IS EASY

Integration with Microsoft's Access can be dealt with easily using DDE conversation with the search-engine and the engine dealing with database updates. For example in a system for registration of documents in the Bulgarian Parliament can be developed for Microsoft Access, but for search in some fields (containing text) there will be an automated call to the retrieval software which will answer the request more quickly. However, Access will be used for maintaining other components of the database user interface.

There is a whole bunch of questions, connected with unauthorized access protection and concurrent database updates, that we consider unreasonable to solve alone.

Electronic Mail pilot test in the German Bundestag

Deutscher Bundestag

Hans-Werner Eisermann

Electronic Mail pilot test
in the German Bundestag

The establishment of the Electronic Mail in the Bundestag dates back to a decision of the Council of Elders, taken in 1987, in terms of which an electronic document exchange via PARLAKOM, the German Bundestag communications network, is to be implemented after standardization has been completed.

In 1990, the Bundestag administration was instructed to establish a test operation. The idea was to make the Electronic Mail available to a selected group of Members of Parliament and to just a few members of the Bundestag administration for a limited period of time. It is the purpose of the pilot phase to evaluate the feasibility and the acceptability of the medium among Members of Parliament. Upon completion of the test the decision whether to continue with the system, and with which system features, will lie with the responsible Parliamentary bodies.

The Electronic Mail is expected to support the document exchange among all communications partners of the German Bundestag, among them in particular Members of Parliament themselves as well as their constituency offices, the Parliamentary Groups, the Government agencies and the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany in Brussels. The document exchange will be mainly dedicated to further processing of documents in the PC.

The targets and the technical environment require that the system will be standard-based as much as possible - in this context in conformity with the CCITT (now: ITU) Recommendations X.4ff, and with POSIX.

To draft the tendering documents and to achieve harmonization among all those concerned the services of a consulting firm were hired. This approach proved to be successful, since the subject matter is very complex in the technical and organizational respect. It should be stressed that the intensive cooperation between the consultant and the technical section of the Bundestag is indispensable, and itself requires additional resources.

To give you an idea of the time and effort required: the harmonization among the Parliamentary Groups, the Government bodies, the staff representation, data protection people, and the development of administrative keystones such as addressing, as well as the drafting of the specifications to define the functional requirements, took about one year's time.
Finally, the specifications covered approximately 100 pages.

I should now like to highlight a few core points.

The system is supported by the existing infrastructure of interworking ISDN facilities and X.25 subswitching centres. The terminals are 486 PCs from different manufacturers, most of them being integrated in small Ethernet LANs. The User Agent has to adapt itself to this complex software of PCs.

Services intercommunication is required with the Telebox service of Telekom, with Teletex (still being widely used in the Bundestag), and with Group 3 Fax machines. As far as possible the documents are to be transmitted true to the original layout.

To allow the greatest possible integration with the user software the body parts have to be structured. To achieve this, a description of the documents (table of contents) agreed among the communications partners will appear in the first body part.

The number of exchange formats will be limited to just a few (ASCII, T.61, ISO 6973 and Word-for-Windows with the bodypart types 1, 2, 9 and 13. The most important exchange format is Word-for-Windows.

The availability of the system depends mainley on the proper function of the telecommunications facilities. Adequate properties regarding data protection and data security are required.

Tenders were invited for a system to be leased for approximately one year in respect of the pilot phase, and the purchase of a full-fledged system pending the relevant decisions. The timeframe for inviting tenders and implementation of the system was extremely short (3 months/5 months).

The tendering procedure started in December 1992 as an EC-wide public competition in which 17 firms participated. Eight of them were excluded because they could not demonstrate their capability to deliver. The remaining firms were shortlisted and invited to make an offer. Finally, four firms actually made an offer for an X.400 system.

The evaluation of offers was based on standardized and reproduceable criteria, such as level of target achievement, price/performance ratio and life-cycle costs over six years.

In April 1993, on the basis of these reference criteria, the computer manufacturer Tandem was awarded the contract as general contractor, together with the firms MR (Dr. Roßbach),

mbp and Alprange as sub-contractors. All these companies for some time already have had experience in the field of Message Handling.

The core of the system is the product called OSI/MHS, together with the Message Transfer Agent (MTA) and the Message Store (MS) functionally enhanced by MR Postoffice. Intercommunication of services is realized by central servers. The Fax Gateway is from MR, the Teletex Gateway is based on a Retix MTA with mbp software. Alprange supplies the Remote User Agent (RUA).

The products meet the 88 standard of X.400 to a large extent.

The central software runs on a Tandem CLX, equipped with 2 RISC processors, 32 MB core memory and 6 GB disc memory. The terminals communicate with the MTA via two X.25 ports with 8 connectors. Of those 6 are being used with 60 logical channels each. The data are routed via the packet switch to the ISDN facilities to be distributed from there by means of circuit switching.

At present the network is terminated in the office by means of a Private Network Terminator (PNT). At this point the data stream of 64 kbps is converted into synchronous mode and passed on to the PC via the V.24 connection of the Eicon communications card. The Remote User Agent (RUA) runs on the PC, logically supporting the user to communicate with the MTA or MS. In the 88 systems the RUA interface is standardized so that this is an autonomous and actually exchangeable software. Most RUAs, however, only support the TCP/IP protocol that is usually used for LANs, there are only few providers of the X.25 RUAs.

After successful testing of an ISDN termination by means of the S_0 bus and the corresponding card in the PC, new connections, in particular in the constituencies, established based on this approach. The X.25 protocol handled on this card.

Just one more comment on the RUA: Though its importance has been recognized, it is still not valued highly enough. Any strengths or weak points here will have major implications for the acceptability of Electronic Mail. All the products that I know so far, unfortunately, do not yet provide the necessary attributes: user-friendliness, functionality, simple and reliable operation. It is just a piece of software designed by experts for the benefit of experts. This is one major drawback of the Electronic Mail.

In the system described here the initiative for any communication lies with the user of the Electronic Mail alone. This means that, for example, incoming items will be indicated only, if

the application "Electronic Mail" has been dialled up. In other programmes this is not indicated.

Now to the servers for intercommunication of services.
The Teletex Gateway is a dedicated MTA from Retix on a SCO Unix PC, connected to the central system via Ethernet. The Teletex (Ttx) service is still being used to quite some extent by some Members of Parliament to communicate with their constituency office so that this feature can not yet be dispensed with. In the medium term this service will be replaced by straight Electronic Mail.

The Fax Gateway is a straightforward PC with several Fax cards, connected to the host via Ethernet. The conversion into the Group 3 Fax format is handled centrally. The advantage of this configuration is the relief of the network and short response times at the user's end; the disadvantage is due to the fact that only the programmes and fonts available on the server can be used. At present a bottleneck is not yet foreseeable here; in the long term, however, the variety of software will make local conversion indispensable.

On the addressing of the participants. The structure of the Bundestag provides for a dedicated Private Management Domain (PRMD) both in the Administration Management Domain (ADMD) of Telekom and of the Government. The Parliamentary Groups operate their own PRMDs directly linked to the Bundestag PRMD. The address pattern of the Bundestag reflects the hierarchical organization in terms of the relevant names to support the routing. Unfortunately, this approach causes incompatibility with the widely-spread MS Mail, since this product does not possess the necessary standard conformity.

At present there is no central directory. The addresses are centrally kept for routing, whereas the RUA entries are held locally. An exchange of addresses with the communications partners is achieved by means of exchanging data files. This procedure makes sense only as long as the group of participants is small and only few addresses are changed. It is, however, foreseeable that efficient compatible directory services - ideally to be standardized - will soon have to be used by all partners. There are people in the Bundestag and in the Government who are now working on this problem. Address storage and linking of the Fax Gateway allow every X.400 participant to access any fax, outside the pilot test. This means, for example, that there is a simple way of dispatching a fax direct from Word for Windows, without having to change to another application or having to produce a printout.

Since the start of the pilot phase in November 1993 interoperability tests are being carried out showing that the number of communications partners is still relatively small and that on

both sides a large effort has yet to be devoted to getting the time-frames and the contents of the test harmonized. Nearly every partner requires individual configuring.

Most of the time is required to run the tests of the document exchange formats. There was a worst case of not even being able to exchange ASCII texts.

The most frequently used format is Word for Windows. In the system described here also T.61 and ISO 6973 are being supported. Experience has shown that DCA with its many ramifications had to be included in the list of exchange formats. At present, standardized ODA/FOD converters do not yet play a significant role.

To support the user, upon dispatch, the documents are automatically preceded by a directory (first body part) describing the following body parts. Upon reception, the directory will be analysed by the RUA software. This approach causes, for example, Word for Windows to be called up, without the intervention of the user, as soon as a Word for Windows-document has been received. Then the document will be indicated and is immediately available for further processing. If the requested Word-processing software cannot be loaded, an error message will be generated. The table of contents will enable the recipient to draw his conclusions regarding the contents of the body parts. Subsequently the user can load the document with the relevant editor or Word-processing programme.

Other operators of Electronic Mail also use support procedures which, however, are not or not sufficiently compatible among each other. Thus for example the Electronic Mail of the Government causes an indication programme to be called up which automatically identifies and fairly correctly reproduces a series of formats on the screen and by means of the printer. This, however, does not allow any further processing of the document received.

One major requirement of the users is the dispatch of documents true to the original layout. This enhances confidence in the application; if this feature cannot be guaranteed, as a rule a lot of confusion is created if identical documents look different after transmission. It is our experience that the transmission of documents true to the original layout can be achieved only if both the sender and the recipient use the same format and the same font. As soon as a converter is involved or a different font is being used, the recipient will get a document that looks different.

In particular, difficulties arise at the Fax Gateway. The most frequent source of difficulties is the use of a nonloadable font. Another source of trouble is the 200 dpi resolution in the case of Fax, which for certain fonts may cause minor mismatches with the printer, thus

generating a different layout. At presend, there seems to be no way of solving these problems in this setup.

Since November 1993, communications links are being established and tested, the system is being optimized and the system attendants are being trained. After initial instabilities the operating reliability of the RUA has been enhanced. Upon final improvement of the user surface and the functionality, the training documentation for the participants in the pilot phase were drafted. In February 1994, training was started. Since together with Electronic Mail, Windows and Word-for-Windows are being introduced at the same time, the training effort is considerable. Since March, the first documents are exchanged electronically between selected communications partners. It is a recurring experience that the operation of the RUA has yet to be made considerably more user-friendly.

The requirements regarding data protection and data security have been kept at a minimum. The mainframe computers have been installed in a secure computer center. System operation is performed exclusively by own personnel. Remote maintenance is not permitted. Control of access to the Electronic Mail is guaranteed by means of a password. At present encription of documents is not foreseen as far as the Bundestag is concerned. During the pilot test participants have undertaken not to dispatch any confidential documents via Electronic Mail. Electronic addresses will not be disclosed to the general public, they will only be made available by the respective holder of the address to the other system partners.

As a matter of policy only a few organizational rules were laid down for the X.400 test participantss. The only thing that is worth mentioning in this context is the fact that mail not bearing a clearly defined address or mail that cannot be processed will be destroyed. No attempt is made to identify the recipient with reference to the contents. This is to ensure maximum confidentiality.

Any further regulations, such as cosignature or rules of procedure were deferred, since they are hardly of any interest for Members of Parliament - and they are the actual target-group of the pilot phase - and since the main purpose of this exercise is to achieve the highest possible level of acceptance of Electronic Mail in view of the short-term introduction of the system.

It has turned out that Electronic Mail is very personnel-intensive, in particular regarding address management, achieving and maintaining interoperability, error detection and recovery in all areas (center, network, terminals), as well as training.

To sum up: The standardized Electronic Mail does not solve the communications problems in the Bundestag, it is a tool to enable a swift exchange of documents on the national and international level. The system used offers many possibilities, but regarding user-friendliness and stability it is not yet mature enough. Whether the high level of investments will pay off or not, mainly depends on the system acceptance by the users and on the penetration and enhancement of standardized products.

The Sejm Information Systems

Republic of Poland

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Computer Centre

The SEJM Information Systems

Information Systems provide the Sejm, its Members and staff with a complete range of quality services to facilitate the effective use, access and sharing of interchange information. Today 60% of various Polish Parliament buildings are linked to interchange data information. At the end of 1994 all our buildings will be linked. The Local Area Network is a skeleton we use to build the common information technology environment.

The Corporate Computing Technologies consist of Hewlett Packard mini computers, used by services across the Sejm in the management of centralized information databases. We use HP/9000 - 897 as a central database server, a 847 as a library systems server. The Senate computer, HP/9000 - 827 is also connected to the network.

Desktop computing technologies are used in stand-alone applications such as word - processing, desktop publishing and spreadsheets. A number of these devices are also integrated into a LAN (mixed: UNIX/Novell Netware environment), connected via ethernet.

From 1989 around, we have developed specialized systems and programs for specific Sejm needs and services. The whole software and hardware system should be completed at the end of 1995.

Computer - Assisted Publishing System.

The Sejm desktop publishing system consist of the Ventura Publisher base products and customized applications designed by the Sejm staff. These applications include features which recognize QR-Tekst (our standard text editor) style codes, compile documents based on naming conventions and merge files. Through Ventura, the Sejm is

now able to produce internally camera-ready copies of its official publications, which include the Minutes, Committee Proceedings, and Chronicles. We also use these documents as a source of data for full-text databases.

Full-text and structural databases.

An important direction of activities currently under development in the Computer Centre is elaboration of a complex information system on parliamentary works. The system is being developed with the use of two big software packages - TOPIC, a full text search and retrieval system and INGRES, a relational database management system.

The first application developed under TOPIC is a database of minutes of parliamentary sessions from the previous and present term of office. The present works aim at creating a database of reports from the Sejm committees sessions and a database of draft bills and published law texts. The TOPIC program enables users to perform intelligent, concept based document retrieval.

The prototype INGRES application is a database recording results of voting in Sejm plenary sessions. Data for this application are transferred from an electronic voting system PHILIPS. The so far implemented application is a part of a planned large computer system which will comprise information on the work of Sejm and Senate, members of Parliament, legislative process, parliamentary documentation and legal acts.

The system is planned to work in a client-server architecture.

Members' offices.

In September, all members of Parliament will be equipped in microcomputers. The standard is Intel 486 SX/33 MHz processor and 200MB disk drive, working in Windows environment.

We are working now on a bidirectional communication between their offices and the Sejm. We plan to use the KOLPAK (Polish Railway packet switched network). In the first stage, e-mail and a terminal access services will be accessible. In August first results of the pilot installation (7 offices in Warsaw and 48 more in central cities) will be ready. Later on, we plan to access our resources on both HP/9000 minicomputers remotely, in terminal and client server mode.

These services ensure that members of Parliament have immediate access to high-quality professional assistance.

Other small systems are also very helpful. For example, the human resources use an information system to automate certain personnel administration and reporting activities. Specially, the system captures data relating to salary administration, employee record keeping, recruitment and contracts analysis.

The Office Automation System will integrate all functions as word processing, electronic mail and messaging. We exploit a pilot installation of e-mail (cc:Mail) and a system of incoming mail registration.

Computerization in the Sejm over past 5 years has resulted in greater efficiency and enhanced productivity in every aspect of Sejm administration. Today, we try to open our resources for a public.

Data Banks in Italian Chamber of Deputies

Italy

Benedetto Arsini

COURTESY TRANSLATION

At the moment in the Chamber of Deputies there are 24 data banks available for internal and external use.

The Chamber's Information system is always up to date, it is possible to find informations concerning the activity of the Assembly and of the Committees (Standing Committees, Joint Committees, etc.). The data bank receives informations directly from the centers that produce the information such as the Assembly, the Committee Secretariat, etc.

There are different data banks:

a) data banks that give information on guidelines and control activity which allows inquiries on items, subscribers, parliamentary groups, motions and questions;

b) there is also un archive concerning lawmaking activity beginning from 1980.;

c) moreover there are data banks concerning Constitution, state laws, regional laws, and others concerning electoral results and data beginning from 1976;

d) starting from January 1st, 1984, there are data banks concerning the book list bought by the Chamber's Library and informations on hundreds of law, historical, economic, sociological, social science reviews and curret political affairs, italian and foreign reviews;

e) there is also an archive of legal reviews that contains a selected scrutiny of legal reviews (since 1970) and of daily newspapers (since 1975) on items of policy legislation.

f) the archive is under the responsability of the CNR Legal Documentation Institute of Florence with 13 scrutiny specialized centers;

g) the Chamber has also other data banks on international treaties and on demand for authorisation to proceed against MPs;

h) finally there is a data bank on summary reports that allows the availability of the speeches summary of MPs either during the session either of the last four sittings.

Informatics and Telecommunications Architecture

European Parliament

R. Klotzbücher

Luxembourg, 1 June 1994

European Parliament's

Informatics and Telecommunications Architecture

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1. The Objectives

The informatics and telecommunication systems have to respond to the dispersion of the working places of the EP and the need for easy access for members, officials and European citizens, independent of their location.
The informatics system should respond to the need for handling all the official European languages correctly and equally.
The informatics system should integrate the various kinds of information : data, image and voice.
The informatics system should be : reliable, user friendly, available and secure.
The informatics system should respond to changing user needs and exploit new technology and services, with maximum cost-effectiveness.

2. The Infrastructure

The informatics system will consist of intelligent work-stations and servers connected via a robust network covering the Parliament working places and, through national networks, the whole EU territory.

The intelligent work-stations will dispose of user friendly interfaces and enough power to act as agents of the users (the user explains what he needs and the agent knows how to find it).

With today's state of the art, work-stations would be powerful PCs with graphical user interface, compatible market winner packages and tailored user agent software that will permit transparent access to information located in other environments.

The servers will be computers and basic software suitable for the services they offer, hosting related data and serving a group of users connected to them via the network.

With today's state of the art, servers would be minis with standard or market winner operating systems and RDBMS software chosen on the basis of suitability for the services offered, reliability, security, power and price criteria.

The network will consist of local area networks for local user communities, inter-building and inter-city high speed networks, all following international open standards, chosen and calculated to handle the Institution's data, images and voice traffic.

With today's state of the art, the network would consist of 10Mb/s LAN's, high speed (100Mb/s ?) LAN's and a high speed wide area network.

3. The services :

The services will be classified as common shared (for all users) or local (for specific user groups), or individual services.
Common shared services will be located on central servers, local services on local servers and individual services on the work-stations.

Reliable and efficient Applications Programming Interfaces should be adopted to assure program's communication between servers and/or work-stations in providing the services to the user.

Important common services :

* data dictionary containing all necessary attributes and location of the data of the institution so that everyone uses them correctly and accurately;
* general electronic mail service with users directory;
* uniform database access service (defining unique user interface and database interrogation language);
* general document repository where any user will easily find any document existing in the institution and for which he has the necessary authorization (joint with an archive system);
* library of application re-usable components for use by all application developers;
* central back-up service;
* disaster fall-back service.

4. The organisation :

a. A decentralised organisation should be implemented :
   * DIT will be responsible for defining the general strategy, architecture, rules for compatibility and integration, and for following the functioning of all central servers and common services.
     DIT will also be responsible for authorising local developments as compatible and matching the general informatics structure and verifying and certifying this compatibility.
   * Each local community will be responsible for the functioning of their servers and applications and for keeping the rules for compatibility and integration.
   * Users will own the applications they are using and be organised around a responsible user owner by application. User owners monitor the quality of the application and ask for improvements to the providers of applications (local or DIT developers).
   * For common services a users committee can be established by service to monitor the quality of the service, define new useful functions and consult DIT for useful improvements.
   * In the DIT and in the user support group a service manager will be nominated for each common service who, in collaboration with the users committee, will act as service owner.
   * At the level of the institution a steering committee will propose to the Secretary General each year the priorities for developments and monitor their execution each semester.

5. The basic rules of working.

The use of market packages is preferred over application development when possible.
Effort is made to use as much as possible the common shared services and keep separate the changing from the stable functionalities.
Applications development is done jointly with users in a cost effective way following the object oriented approach, using client-server model, case tools, program generators and prototyping.
The applications and/or services and the responsibility of their functioning should be located as close as possible to their users.
The data, although governed by the general data dictionary, will be located as close as possible to their users and under the responsibility of the users that create them.

6. Telecommunications

6.1. The EPINET network

EPINET II is a private, X.25 based, packet switched network, providing synchronous and asynchronous interfaces via PADs. It links in triangle the three working places of the EP and is the backbone for all data transfers. Routers for the interconnections of local networks, front end processors and communication servers are linked to it.

In the near future (2nd half year 1994) EPINET III will be installed. It will consist of 3 fully redundant multiplexors (hot stand-by) with an increased capacity of 2Mbps: it will connect the PABXs and support the X.25 and LAN data transfers. The capacity will be shared as follows:
512 Kbps for the connection of the LANS
128 Kbps for the connection of X.25
and the rest for the PABX: voice and fax.
This allocation will change according to the traffic.

6.2. The Local Area Networks

The local area networks for local user communities are of the ETHERNET type and are installed in practically all buildings. They are interconnected by Bridges between buildings and by Routers (ETHERNET/X.25 - EPINET) between Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Brussels.

It is planned
- to replace the Routers and Bridges by equipment supporting the SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol);
- to increase the capacity, especially with regard to the success of EMAIL and its use for document exchange and the rapidly growing number of client/server applications;
- to change the cabling from "fine" Ethernet to twisted pair cables (10 Base T) and fiber optics.

Networks have to be managed with care. Adequate support and supervision is needed for:
- error detection and interventions
- management of configurations and heterogenous networks
- quality of services
- accounting (statistics)

7. Office systems

Office systems serve to create, process, transmit, print and archive documents. As the information management systems they rely on the same infrastructure as described: same networks, same hardware and the same general software.

The architecture's principal role is to define the manner in which documents can circulate efficiently.

a) Text processing

The EP has chosen Word Perfect and the WP format is in general use as an exchange format between the European Institutions. In order to harmonize the style of documents produced by the institutions, a set of norms has been defined, called EUROLOOK. A series of problems subsists for the exchange of composite documents comprising text, tabular material and graphics.

b) Documents not requiring revision are being exchanged as well by FAX because of its universality (e.g. the number of fax machines installed went up within 4 years from 120 to 1700).

c) Electronic Mail is the preferred medium for document exchange and several services analogue to those of postal services are being offered like mail boxes, forwarding mail. The obvious advantages are the speed and the wealth of formats.

At the moment two systems are in use:

- Word Perfect Mail
  The majority of officials are registered in WPMail and use this tool. Exchanges of parliamentary documents between various departments (committees and sessional services) are based on WP and WPMail.

- OVIDE Mail
  EP Members and some staff use the electronic mail of OVIDE, the videotex information system.

A gateway exists between these two E-Mail systems.

8. Exemples of the existing Information Systems

8.1. EPOQUE

EPoque (European Parliament On-line QUery system) is a comprehensive and public database of European Union documents and procedures. At the moment it is implemented on a Siemens mainframe.

EPOQUE contains:

- Bibliographic references to documents produced by Parliament and its Members including:

  * session documents
  * legislative and non-legislative procedures

* petitions
* questions posed by Members or Political Groups
* resolutions

(The total number of documents for which reference data is held exceeds 100.000).

- Documents forwarded to the European Parliament by other EU Institutions

- Studies produced by the European Parliament and national parliaments

- European Parliament library catalogue

- European Parliament factsheets.

8.2. OVIDE

OVIDE (Organisation du **VI**deotex du **D**éputé **E**uropéen) is a computer system which has two main uses:

- It allows Members and their assistants to look at a vast range of **Parliamentary information** which is supplied by several different computer systems in a choice of four different languages - English, French, German or Italian. The information is frequently refreshed so that it is kept up to date and is presented to users in an easy to read form.

- It also has an **electronic mail** facility, whereby messages and text can be sent between other registered users of OVIDE. It should be noted however that only registered users can send and receive mail.

OVIDE supports the CEPT standards 1, 2 and 3: BTX, Télétel and Prestel; as well as 80 column Teletype. It is a multi-network based on the national videotex or telephone networks, X.25 networks, and EPINET.

Information provided by OVIDE

The core information and services which OVIDE provides are as follows:

1. Electronic messaging

2. Who's Who and on-line telephone directory:

   - a directory of Members, Ministers and Commissioners, Judges, Auditors, Civil Servants and political group staff;
   - the organization of services within the European Parliament and the political groups.

3. Calendar and Agendas:

   - part sessions, meetings of Parliamentary Committees, other European Parliamentary bodies, the political groups.

4. Press articles:

   - briefings of Parliamentary committees, press releases, briefings and record of proceedings at plenary sessions.

5. Press agencies:

   - AFP, Reuter, DPA, Belga, EFE, ANSA and Agence Europe, based on specific registration.

6. Documentation:

   - documentary research for EP documents, subject overviews;
   - available soon - catalogue of EP publications, contents of Official Journal, Commission documents (COM).

7. Electronic forms

   (for ordering documents and for obtaining the MEP communications allowance).

8.3. Management of Parliamentary Procedures

Legislative procedures are handled by several applications based on the above described infrastructure. The most important ones are:

AP/TEC (Actes Parlementaires/Travaux en cours)
manages, on the level of the sessional services and the committees, the parliamentary documents (reports, amendments, agenda, parliamentary questions, etc...) and the steering data concerning these documents; information from AP/TEC updates the EPOQUE database.

and

GEPRO (Gestion de la Production)
management of the production of those documents (the translation, printing and distribution).

The exchange of documents and control data (status, planning data, follow-up) between these applications is assured by a system called EPADES (European Parliament living Document Exchange Server).

Requirements for EPADES were especially

- it must be simple to use,
- give access to many people,
- notify the receiver.

As basis for that exchange, Word Perfect Mail is being used, taking into account that the documents are available in WP format or conversions from and to ASCII files take place.

SOLUTIONS AND PLANS

	today	tomorrow
Operating Systems on mainframe	Siemens BS 2000 V 9	-
Operating Systems on file servers	UNIX V.4 (XPG4)	UNIX V.4
Operating Systems on database servers	Unix of suppliers: e.g. SUN Solaris	same policy: Unix according to the performance
Operating Systems on PC	DOS	WINDOWS 3.1
Word Processing Format for exchanges	Word Perfect 5.1/5.2 WP 5.1	Word Perfect 6.0 f. W. WP 6.0 -> ODA or SGML ?
Electronic Mail	Word Perfect Mail OVIDE Mail and gateway between	native X.400 or X.400 compliant?
Data Base Systems on minis: on PCs:	RDBMS: ORACLE V.6+7 ADABAS V.5 Paradox	RDBMS; Document Archiving (WP compatible) ?
Software infrastructure	4th Generation language: SQL*FORMS 4, NATURAL 2.2; Client/server technology	4GL; Object Oriented Tools; GUI; Client/server technology
Corporate network	EPINET II X.25	EPINET III X.25
Local area network File transfer	Ethernet, TCP/IP FTP: PCTCP 2.11	Ethernet, TCP/IP FTP:PCTCP 2.3

Management and Diffusion of Parliamentary Documents and the Computerized Monitoring of the Legislative Process

European Parliament

Mr Werner

Management and Diffusion of Parliamentary Documents and the Computerized Monitoring of the Legislative Process

European Parliament, Directorate General for Research
Luxembourg, June 1994

General Remarks and Context

The management of parliamentary documents and the monitoring of the legislative process seem to be quite different subjects, but are just two different views of the same reality. Both the parliamentary documents and the legislative process have their legal foundation in the **Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament** [1] as well as in the **Treaty on European Union** (TEU, also called "Maastricht Treaty", the **Treaty Establishing the European Community** (TEEC, as amended by TEU) as well as the other treaties and instruments [2].

With the coming into force of the TEU on 1st November 1993 the European Parliament has been given more legislative power [3]. To the **consultation, co-operation** and **assent legislative procedures**, the **co-decision procedure** involving a third reading in EP has been introduced, see annex 1, and the fields in which EP can participate in the legislative process extended. In the case of the co-decision procedure the right of final legislative decision on Community acts is no longer left with the Council of Ministers alone.
The European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, is still the only institution that has the right to submit proposals for Community acts, but by the terms of the TEU the European Parliament has won a right to legislative initiative, as it can now request the Commission to submit appropriate proposals, see Rule 50 and TEEC article 138b (all Rules in this paper refer to [1]).

Which legislative Act is governed by which procedure depends on the matter to be ruled upon. For example the decision process for an Act on Trans-European network guidelines has to follow the co-decision procedure, but it will be the co-operation procedure if it deals with inter-operability and finance of Trans-European networks. (see table "which legislative procedure applies to what", in [4] pages 203-205). It can be seen that the **legal basis** of the subject is crucial for deciding which legislative procedure to follow (see also Rule 53).

With the ever growing importance of **European Union legislation** resulting in law that is either directly or after national enactment in force at national level in the Member States, the **national Parliaments of the Member States** wish and need to be informed at early stages in the EU legislative processes. Thus

EU national parliaments can react and influence their governments represented in the Council of the EU before it makes decisions. Besides increased powers of the European Parliament [3] this informing of the national parliaments is one of the means of reducing the so-called "democratic deficit" in the European Union. On one hand, **transparency** of the legislative process itself, for journalists and citizens, is an important means for reducing the democratic deficit. On the other hand, this transparency is necessary for the monitoring and the smooth functioning of the legislative process between and within the main actors of EU's legislative process: the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

We will see in the following that this transparency is to be achieved by organisational means as well as by technological and documentary support.

An important tool for transparency, permitting all involved institutions, committees and other bodies within EU institutions as well as outside such as national Governments and national Parliaments, is the **Annual Legislative Programme**. Rule 49:

> "...
> 3. the Annual Legislative Programme shall refer to:
>
> (a) all new legislative proposals,
> (b) all prelegislative documents,
> (c) any other document of a legislative nature,
> (d) agreements with third countries,
>
> which are to be submitted during the following year by the Commission to Parliament and the Council.
>
> The Programme shall also refer to any legislative proposals and documents requested by Parliament or the Council which the Commission has agreed to submit.
> ..."

For 1994's Legislative Programme see ref. [5]. It is interesting to note that transparency of Community action and legislation is itself one of the objectives of the 1994 Legislative Programme (Points 53. and 531.): the objective of '**Consolidation of Community Legislation**' i.e. the replacement of a series of amendments of an act by one 'readable' act. The Office for Official Publications of the EC has established a sophisticated system for this task. It is based on an archive on optical disks of all texts of the L series of the Official Journal. The consolidation management interface for this system is not accessible for external users, but the **ABEL** and **CATEL-OJ** databases allow selections of OJ articles and the online ordering of the image text of the articles from the image archive to be sent by fax (annex 8). Within the European Parliament the CATEL-OJ database is known as **PE-DOCDEL** (EP document delivery) as it makes additional documents available that are of special interest in

The **organisational measures** for a better monitoring of the legislative process by the different partners playing a role in it can be subdivided into measures with respect to bodies outside the EU institutions, interinstitutional measures and measures within the institutions. The following examples belong to the first category:

- the possibility of members of committees of national Parliaments of EU Member States to join meetings of the equivalent EP committees,

- the audition of EP committee presidents or rapporteurs by a national Parliament,

- every month the European Parliament sends to the European Affairs committees of EU national Parliaments a list of "work in progress" informing them about the evolution of the work within EP committees (see below TECOM system).

Interinstitutional measures for a better monitoring of the legislative process are for example (see [4] page 257):

- the participation of Commissioners and Council presidents in EP sessions and committee meetings,

- monthly meetings of the presidents of Commission, European Parliament and Council ("trialogue"),

- contacts by EP committee chairmen with the Commissioner responsible for the same subject as well as with the national minister chairing the Council in the relevant area,

- each Directorate General of the Commission has nominated one or two "Coordinators of Parliamentary Affairs" who maintain contact with the "Parliamentary attaché" of each Commissioner on one hand, and with the respective parliamentary committee on the other,

- an interinstitutional legislative coordination group comprising of officials of the European Parliament, Commission, Council and Economic and Social Committee meets regularly to monitor the legislative process.

For the monitoring of the legislative process from within the European Parliament an inter-services structure called "**Dorsale législative**" i.e. "**legislative backbone**" has been created within the EP General Secretariat. This is to say that within each department collaborating in the legislative process there is a "vertebra" whose function is to ensure a smooth flow of the whole process ([6], annex 9). The following departments help form European Parliament's legislative backbone:

- the Legal Service, e.g. for checking of the legal base of a proposed act (decisive for the procedure to follow);

- DG2, the Directorate General responsible for Committees and Delegations. In addition to one division per Committee or Delegation it has a specialized unit for legislative planning and co-ordination;

- DG3, for Information and Public Relations is in charge e.g. of reporting back from EP's committees and plenary sessions. It also produces short reports concerning the evolution of the legislative process;

- DG4 Research furnishes concise summary information as well as documentation and studies for each of the legislative projects, if possible before the Commission issues its proposal as a COM or SEC document. DG4 has a specialized unit in charge of following up on EP's actions, e.g. checking whether a Community act issued from a legislative procedure is adequately transposed into national law. So we see that within the legislative backbone DG4 has responsibility for information on the pre-legislative phase as well as the post-legislative phase, and for the current documentation of the legislative process in the EPOQUE database.

Technological measures supporting the monitoring of the legislative process

The above presentation of organisational measures has also served to show how many types of bodies, institutions, committees, political groups, parties, governments, parliaments, individuals, and media are involved and interested in the monitoring of the EU legislative process. It will not be surprising, therefore, to see a **variety** of technological measures supporting it. Below are presented measures taken or tools implemented within the European Parliament, amongst them some that are accessible from outside. Computerized tools existing in other Institutions will also be mentioned, as well as tools offered by private companies.

For the **European Parliament**, whose three main working locations are in three different countries, it has been particularly important, for the purpose of internal efficiency, to use advanced fast and simple technology for the production and distribution of its documents.
The multilingual requirements of each official document now having to be available in 9 official languages, has been an additional challenge.

In this context, the decision taken some years ago to use but **one word processing software** in all services of the European Parliament has been very helpful. Most services of the Commission and the Council use either the same word processing software or another for which conversion programmes exist that are capable of coping with all used character sets. All services of the

European Parliament are interconnected with LAN (Ethernet) and/or WAN (X.25 network called EPINET, European Parliament Intersites Network) so that documents can easily be forwarded from one service to another, even another town. It is helpful, too, that all services can use an **electronic mail system** (WP-mail) that allows not only the sending of short messages but also attaching large documents. While WP-mail integrates well with the word processing environment and is mostly used by staff, another mail system is part of the OVIDE system (see below) mainly used by MEPs, their assistants, but by staff, too. **OVIDE-mail** also permits attachment of large files in word processing format. OVIDE-mail and WP-mail are linked by an X.400 gateway to each other and to the external commercial ATLAS mail system. Sending attached files between OVIDE-mail and WP-mail will be possible by the end of this year. However, the possibility of sending documents with the same ease from and to the Commission and the Council does not yet exist although it is technologically possible. Therefore DG1 manages a file server (**INDES**, Interinstitutional Documents Exchange Server) that will receive legislative documents, e.g. COM documents from the Commission, and make them easily accessible to the services within EP who need them.

Texts that aren't readily available in electronic form are often sent by **telecopier**. For example every Member of Parliament has a fax machine in his office in Strasbourg and another, with the same number, in Brussels, and most of them also in their constituency. In fact, telecopiers are for the time being more widely used by Members of Parliament than computer terminals, but the usage of PCs is increasing, too, and has been particularly encouraged by the **OVIDE** project and system (Organisation du VIdeotex du Député Européen, see [OVIDE] and annex 8). It not only offers the above-mentioned electronic messaging, but also up-to-date **agendas** of plenary sessions, committee meetings, and other EP bodies; DG3's briefings on sessions and committee meetings, and selection of press articles (the latter subsystem under the responsibility of DG3 is called **EPISTEL**); **gateway to databases CELEX, INFO92** and to the **EPOQUE** database on EP documents and procedures, see below. For the monitoring of the legislative process particularly interesting will be the **OEIL** subsystem within OVIDE: the **O**bservatoire **E**uropéen **I**nterinstitutionnel **L**égislatif. For the time being it is available in French only. Annex 2 shows the OVIDE online description of OEIL.

Considering the thousands of documents that go from one step in the parliamentary working process to the next, and that are going to or coming from translation, it becomes clear that well-defined structures for the electronic filing as well as a computerized monitoring of the work process are necessary.

One important file exchange tool is the **EPADES** file server (European Parliament alive Documents Exchange Server) accessible from all sites of the European Parliament via LAN. It is a well-defined structure of directories each one dedicated to a special

type of document at a special phase of its life. Some of the directories are accessible only to some services and protected by passwords, but a substructure of EPADES called PUBLIC is accessible to all services within the European Parliament. This does not mean that it is accessible to people outside the European Parliament, who would have to refer to dissemination systems like EPOQUE. EPADES is managed by DG1, the Directorate General for Sessional Services, but used also by DG2 Committees and Delegations, DG3 Information and Public Relations, DG4 Studies and DG7 Translation and General Services. Evidently the biggest volume of datatransfer from or to EPADES is with DG7: one original to be translated into 8 other languages. EPADES plays a vital role in the workflow of legislative documents. It does not only serve staff to exchange documents but it also has or will have interfaces to management information systems like GEPRO, AP/TECOM, EPOQUE, OVIDE.

GEPRO (Gestion de la Production) is one of the systems for monitoring and managing the work process. It serves DG7 for handling of the production, editing, translation, printing and distribution of documents. It implements an electronic "feuille de route"(waybill) to check whether all necessary work has been done in time by the respective service.

DG1 (Sessional Services) and DG2 (Committees) are using a system in common: **AP/TECOM** (Actes Parlementaires/Travaux en cours des COMissions). It could be said that this system is the heart of the computerized monitoring of the legislative process in the European Parliament. Although only services of DG1 and DG2 have online access to this management system, there are regular data transfers to EPOQUE for public access, and paper editions of AP/TECOM are widely used, also outside the European Parliament, see e.g. annex 3 which also gives a first impression of the type of data contained.
The data transfers from AP/TECOM to EPOQUE are automated, but they need continuous checking for completeness and correctness of data. This is clear because AP/TECOM and EPOQUE serve different purposes and have different priorities. As for the rigourousness and completeness of data, regular meetings of the staff concerned with the input and management of the two systems are useful.

DG4 (Studies) uses a system called **WIP** (Work in Progress) for the management of its research work. After some adaptations it will also be used to monitor the establishment of the "**parliamentary fact sheets**" serving in the legislative backbone, see annex 4 for an example.

GEPRO, AP/TECOM and WIP are **internal** management systems, keeping management and factual data, but they deal to a large extent with documents and hence contain also data that serve as documentary references. All three are implemented on UNIX machines with the

same relational database system. Accessible via public networks is the **EPOQUE** documentary database (European Parliament Online QUEry), implemented on a mainframe computer with another database system. It contains not only "reference data" but also factual data on procedures and documents, some of which with their full text. In EPOQUE we can see that the management of parliamentary documents and the monitoring of the legislative process are just two different views of the same reality, mostly based on the same data.

Apart from a command driven user interface implementing the Common Command Language CCL in the form of ISO/DIS 8777, EPOQUE also offers a user friendly menu driven inferface which I will use here to present roughly its contents.

From the main menu we can go to select documents or procedures:

```
 EEEEE    PPP       OO        QQ       U   U    EEEEE     European
 E        P  P     O  O      Q  Q      U   U    E         Parliament
 EEE      PPP     O    O    Q    Q     U   U    EEE       Online
 E        P        O  O      Q  QQ     U   U    E         QUEry
 EEEEE    P         OO        QQQQ      UUU     EEEEE     system

 What do you want to search ?

 1 - Legislative procedures
 2 - EP documents
 3 - The catalogue of the EP library  (not yet available)
 4 - Research studies
 5 - Petitions to the EP
 6 - EP Fact Sheets

 9 - All of them (options 2,4,5)

 Other available choices :
 ?  - Help
 96 - Change working language
 99 - Exit
 Please enter your choice ==>
```

- -

```
 Search based on EP DOCUMENTS              Current result: 92053 documents

 What kind of document do you wish to consult ?

 1 - Resolutions
 2 - EP debates
 3 - Motions for resolutions
 4 - Parliamentary questions
 5 - Reports
 6 - Documents from other EC institutions
 7 - Transfer of appropriations
 8 - All the documents (options 1 to 7)

 Other available choices :

 ?  - Help
 91 - Return to the previous screen
 99 - Exit

 Please enter your choice ==> 1
```

```
Search based on LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES      Current result: 3195 procedures

Which of the following categories of procedures do you wish to consult ?

1 - Cooperation procedure
2 - Parliamentary assent
3 - Ordinary consultation
4 - Codecision procedure
5 - All procedures (options 1 to 4)


Other available choices :

?  - Help
91 - Return to the previous screen
99 - Exit

Please enter your choice ==> 5
```

- -

```
Search based on ALL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES Current result:   3195 procedures

What are you looking for ?

1 - Document number (COM number)
2 - Committee responsible
3 - Rapporteur
4 - English keyword
5 - Title, Keyword or Resume in English
6 - Latest state


Other available choices :

?  - Help
91 - Return to the previous screen
93 - Display status of the current query
98 - Start a new query
99 - Exit

Please enter your choice ==>
```

Annex 5 shows the reference, factual and fulltext data from EPOQUE of a **resolution**, annex 6 shows the data of the related **procedure** (in this case it is a co-operation procedure). Please note that the procedure data are not only references and formal factual data but also include a **summary of the legislative procedure**. These summaries are available in all 9 languages for the terminated procedures but, for the time being, only in French for the ongoing procedures. For monitoring the legislative process it is extremely important to make available such summaries in order to keep track of legislation. For this purpose also, and to provide an even more general context, **fact sheets** on the different policies of European Union are produced by DG4 and offered in fulltext in EPOQUE as well, updated every three months, depending on the evolution of the legislative process. Please note that at the end of the fact sheet cross references to the related legislative procedures are shown (annex 7).

Indexing with descriptors from the multilingual thesaurus **EUROVOC** has proven to be a valuable documentary tool: besides exploiting its hierarchical structure it allows use of a standardized vocabulary for analysis and retrieval of texts that is independant of a particular language of, for the time being, the 9 official languages. (Its translation into some other languages is underway in some non-EU states). DG4's Documentary databases, EDP applications and Indexes of debates Division recently issued its update proposal for the 3rd edition of EUROVOC (in French).

Other Institutions' databases that are useful in the legislative process are **INFO92, APC, CELEX, SCAD, RAPID, ABEL, CATEL,** all of which are described in annex 8. [1]
INFO92 and APC can be called tools for the monitoring of the EC legislative process, but also CELEX, SCAD and CATEL are so general that they can be used to satisfy information needs in the pre-legislative as well as in the post-legislative phase, and during the legislative procedure. RAPID contains press releases of the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the Court of Justice, hence informs also about their ideas or decisions in legislative matters. ABEL allows selection of titles of documents published in the L and C series of the Official Journal of the EC on the very date of publication (and 90 days after), and ordering texts to be faxed to the user. CATEL-OJ is the archive of these documents, indexed with EUROVOC.

Commercial databases about the EU legislative process

After the Single European Act (in [2]) set the framework for achieving the goals of the internal market by 1992 and introduced the co-operation legislative procedure, the demand for information on the EU legislative process had become so great that commercial information systems have also been developped. Of course those publicly-available, above-mentioned EC databases such as INFO92 serve as a source or basis, but they also offer information of their own, or make specialized summaries for their clients, or are specialized in informing about the legal measures taken at national level for the implementation of the EU internal market.[2]

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[1] These descriptions are downloaded from the database **BASES**, Commission's online version of the [Directory of Public Databases]. BASES itself is not accessible to the general public, nor are some of the systems it describes, such as APC, OVIDE and EPISTEL; however, national parliaments and administrations may ask EUROBASES for access to APC, and OVIDE/EPISTEL will be accessible to EU national parliaments.

[2] Quotations in the following database descriptions are taken from the **Information Market Guide** database on databases, on the **ECHO** host, described in the [Directory of Public Databases]. This **"I'M GUIDE"** database shows more than 100 databases for 'FIND EUROPE* AND LEGISLATI*'! (* means truncation)

SPEARHEAD available on the hosts FT PROFILE and DATA STAR and produced by the UK Department of Trade and Industry is a "helpful tool for business to prepare for the single European market," "comprehensive information on all European Community measures (adopted, proposed and projected measures) affecting the single market," and also contains information on how each measure was implemented in the UK.

EUROSCOPE on the INFOTRADE host and produced by Coopers & Lybrand Europe, contains **EC COMMENTARIES, EURO AUDIT, EUROPEAN REPORT** as well as Eastern Europe Business & Investment Guides; "give a full picture of developments in Community legislation, procedures and policies." "They cover 44 sectors of business activity." ... "The user can access the complete text of the report or a summary."

Conclusion and Outlook

The distribution of parliamentary documents is still done mainly in paper form. But the usage of electronic systems for the monitoring of the work flow of the documents and for the monitoring of the legislative process itself - has become a daily reality, although many users resort to paper editions produced by one of the electronic systems.

Full coverage of full text of all parliamentary documents is imminent. The advantages of full text searching, i.e. with every word in the texts and of full text display or online printing justify by far the cost of the installation of such systems, for which prices are falling. Some of the documents will be available in coded **and** image form, and hypertext features will ease the way of browsing through them. Their transmission, also in image form, will be faster and more convenient than we are now used to, because, "in Europe, Japan and the United States efforts are underway to build 'Information Super Highways'" that are thousand times faster than present ones, and that will even "change the way citizens interact with their government" [10].

Helmut WERNER

List of annexes

Annex 1: Co-decision procedure: Article 189B TEU, from [4]

Annex 2: OEIL Observatoire Européen Interinstitutionnel Législatif description (French only) downloaded from OVIDE

Annex 3: example "PROCEDURES LEGISLATIVES" from TECOM/AP

Annex 4: example "FICHE ANALYTIQUE" (draft version)

Annex 5: example "SUMMARY OF PROCEDURE", complete print from EPOQUE

Annex 6: example FACT SHEET, printed from EPOQUE

Annex 7: example RESOLUTION, printed from EPOQUE

Annex 8: descriptions of databases, downloaded from the database BASES: EPOQUE, OVIDE, EPISTEL, INFO92, APC, CELEX, SCAD, RAPID, ABEL, CATEL

Annex 9: How to develop the data processing of legislative information in the European Parliament [6]

References

1. **European Parliament, Rules of Procedure**
8th, provisional edition, October 1993
EUR-OP [3] catalogue number AX-80-93-597-EN-C, ISBN 92-823-0560-0

2. **European Union, Selected instruments taken from the Treaties, Book I, Volume I,**
1993, EUR-OP, catalogue number FX-80-93-573-EN-C, ISBN 92-824-1063-3

3. **The Powers of the European Parliament in the European Union**
European Parliament, Directorate-General Research, Working Papers, Political Series E1, 12-1993
exists in all EU languages

4. **The European Parliament**
Francis Jacobs, Richard Corbett and Michael Shackleton
2nd Edition 1992; Longman Current Affairs, Longman Group UK Limited, ISBN 0-582-20941-2

5. **[Legislative Programme for 1994]**
published in the Official Journal of the European Communities **OJ C 60** of 28 February 1994, containing also declarations of the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council on the legislative programme.

6. **How to develop the data processing of legislative information in the European Parliament,**
by Francis Wattiau; presented at the seminar of 4 March 1994 in Berlin on: "The role of Parliaments in the genesis of Community law and its transposition into national law".
(original in French; also available in German)

7. **Accessing European Parliament Documentation**
European Parliament, General Directorate for Research, Working Papers, Documentary Databases and Indexes of Debates Series, 6/1993, ISBN 92-823-0533-3
exists in all EU languages, also available via EUR-OP, catalogue number AX-78-93-362-EN-C

8. **Practical Guide to the Distribution** of official documents
European Parliament Directorate-General for Translation and General Services, April 1992
exists in all EU languages

9. **Fact Sheets on the European Parliament and the Activities of the European Union**
September 1993, EUR-OP catalogue number AX-80-93-533-EN-C, ISBN 92-823-0551-1
exists in all EU languages
*(An updated version of the Fact Sheets is accessible **online** on the EPOQUE database)*

10. **Emerging Technologies - Information Networks and the European Union**
European Parliament, Directorate General for Research, Working Papers, October 1993,
ISBN 92-823-0574-0

11. **EUROPE INFO, Directory of important information sources in the European Union,**
trilingual German-English-French; EUR-OP cat. number JX-80-93-929-3A-C, ISBN 92-826-2196-0

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[3] EUR-OP: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg

Manuals on Computerized Systems (see also annex 8)

ABEL, Summary of the Official Journal, User Manual
Version 1.0/EN, May 1989, EUR-OP [3]

CATEL, Electronic Catalogue, User Manual, Version 1.3
July 1991, EUR-OP

CELEX Manual (1991) and **CELEX Vade-mecum** (1992)
EUROBASES, EUR-OP

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Fourth Edition, January 1993
EUR-OP, catalogue No: CB-72-91-972-EN-C, ISBN 92-826-3553-8

EPOQUE User Guide (1991)
European Parliament, Directorate General for Research
Documentary Databases, Data-Processing Applications and Indexes of Debates Division

EPOQUE User Manual, Part I (1993)
European Parliament, Directorate General for Research
Documentary Databases, Data-Processing Applications and Indexes of Debates Division
(Parts II, III and V available only in French, Part IV not yet available)

EUROVOC User Manual
First Edition, January 1992
European Parliament
Directorate General for Research
Documentary Databases, Data-Processing Applications and Indexes of Debates Division
EUR-OP, catalogue No: AX-72-91-665-EN-C, ISBN 92-823-0371-3

INFO 92, User Manual
EUROBASES, EUR-OP, 1992

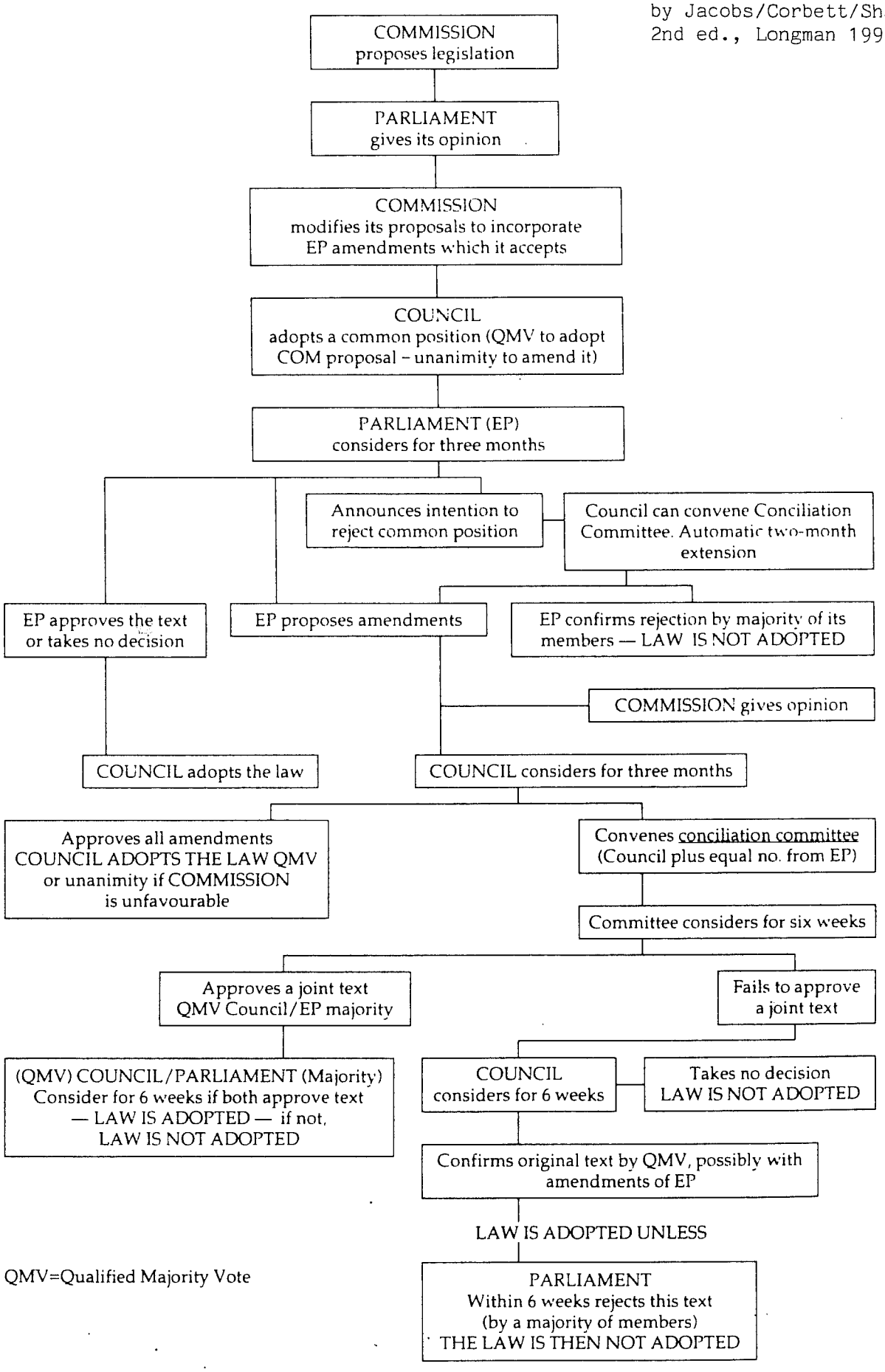
[OVIDE:] Members Manual, Data processing in General, OVIDE in particular
Parlement Européen, Direction de l'Informatique et des Télécommunications 1993

SCAD, User Manual
EUROBASES, EUR-OP, 1992

THE PARLIAMENT AND LEGISLATION

ANNEX 1

from: The European Parliament,
by Jacobs/Corbett/Shackleton
2nd ed., Longman 1992 (4)



QMV=Qualified Majority Vote

Co-decision procedure: Article 189B (Maastricht Treaty)

ANNEX 2

OEIL

Observatoire Européen Interinstitutionnel Législatif

(description downloaded from OVIDE)

Avertissement préliminaire et présentation générale

!!! CETTE VERSION-TEST DE LA RUBRIQUE SERA AFFINEE DANS LE COURANT DE L'ANNEE 1994 AFIN DE TENIR COMPTE DE L'EVOLUTION DES PROCEDURES DECOULANT DU TRAITE SUR L'UNION !!!

"OEIL" est l'acronyme de l'Observatoire européen interinstitutionnel législatif. Faute de ressources, cette rubrique n'existe qu'en langue française et sa mise à jour est hebdomadaire.

Les INFORMATIONS QUI Y FIGURENT N'ENGAGENT PAS LE PARLEMENT EUROPEEN. Elles sont reprises des travaux des Directions générales suivantes : DG1: Greffe, DG2: Secrétariat des commissions parlementaires, DG3: Presse, DG4: Etudes, DG7: Traduction-Edition. Les textes sont rédigés par les soins de la DG2, de la DG3 ("info-mémos": voir aussi choix *PRESSE) et de la DG4. En ce qui concerne les activités des autres institutions, les informations émanent de sources formelles (Service du porte-parole de la Commission) ou de la presse. DE MEME, CES DONNEES ET CES TEXTES N'ONT QU'UNE VALEUR INDICATIVE ET NE REPRESENTENT PAS LA POSITION OFFICIELLE DE CES INSTITUTIONS.

Les informations accessibles sont relatives aux procédures législatives en cours ou terminées depuis les trois derniers mois. Pour des recherches plus approfondies, il est suggéré de recourir aux bases de recherche documentaire CELEX et EPOQUE. Ces informations sont accessibles grâce à un abonnement spécial.
Pour en savoir plus, veuillez consulter les "lisez-moi d'abord" des choix *CELEX et *EPOQUE.

Les options de recherche de la rubrique *OEIL sont les suivantes :

Choix 2 - Programme législatif : il s'agit des procédures législatives prioritaires 1993 et 1994 présentées dans l'ordre des chapitres du Programme législatif interinstitutionnel agréé par le Parlement et la Commission le 9 février 1994.
En cas de recherche plus approfondie sur une de ces procédures, il est conseillé de noter la référence de la procédure ou de la proposition de la Commission et d'opter pour le choix 4 (recherche multicritère).

Choix 3 et 4 - Procédures législatives : la recherche d'une procédure législative se fait soit de manière guidée par menus successifs (choix 3), soit PAR RECHERCHE MULTICRITERE (choix 4). Cette dernière option apparaît comme la plus flexible pour répondre aux demandes les plus courantes. Les critères de sélection sont :
* PAR POLITIQUE : les procédures sont classées sur la base des domaines d'activité communautaires tels que repris dans le répertoire CELEX.
* PAR DOCUMENT : numéro de la proposition de la Commission, de l'avis du Parlement, de la décision du Conseil des Ministres,...

* PAR INSTITUTION : Parlement européen, Conseil des Ministres, Commission, Comité économique et social. Ce choix doit être complété par l'indication de l'organe spécialisé.
* PAR ORGANE SPÉCIALISÉ : par exemple, la commission de l'agriculture du Parlement européen, le Conseil Marché intérieur, la DG VI Agriculture de la Commission, ...
* PAR RAPPORTEUR au Parlement.
* PAR GROUPE POLITIQUE du rapporteur de la commission au fond du Parlement.
* PAR ETAT : cette option permet de retrouver toutes les procédures en attente de l'avis du PE, de la position commune, ou la décision finale, ... AU MOMENT DE LA CONSULTATION DE LA BASE.
* PAR EVENEMENT : cette option permet d'indiquer un événement (par exemple, l'avis du Parlement) et doit être complétée par l'intervalle de temps au cours duquel s'est produit l'événement. Par exemple, si on sélectionne les avis du PE donnés entre le 01/09/93 et 31/09/93, les avis donnés au cours de la session de septembre s'afficheront.
* PAR NUMÉRO ET TYPE DE PROCEDURE (exemple : COD0495) : rappelons que pour les procédures qui ont débuté après le 01/01/94, la référence à l'année précède le numéro. Exemple : COD94009.
Les différents codes de types de procédure sont :
COD = codécision - SYN = coopération - CNS = consultation - AVI = avis conforme - COS = document pré-législatif.
* PAR MOT-CLE : la recherche peut se faire sur la base d'un ou plusieurs mots significatifs du titre de la proposition.

Il est conseillé de n'utiliser qu'un seul critère à la fois et d'affiner la recherche si le nombre de procédures sélectionnées est trop important.

Choix 5 - AGENDA INTERINSTITUTIONNEL : faute d'une alimentation régulière des informations par les autres institutions, cette rubrique ne sera alimentée qu'à partir du 01/09/1994.

Autre option en cours de chargement : une fois à l'écran la procédure recherchée, deux options sont accessibles :
1. "voir stratégie législative" : cette option permet d'afficher le chapitre du Programme législatif auquel appartient la procédure; OPTION OPERATIONNELLE.
2. "voir travaux préparatoires" : cette option permettra d'afficher les informations se référant au stade antérieur de la procédure . Exemple : si la procédure est en cours, les informations sont relatives à la phase de préparation; si la procédure est terminée, le rappel des événements s'affichera. OPTION NON ENCORE OPERATIONNELLE.

POUR DECHARGER LES TEXTES : suivre les indications de guidage qui figurent au bas de chaque écran. Elles diffèrent selon que vous consultez la rubrique avec un simple videotex (minitel par exemple) ou avec un PC avec XFER ou en mode VT100. Avec un PC par exemple, vous pourrez récupérer l'information sélectionnée lorsqu'apparaîtra le message "pour décharger l'information taper *DOWN". Ultérieurement, il sera également possible pour les députés de demander une copie par fax de l'information sélectionnée.

Nous vous remercions par avance de vos suggestions et remarques
- soit à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessus
- soit par messagerie électronique (nom messagerie: DE CAPITANI)
- soit par voie de suggestion (choix *SUGG ou *MSG).

Procédure	Typ	Prio	In	Leg	Tec	Titre Objet	Base Jur	Resp. PE.	Rapporteur	ITER Typ	ITER Doc/Vote	ITER du	ITER JO	PREV Inst.	PREV Prévision	St	Et
CNS94070 94CM0021.01	CSN	93-128	93	L	T02676 *	Fondation européenne pour la formation - modif. règl. 1360/90	E235		THEATO Diemut (PPE)	BAS APE PRO RSI	COM(94)0021 A3-0309/94 C3-0115/94 A3-0309/94	02/02/94 06/05/94 06/05/94 06/05/94	C082 19-MAR-94			L1	09
(51) Financement																	
OLG0010	OLG	94-099	94	L	T03090	Budget pour 1995 - section III			WYNN Terence (PSE)					CCE..	C94 JUN 94 CIT JUN 94	D3	01
OLG0108	OLG	94-100	94	L	T03188	Contrôle des ressources propres : règlement CEE/CEEA/CECA/165/74 (agents mandatés;pouvoirs/obligations)								CCE..	C94 JUN 94 CIT JUN 94	D3	01
Economique																	
(211146) Protection de la sécurité																	
COD94011 93CM0646.01	COD 1	93-015	93	L	T02074 ***I	Installations à cable transportant du public	E057-p2 E100A	JACOBS Francis	CHRISTIANSEN Ejn (NI)	BAS	COM(93)0646	31/07/94	C070 08-MAR-94			D3	02
OLG0237	OLG	93-018	93	L	T02584	Harmonisation des équipements intérieurs des autobus et des autocars (inflammabilité), compl. dir. cadre 92/53/CEE		ELTING Heinz-Hermann	HARRISON Lyndon (PSE)					CCE..	C93 DEC 93 C94 MAR 94 CIT MAR 94	D3	01
OLG0250	OLG	93-022	93	L	T02600	Adaptations au progrès technique de certaines composantes des véhicules à moteur, des voitures automobiles, tracteurs		CAHEN	CHRISTIANSEN Ejn (NI)					CCE..	C93 DEC 93 C94 MAR 94 CIT MAR 94	D3	01
OLG0249	OLG	94-015	93	L	T02599	Appareils à gaz: extension du champ de la dir. 90/396/CEE aux appareils utilisant des combustibles autres que le gaz								CCE..	C93 DEC 93 C94 DEC 94 CIT DEC 94	D3	01
(211147) Loyauté des transactions																	
OLG0082	OLG	94-019	94	L	T03162	Instruments de mesurage : harmonisation des conditions de mise sur le marché (type "nouvelle approche")								CCE..	CIT DEC 94	D3	01

Annex 4: FICHE ANALYTIQUE
for the Legislation Backbone

DIRECTION GENERALE DES ETUDES

DORSALE LEGISLATIVE
Date: 6.6.1994

FICHE ANALYTIQUE

Référence: TO3136 - 222 - OLG0056

Objet: Réseau multimodal de transport transeuropéen: schéma directeur

1. **Nature de la saisine:** décision du Conseil

2. **Date attendue de la saisine:** mars 1994

3. **Commission compétente au fond:** TRAN

4. **Législation communautaire précédente:** Le 29 octobre 1993, le Conseil a adopté 3 décisions (93/628, 629, 630/CEE, J.O. L 305 du 10.12.93) concernant l'établissement des réseaux transeuropéens de transport combiné (628), des routes (629) et des voies navigables (630). En particulier le réseau de transport combiné se compose de liaisons ferroviaires et fluviales importantes pour le transport de marchandises à longue distance; les installations qui assurent les transbordements entre le rail, les voies navigables, la route et la voie maritime font également partie du réseau. La décision est applicable jusqu'au 30 juin 1995, le Conseil devant adopter une nouvelle réglementation en la matière qui entrera en vigueur au plus tard le 1er juillet 1995.

5. **Position précédente du PE:** Le PE avait déposé des amendements (P.V. provisoire du 26.10.93 p.25, pas encore publié au J.O.) visant notamment à donner un caractère prioritaire aux travaux du réseau qui se situent dans les régions relevant de l'objectif 1 des Fonds structurels et à ceux qui facilitent l'accès à ces régions; en ce qui concerne les chemins de fer, à donner la priorité à l'achèvement des lignes offrant le gabarit ainsi que les conditions et la capacité nécessaires au transport des containers et de caisses mobiles; à prévoir que les terminaux intermodaux soient établis en priorité à l'intersection des grands axes routiers et ferroviaires, à l'écart des zones métropolitaines; à demander à la Commission de présenter au plus tard le 30 juin 1994 un rapport assorti de propositions portant sur un réseau de terminaux de transbordement de marchandises, un réseau de ports et aéroports d'intérêt européen, un réseau de transport combiné de passagers.

6. **Situation dans les Etats membres:** Des projets présentés par les Etats membres seront examinés dans le cadre du groupe Christophersen et seront soumis au Conseil Européen de Corfu. Parmi les projets indiqués par le livre blanc "Croissance, compétitivité, emploi" le nº 26 est spécialement consacré au transport multimodal: il s'agit d'un "système de positionnement multimodal par satellite" qui concerne l'Allemagne, la France et l'Agence spatiale européenne avec un coût prévu de 1000 millions d'ecu. Les études sont en cours.

7. **Contenu de la législation envisagée:** Il est à souligner que le schéma directeur du transport intermodal, comme d'ailleurs les schémas directeurs d'octobre 93, sont des orientations aux termes de l'art. 129 C du Traité de l'Union; par conséquent il devrait prévoir, sur la base du premier tiret dudit article, les objectives, les priorités, les lignes principales des actions à réaliser et également indiquer les projets d'intérêt commun qui pourront bénéficier du financement communautaire.

8. **Base juridique envisagée par la Commission:** Les schémas directeurs d'octobre 93 avaient comme base juridique les articles 75 et 89 du Traité.

9. **Documentation et sources:** Les décisions citées au point 4; le Livre Blanc "Croissance, compétitivité, emploi"; Communication de la Commission sur le développement futur de la politique commune des transports (COM/92/494); Communication de la Commission concernant le développement des orientations pour le réseau transeuropéen du transport (COM/93/701); Résolution du PE sur le développement futur de la politique commune des transports (A3-390/93).

10. **Recherches complémentaires:** La DG IV est en train d'élaborer un document de travail sur "Le financement des réseaux transeuropéens de transport".

Annex 5:
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURE
complete print from EPOQUE

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Complete print - procedure 1 of 1

Procedure number :SYN0398
Title :Air pollution by motor vehicles
Session doc number:C3-0184/92
COM reference no. :COM/92/0064
OJ no., reference :C100 , 22 April 1992 , P007
COM reference no. :COM/92/0553
OJ no., reference :C022 , 26 January 1993 , P012
Date consult. :24 April 1992
Legal refs. :E100A

--- First reading EP ---

Committee resp. R1:Comm. on Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
Rapptr cte resp R1:VITTINGHOFF KURT
Date rapptr apptR1:22 May 1992
Adopted on :25 September 1992
Cttee. opinion R1 :Comm. on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy
Drftsmn cte opinR1:PIERROS FILIPPOS
Cttee. opinion R1 :Comm. on Transport
Drftsmn cte opinR1:DIJK P. (NEL) B.M. VAN
Session doc number:A3-0279/92

--- Vote proposal ---

Result vote motion:Adopted as amended
Date of decision :29 October 1992
OJ no., decision :C305 , 23 November 1992

--- Vote resolution ---

Result vote res. :Adopted as amended
Date of decision :29 October 1992
OJ no., decision :C305 , 23 November 1992 , P095 , P120

--- Amended proposal ---

Ref, amnded prop :COM/92/0553
OJ no.,amend.prop.:C022 , 26 January 1993 , P012

--- Council"s common position ---

Session doc number:C3-0041/93
Ref. common pos. :4063/1/93
Common pos.rcvd. : 8 February 1993
Forwarded :10 February 1993
Deadline, EP :10 May 1993
Decision code :Approved
Date of decision :26 May 1993
OJ no., decision :C176 , 28 June 1993 , P053 , P082

--- Second reading EP ---

Committee resp. R2:Comm. on Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
Rapptr cte resp R2:VITTINGHOFF KURT
Date rapptr apptR2:22 May 1992
Adopted on : 1 April 1993
Session doc number:A3-0133/93

Date tabled : 2 April 1993
Result vote res. :Adopted as amended
Date of decision :26 May 1993
OJ no., decision :C176 , 28 June 1993 , P053 , P082

--- Re-examined proposal ---

Ref reexmnd prop :COM/93/0277

--- Council decision ---

Date adoption COUN:28 June 1993
No Coun act adopt :93L0059
OJ no.Coun act ado:L186 , 28 July 1993 , P021

Type end procedure:Adopted
Date end procedure:28 June 1993

--- Resume ---

----------Paragraph 001
AIR POLLUTION BY MOTOR VEHICLES
----------Paragraph 002
SYN 398
----------Paragraph 003
COMMISSION PROPOSAL
EEC 100a
The proposal aimed to raise the standards for the vehicle categories covered by the transitional provisions of Directive 91/441 to the same level of severity as those applicable to passenger cars.
----------Paragraph 004
FIRST READING
- Position of Parliament:
The EP amendments divided the vehicles into only two categories instead of the three proposed by the Commission; it reduced the limit values applicable to category II; it separated the values for hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen; and removed the derogations for direct-injection diesel engines and low-powered vehicles. The report was adopted without debate.
- Amended Commission proposal:
The amended proposal introduced three new recitals in response to the amendments adopted by the EP; they did not however include the reduction in limit values proposed by the EP.
- Common position of the Council:
The main features were approval of the limit values and the timetable for implementation proposed by the Commission. It did however diverge from the amended proposal at certain points, in particular by giving the Member States the option of offering tax incentives for vehicles that complied with the new standards before they became compulsory and by introducing a new stage in the development of stricter emission standards.
----------Paragraph 005
SECOND READING
- Position of Parliament:
The EP reintroduced the amendments adopted at first reading that were not included in the common position. It accepted three subcategories according to reference mass for the reduction of limit values for vehicles in the N1 category although it maintained its preference for lower limit values. It also presented a new amendment to the effect that vehicles in categories II and III should be amalgamated into a single category from 31 December 1994.
- Position of the Commission:
The Commission accepted two of the amendments: the one introducing a new stage in devising stricter standards for light goods vehicles and the option

of amalgamating vehicle categories II and III and the one removing the operating cycle at limited maximum speed for low-powered vehicles.
- Re-examined Commission proposal:
The re-examined proposal included the two EP amendments accepted by the Commission in plenary.

----------Paragraph 006

FINAL DECISION OF THE COUNCIL

The directive adopted by the Council lays down that as from 1 October 1993 no Member State may refuse to grant EEC type-approval or prohibit the initial entry into service of motor vehicles if emissions from that type of motor vehicle meet the provisions of the directive; from 1 October 1994 Member States shall prohibit the initial entry into service of vehicles the emissions from which do not meet the requirements of the directive. The pollutant emissions from vehicles between 1250 and 1700 kg and over 1700 kg will be limited to 5.17 g/km and 6.9 g/km for carbon monoxide, 1.4 g/km and 1.7 g/km for hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, and 0.19 g/km and 0.25 g/km for particulates. Stricter limit values will be laid down by the Council before 31 December 1994 on the basis of a proposal that the Commission would submit before 31 December 1993. Member States were to bring into force the national provisions to comply with the directive by 30 September 1993.

----------Paragraph 007

ASSESSMENT

The directive adopted by the Council largely followed the common position and included the amendment (accepted by the Commission) removing the separate limit values for the type-approval and control of conformity of production from the date of entry into force of future limit values; with regard to the amalgamation of vehicle classes II and III into a single category at the next stage, the Council only envisaged the possibility, subject to an appropriate technical assessment.

END OF REPORT

LIST NUMBER 547 PAGE 0001

Annex 6:
FACTSHEET
printed from EPOQUE

++++++++++++++++++ DOCUMENT 0001 OF 0001
Document type :FT
Fact sheet ref no :4.3.2
Title :AIR POLLUTION (A)
EUROVOC descriptor:atmospheric pollution
atmospheric pollutant
motor vehicle
Community environment policy:
combustion gases
pollution control
technical standard
motor car
commercial vehicle
motor fuel
VERS -01:
Date lang.version :19930201
Language version :ES IT NL DE FR DA PT EN EL
Full text :

GENERAL INFORMATION: Atmospheric pollutants, which enter the air from a wide variety of sources, can be subdivided into three broad categories:
- Emissions which are mainly due to transport. In addition to CO2, the most important are: nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbons (HC). High concentrations of these gases and of pollutants arising from them through chemical reactions in the atmosphere or in the soil are harmful to human health, corrode various materials and damage vegetation, have a detrimental effect on agricultural and forestry production and cause unpleasant smells.
- Greenhouse gases. The most important are: carbon dioxide (CO2), chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and methane.
- Of the remaining gases, sulphur dioxide (SO2) is the most important.

EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORT SECTOR: The main emissions caused by motor traffic are nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO), accounting for 58%, 50% and 75% respectively of all such emissions. Whilst emission levels in the economically more developed countries have increasingly stabilised, they are continuing to rise in the less developed countries. Community directives establishing stricter standards for the emission of pollutants by motor vehicles have had positive results, but the progress achieved to date is threatened by the rising number of vehicles on the road and vehicle use. The past four years have seen fuel consumption in the Community increase by 1.5% a year. In the Netherlands, which has the highest concentration of motor vehicles per square kilometre, private motor vehicle usage is set to increase by 70% in the next twenty years. An even greater increase can be expected in the industrializing countries. As a result it is estimated that hydrocarbon emissions will increase by 10% by the end of the century. Directives have been adopted at Community level in order to limit pollution due to transport, setting maximum emission limits for vehicles and other sources of pollution and introducing tax measures in the transport sector aimed at encouraging the consumer to act in a more environmentally friendly manner.
Basic Directive 70/220/EEC on motor vehicle emissions has been continually adjusted to the latest technological developments. Current legislation may be summarized as follows:
(a) light commercial vehicles
On 26 June 1991 the EC Council of Ministers adopted the consolidated Emissions Directive 91/441/EEC (OJ L 242, 30.8.1991). This directive particularly concerns passenger vehicles with a maximum capacity of six

passengers and a maximum mass of 2500 kg and regulates both tailpipe emissions (including a durability test) and evaporative emissions.
The control of emission levels is based on an improved European test procedure which includes an extra-urban cycle. In contrast to previous directives, common limit values for gaseous emissions were set for vehicles with petrol engines and for vehicles with diesel engines, irrespective of engine power.
Table 1: Limit values set by Directive 91/441/EEC:

	For vehicle-type approval (g/km)	For conformity of production checks (g/km)
CO	2.72	3.16
HC + NOx	0.97	1.13
Particles	0.14	0.18
Evaporative emissions	2.0g/test	2.0g/test

The new maximum values came into force on 1 July 1992 for new vehicle type approvals and on 31 December 1992 for the initial entry into service of vehicles.
The following maximum values (g/km) will remain valid until 1 July 1994 for light commercial vehicles with diesel engines equipped with direct fuel injection:
CO 2.72
HC + NOx 1.36
Particles 0.19.
After that date the maximum values set out above will apply.
This Directive, which came into force towards the end of 1992, has introduced significantly lower limit values (25 to 50% reduction according to vehicle class). The limit values for CO, HC, NOx and particle emissions broadly correspond to the values in force in the USA. It is hoped that by the end of 1992 emission levels from cars will be reduced by 80 to 90% by comparison with levels in 1970.
The above-mentioned directive provides for new limit values from 1996. These have been submitted by the Commission in its proposal COM(92) 572 of 23 December 1992 [1] and are currently being considered by Parliament. It was deemed expedient to set different limit values for vehicles with petrol and diesel engines respectively from 1996.
The following limit values are proposed:
Table 2: Proposed limit values for petrol engines from 1996

	CO	HC + NOx
Petrol engines	2.2 g/km	0.5 g/km

Table 3: Proposed limit values for diesel engines from 1996

Diesel engines	CO	HC + NOx	Particles
Indirect injection (IDI)	1.0 g/km	0.70 g/km	0.08 g/km
Direct injection (	1.0 g/km	0.90 g/km	0.10 g/km

DI)

The new limit values are to come into force on 1 January 1996 for new vehicle-type approvals and on 1 January 1997 for the initial entry into service of vehicles. At the suggestion of Parliament, the Commission has eliminated the distinction between type approval and conformity of production checks in its proposal.

b) Heavy goods vehicles

On 1 October 1991 the Council of Ministers adopted Directive 91/542/EEC (OJ L 295, 25.10.1991), pursuant to which limit values for gaseous emissions and particulate pollutants from diesel engines and other heavy goods vehicles are to be reduced in two stages [2].

Table 4: Limit values for heavy goods vehicles (stage 1)

	Values for vehicle-type approval (g/kWh)	Values for conformity of production checks (g/kWh)
CO	4.5	4.9
HC	1.1	1.23
NOx	8.0	9.0
Particles	0.36	0.4

The stage 1 limit values are applicable from 1 July 1992 for new vehicle-type approvals and from 1 October 1993 for the initial entry into service of vehicles.

Table 5: Limit values for heavy goods vehicles (stage 2)

The following stage 2 values are applicable from 1 October 1995 for new type approvals and from 1 October 1996 for the initial entry into service of vehicles.

	Values for vehicle-type approval (g/kWh)	Values for conformity of production checks (g/kWh)
CO	4.0	4.0
HC	1.1	1.1
NOx	7.0	7.0
Particles	0.15	0.15*

* Limit values for particulate pollutants for engines with a maximum power output of 85 kW are multiplied by a coefficient of 1.7.

c) Light commercial vehicles (maximum mass 3 500 kg) and heavy vehicles designed to carry more than six occupants

These vehicles (engine categories M and N; M1 and N1) are covered by Commission proposal COM(92) 64 of 19 March 1992 [3] on which a common position has since been agreed by the Council (C3-0041/93 of 1 February 1993).

It continues to categorize vehicles taking account of differences in power and design:

Class I : reference mass equal to or less than 1250 kg

Class II : reference mass more than 1250 kg but not more than 1700 kg

Class III : reference mass more than 1700 kg.

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Table 6: Proposed limit values for light commercial vehicles

Class	Vehicle-type approval			Conformity of production		
Emissions g/km	CO	HC+NOx	Particle	CO	HC+NOx	Particle*
Class I	2.72	0.97	0.14	3.16	1.13	0.18
Class II	5.17	1.40	0.19	6.0	1.6	0.22
Class III	6.9	1.7	0.25	8.0	2.0	0.29

* Diesel engines only

The European Parliament has proposed stricter values for some emissions, particularly for hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS: There are currently no EC limit values for motorcycle and moped exhausts. However, the Commission is currently drawing up limit values taking UN-ECE regulations as a guide.

LEAD IN PETROL: In March 1985 the Environment Ministers agreed on the compulsory introduction of unleaded petrol from October 1989 (Directive 85/210) [4]. At the same time provision was made for the lead content of petrol to be reduced from 0.40 g/l to 0.15 g/l. In July 1987 the Ministers went a step further by authorizing Member States to prohibit the sale of regular leaded petrol (Directive 87/416) [5]. To date, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg have taken advantage of this provision. Sales of leaded petrol in the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands have fallen as a result of tax incentives. With the exception of Portugal and Greece, all Member States have reduced lead content to 0.15 g/l. The limit values in Portugal remains at 0.4 g/l, whereas Greece applies two limit values: 0.4 /l for leaded petrol and 0.15 g/l for other petrol.

SULPHUR IN GAS OIL: At its sitting on 19 November 1992, the European Parliament called for a significant reduction in the sulphur content of gas oil. The reduction in sulphur content of diesel fuel to 0.2% should, contrary to the Commission proposal, become effective as early as 1 April 1994. The reduction to 0.05% should follow on 1 April 1996 instead of 1 October 1996, and after 1 October 1999 only fuel with a sulphur content not exceeding 0.02% should be permissible.

EPOQUE REFERENCES:
[1] Cooperation Procedure: SYN0240
[2] Cooperation Procedure: SYN0272
[3] Cooperation Procedure: SYN0398
[4] Cooperation Procedure: SYN0033
[5] Consultation Procedure: CSA0047

LIST NUMBER 201 PAGE 0001

Annex 7:
RESOLUTION
printed from EPOQUE

++++++++++++++++++ DOCUMENT 0001 OF 0001
Registration type :DOC
Internal number :0107858
Ex doc no (DB) :116054
Family code :RE
Document type :DS
Ref resolution :A3-0133/93
Procedure number :SYN0398
Title :Decision on the common position established by the Council with a view to the adoption of a directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (C3-0041/93 - SYN 398)
Lang transl pres :FR DA DE EN ES IT NL PT EL
Lang full text :DA DE EN ES FR IT NL PT EL
Main descriptors :motor vehicle
atmospheric pollution
EUROVOC descriptor:motor vehicle
atmospheric pollution
approximation of laws
motor vehicle pollution
fight against pollution
environmental protection
technical regulations
commercial vehicle
combustion gases
European standard
harmonization of standards
motor industry
Indexing lang :FR
Parliamentary year:93
Electoral term :3
Date of decision :19930526
OJ no., decision :C176
Date OJ decision :19930628
OJ page,decision :P082
Date text updated :19931019
Entry date :19930602
Date last updated :19931019
Last transfer :19931019
Enter oper mailcd :CIGI
Update oper mailcd:BATS
Full text :
(Cooperation procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,
- having regard to the common position of the Council (C3-0041/93 - SYN 398),
- having regard to its opinion delivered at first reading [OJ No. C 305, 23. 11.1992, p. 116] on the Commission proposal (COM(92)0064),
- having regard to the amended Commission proposal (COM(92)0553) [OJ No. C 22, 26.1.1993, p. 12],
- having regard to the relevant provisions of the EEC Treaty and its Rules of Procedure,
1. Amends the common position as set out below;
2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and Commission.

(Amendment No. 1)
Recital 10
*** {proposed text}
Whereas the work undertaken by the Commission in this field has shown that Community industry has available, OR IS CURRENTLY PERFECTING, technologies which allow the vehicles concerned BY THIS DIRECTIVE to comply with standards which are as severe as those for passenger cars TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF SUCH VEHICLES; whereas the proposed standards should be implemented as soon as possible in order to ensure the consistency of the measures taken by the Community against air pollution by road traffic,
*** {amended text}
Whereas the work undertaken by the Commission in this field has shown that Community industry has available technologies which allow the vehicles concerned to comply with standards which are as severe as those for passenger cars; whereas the proposed standards should be implemented as soon as possible in order to ensure the consistency of the measures taken by the Community against air pollution by road traffic,

(Amendment No. 2)
ARTICLE 4, third and fourth paras (new)
*** {amended text}
MOTOR VEHICLES OF CATEGORIES II AND III SHALL BE AMALGAMATED INTO A SINGLE CATEGORY WITH EFFECT FROM THAT APPLICATION DATE.
THE INCREASED LIMIT VALUES FOR PRODUCTION COMPLIANCE (PRESENT TABLE 7.1.1. OF THIS DIRECTIVE) SHALL CEASE TO APPLY FROM THAT DATE.

(Amendment No. 3)
ANNEX (-1) (new)
Annex I(1) (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
*** {amended text}
-1. PARAGRAPH 1 TO READ:
"1. SCOPE
THIS DIRECTIVE SHALL APPLY TO THE TAILPIPE EMISSIONS, EVAPORATIVE EMISSIONS, EMISSIONS OF CRANKCASE GASES AND THE DURABILITY OF ANTI-POLLUTION DEVICES FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH POSITIVE IGNITION ENGINES, AND TO THE TAILPIPE EMISSIONS AND DURABILITY OF ANTI-POLLUTION DEVICES FOR VEHICLES OF CATEGORIES M1 AND N1(1) EQUIPPED WITH COMPRESSION IGNITION ENGINES COVERED BY ARTICLE 1 OF DIRECTIVE 70/220/EEC AS AMENDED BY DIRECTIVE 83/351/EEC(2.)"

(1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEFINITION IN ANNEX I (0.4) OF DIRECTIVE 70/156/EEC (OJ NO. L 42, 23.2.1970, P.1).
(2) OJ NO. L 197, 20.7.1983, P.1.

(Amendment No. 4)
ANNEX (8)
Annex I (5.3.1.4) - Table (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
Common position of the Council

Category of vehicle	Reference mass	Limit values		
		Mass of carbon monoxide	Combined mass of hydrocarbon and oxides of nitrogen	Mass of particulates (1)
	RW (kg)	L1 (g/km)	L2 (g/km)	L3 (g/km)

M(2)	All	2.72	0.97	0.14
N1(3)	RW < 1250	2.72	0.97	0.14
	1250 < RW < 1700	5.17	1.4	0.19
	1700 < RW	6.9	1.7	0.25

(1) For compression ignition engines.
(2) Except: - vehicles designed to carry more than six occupants including the driver,
- vehicles whose maximum mass exceeds 2 500 kg.
(3) And those category M vehicles which are specified in note 2.

Text amended by Parliament

Category of vehicle	Reference mass	Limit values		
		Mass of carbon monoxide	Combined mass of hydrocarbon and oxides of nitrogen	Mass of particulates (1)
	RW (kg)	L1 (g/km)	L2 (g/km)	L3 (g/km)
M(2)	All	2.72	0.97	0.14
N1(3)	RW < 1250	2.72	0.97	0.14
	1250 < RW < 1700	3.4	1.21	0.175
	1700 < RW	5.17	1.4	0.19

(1) For compression ignition engines.
(2) Except vehicles designed to carry more than six occupants including the driver.
(3) And those category M vehicles which are specified in note 2.

(Amendment No. 5)
ANNEX (13)
Annex I (6.1.1.) (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
*** {proposed text}
13. ITEM 6.1.1 READS AS FOLLOWS:
"6.1.1 VEHICLE TYPES OF DIFFERENT REFERENCE MASSES
*** {amended text}
13. PARAGRAPH 6.1: "TAILPIPE EMISSION RELATED EXTENSIONS" (TYPE I AND TYPE II TESTS) IS DELETED.
*** {proposed text}
6.1.1.1 APPROVAL GRANTED TO A VEHICLE TYPE MAY BE EXTENDED ONLY TO VEHICLE TYPES OF A REFERENCE MASS REQUIRING THE USE OF THE NEXT HIGHER EQUIVALENT INERTIA OR ANY LOWER EQUIVALENT INERTIA.
6.1.1.2 IN THE CASE OF VEHICLES OF CATEGORY N1 AND VEHICLES OF CATEGORY M REFERRED TO IN NOTE 2 OF SECTION 5.3.1.4, IF THE REFERENCE MASS OF THE VEHICLE TYPE FOR WHICH EXTENSION OF APPROVAL IS REQUESTED REQUIRES THE USE OF A FLYWHEEL OF EQUIVALENT INERTIA LOWER THAN THAT USED FOR THE VEHICLE TYPE ALREADY APPROVED, EXTENSION OF THE APPROVAL IS GRANTED IF THE MASSES OF THE POLLUTANTS OBTAINED FROM THE VEHICLE ALREADY APPROVED ARE WITHIN THE LIMITS

LIST NUMBER 201 PAGE 0004

PRESCRIBED FOR THE VEHICLE FOR WHICH EXTENSION OF THE APPROVAL IS REQUESTED."

(Amendment No. 6)
ANNEX (14)
Annex I (7.1.1) - Table (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
Common position of the Council

Category of vehicle	Reference mass RW (kg)	Limit values – Mass of carbon monoxide L1 (g/km)	Combined mass of hydrocarbon and oxides of nitrogen L2 (g/km)	Mass of particulates L3 (g/km)
M	All	3.16	1.13	0.18
N1	RW < 1250	3.16	1.13	0.18
	1250 < RW < 1700	6.0	1.6	0.22
	1700 < RW	8.0	2.0	0.29

Text amended by Parliament

Category of vehicle	Reference mass RW (kg)	Limit values – Mass of carbon monoxide L1 (g/km)	Combined mass of hydrocarbon and oxides of nitrogen L2 (g/km)	Mass of particulates L3 (g/km)
M	All	3.16	1.13	0.18
N1	RW < 1250	3.16	1.13	0.18
	1250 < RW < 1700	3.95	1.41	0.20
	1700 < RW	6.0	1.6	0.22

(Amendment No. 7)
ANNEX (15), THIRD INDENT
Annex I(8.3) (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
*** {proposed text}
"8.3 For vehicles of category M1 up to 1 July 1994 for type-approval and up to 31 December 1994 for the initial entry into service, and FOR VEHICLES OF CATEGORY N1 UP TO 1 OCTOBER 1994 FOR TYPE-APPROVAL AND UP TO 1 OCTOBER 1995 FOR THE INITIAL ENTRY INTO SERVICE, the limit values for the combined mass of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides and for the mass of particulates of vehicles fitted with compression ignition engines of the direct-injection type are those obtained by multiplying the values L2 and L3 in the tables in 5.3.1.4

(type approval) and 7.1.1.1 (conformity check) by a factor of 1.4."
*** (amended text)
"8.3 For vehicles of category M1 AND N1 up to 1 July 1994 for type-approval and up to 31 December 1994 for the initial entry into service, the limit values for the combined mass of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides and for the mass of particulates of vehicles fitted with compression ignition engines of the direct-injection type are those obtained by multiplying the values L2 and L3 in the tables in 5.3.1.4 (type approval) and 7.1.1.1 (conformity check) by a factor of 1.4."

(Amendment No. 8)
ANNEX (16), SECOND INDENT
Annex III (2.3.1) third paragraph (new) (Directive 70/220/EEC as amended by Directive 91/441/EEC)
*** (proposed text)
"FOR vehicles of category N1 with a maximum power to weight ratio of no more than 30 Kw/t and a maximum speed not exceeding 130 km/h, THE MAXIMUM SPEED OF THE EXTRA-URBAN CYCLE (PART TWO) IS LIMITED TO 90 KM/H."
*** (amended text)
"Vehicles of category N1 with a maximum power to weight ratio of no more than 30 Kw/t and a maximum speed not exceeding 130 km/h, WHICH DO NOT ATTAIN THE ACCELERATION AND MAXIMUM SPEED VALUES REQUIRED IN THE OPERATING CYCLE, MUST BE OPERATED WITH THE ACCELERATOR CONTROL FULLY DEPRESSED UNTIL THEY ONCE AGAIN REACH THE REQUIRED OPERATING CURVE. DEVIATIONS FROM THE OPERATING CYCLE MUST BE RECORDED IN THE TEST REPORT."

Annex 8

of

"Management and Diffusion of Parliamentary Documents
and the
Computerized Monitoring of the Legislative Process"

Database Descriptions

for

EPOQUE

OVIDE

EPISTEL

INFO92

APC

CELEX

SCAD

RAPID

ABEL

CATEL

downloaded from BASES

(Commission's database on databases)

EPOQUE = European Parliament Online QUEry system

European Parliament documentary database containing:
1) references for all the documents compiled or examined by the European Parliament and for studies produced by the European Parliament and the national parliaments;
2) the European Parliament Library catalogue;
3) legislative procedures: references and stages reached.

Types of document:
- session documents (motions for resolutions, consultation reports, own-initiative reports, budget reports, Commission proposals, transfers of appropriations etc.);
- parliamentary questions (oral questions with debate, oral questions without debate, questions at Question Time, written questions);
- debates and speeches;
- resolutions (adopted);
- Library catalogue;
- parliamentary studies.

Types of information provided:
- parliamentary documents:
  number of session document, EP number, title, rapporteur (name, country, group), date tabled, decision date, date of reply, descriptors, OJ references etc.;
- debates:
  title, documents examined, speakers (name, country, group), descriptors, date started and ended;
- studies:
  title, author, descriptors;
- works in the Library catalogue:
  title, author, publication date, descriptors, publisher, ISBN;
- parliamentary procedures: stages reached in legislative procedures.

With the exception of the texts of written questions, the database contains neither the full text nor a summary of the documents.

The documents are indexed using the EUROVOC thesaurus.

Future developments:
- dissemination of information on all legislative procedures;
- full text of certain types of document in EPOQUE;
- transfer into EPOQUE of information contained in the REPERE database (which contains petitions addressed to the European Parliament);
- incorporation of fact sheets published by the Directorate-General for Research.

Sources: DGs I, II and IV (Library and the Division for "Documentary databases, data processing applications and indexes of debates") of the European Parliament.

Language(s): As far as possible, multilingual input of the various documents. Menu-assisted searches available in 8 languages.

Creation date: 1987.

Period covered:
. session documents: July 1979 onwards,
. parliamentary questions: March 1983 onwards,
. debates and speeches: March 1985 onwards,
. resolutions: November 1986 onwards,
. Library catalogue: 1983 onwards,
. parliamentary studies: 1983 onwards.
Certain documents (resolutions) are still being entered for earlier periods.

Size: +/- 100 000.

Growth rate: 10 000 to 15 000 per year.

Updating: daily (in the evening).

Hardware: Siemens at the European Parliament in Luxembourg.

Query language: CCL and menu-guided search.

Users: EC and national institutions, EDCs, and subscribers to EUROBASES on request.

Access: - via a terminal linked to the European Parliament network;
- via any teletype or teletype compatible, in particular a PC with modem, through the X25 (LUXPAC) public network;
- via the European Parliament's OVIDE videotex system.

User aids/documentation:
EPOQUE User Manual (available in the nine Community languages to assist in searches: part I);
EPOQUE User Guide (for CCL interrogation) available in French, English and German;
on-line access to the EUROVOC thesaurus as part of CCL interrogation (RELATE command);
EPOQUE brochure (general information);
training course on consulting the database.

Related products/services:
off-line printouts;
profiles (selective dissemination of information).

Database producer: European Parliament.

contact:
DG4C, Division for documentary Databases, EDP Applications and Analytical tables of Debates
Schuman 3/75
EP Luxembourg
L-2929 Luxembourg
Tel. + 352 4300-2308
Fax. + 352 439317

OVIDE = Organisation du VIdeotex pour le Depute Europeen

Information and communication service for the priority use of the Members, officials and agents of the European Parliament:

i) information dissemination services:
   1) the calendar and the agendas of the meetings of the different bodies of the European Parliament,
   2) the Who's Who and the electronic directory of the European Parliament,
   3) the EPISTEL database (see the specific description sheet), the electronic press information service of the European Parliament,
   4) generic information services on the construction of Europe and the functioning of the European Institutions,
   5) practical information about the connections between the three working places and the capitals, about Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg;

ii) communication services:
   1) an electronic mail service with advanced facilities of file exchange,
   2) electronic forms allowing the submission of requests electronically such as document ordering;

iii) giving access in transparent mode to EC databases such as EPOQUE, EUROBASES and ECHO.

Access to the different services and facilities is dependent on the user profile and the related authorisations.

Developments in progress:
the European legislative observatory on the level of progress of European legislation,
information services on the publications of the Office of Publications of the European Communities,
tables of contents of the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Other services hosted by OVIDE:
the minitel service named CEE operated by the Offices in France of the European Parliament and of the Commission of the European Communities, accessible via the Teletel kiosks 3615 and 3616, is hosted on the OVIDE server and presents a general public view of the OVIDE service.

Sources: all the Directorates General of the European Parliament in cooperation with services of the other Institutions.

Language(s): the information is available usually in four languages: English, French, German, Italian; menu-assisted searches are available in these four languages.

Creation date: 1990.

Period covered: the information stored is by nature urgent, rapidly obsolete and then frequently updated; an historical archive is available online for about three months.

Size: about 50 specific information services give access either to

structured data (e.g. the electronic directory) or textual data (e.g. the EPISTEL database).

Updating: daily by automatic file transfer from the information production systems of the European Parliament.

Hardware: EDS-SCICON Bull.

Query language: menu-guided user interface.

Users: in addition to the Members, officials and agents of the European Parliament, under specific conditions, Community Institutions, accredited journalists, opinion formers.

Access: online, free of charge,
via EPINET, the data transmission network of the European Parliament;
via the public data transmission networks (W25);
via the national Videotex services;
via the public switched telephone network.

User aids/Documentation:
online help and guidance facilities (help pages and prompting messages, standardised screen structure);
the OVIDE general brochure in English, French, German and Italian;
the Email user manual in English and French.

Related products/services:
download on PC of the information units available on the service by KERMIT file transfer.

Service producer and editor: European Parliament.

Persons responsible:

Operation: Mr Pierre JEGU
Directorate for Data Processing
and Telecommunications
European Parliament
L-2929 LUXEMBOURG
Tel + 352 43002285
Fax + 352 43004916

Editing: Mr Jacques RAYBAUT
Directorate General of the
Translation and General Services
European Parliament
L-2929 LUXEMBOURG
Tel + 352 43002475
Fax + 352 435578

Help desk: BRUSSELS
Tel + 32 2 2842863
Fax + 32 2 2849001

EPISTEL = EP Press Information System by TELecom

EPISTEL was designed to disseminate information on Parliament's work to accredited journalists and other opinion-formers, as well as to supply MEPs with news which has appeared or is to appear in the print media.

SECTIONS OF EPISTEL:

INFO-MEMO
This contains:
releases drafted immediately after meetings of committees and delegations,
the agendas for the following week's meetings of parliamentary committees and delegations, together with the agenda for the next part-session,
releases from the President's Office and the political groups.
Firstly the titles are given and then, by entering the number of the title selected, the full text can be displayed.
All texts are subsequently reproduced in the INFO-MEMO newsletter; copies of this are available, however, following electronic publication.

SESSION NEWS
This contains:
the pre-session Briefing: the main topics of the next part-session, together with information on reports and rapporteurs. The information contained in this section is subsequently combined and published as, in the various languages: Avant-Premiere / Vorschau / Briefing / Clarin / Anteprima sessione / Oversigt and Perspectiva;
session news on a daily basis: information on the plenary debates as they proceed. This information is printed and distributed in Strasbourg once or twice a day. After the part-session, this summary record of the debates is published as, according to language: Le point de la session / Die Woche im EP / The Week / La Rassegna / Persverslag / Ecos de la Sesion / Rescaldo da Sessao and EP Ugen i Strasbourg.

GROUPS INFORMATION
This section is intended to contain information from the political groups.

PRESS RELEASE
This contains the recent releases from other European institutions.

ARCHIVES
All the preceding sections are purged regularly, and information is moved to the Archives section; information is stored there for a much longer period.

PRESS AGENCIES
MEPs and Parliament's senior officials can access the most recent dispatches offline from the network for the following agencies: AFP, DPA, REUTER, EFE, ANSA and BELGA (plus, in due course, AGENCE EUROPE from the REUTERS EC REPORT). Dispatches with a longer "useful life"

are stored in the Archives section.
For copyright reasons and for reasons concerning reproduction, reporters and other outside subscribers cannot access the PRESS

AGENCIES section.

Sources: all the documents contained in the EPISTEL system are input by the Press and Media Directorate of Directorate General for Information and Public Relations.
Documents drawn up:
for agency dispatches: by the News and New Technologies Service, which selects them from the agencies' networks by means of a sophisticated electronic technique designated PRIAM (computerized audiovisual and media editing program);
for INFO-MEMO, the Briefing and The Week by the central team and the nine language teams within the Central Press Division of the Press and Media Directorate.

Language(s): English, French, Italian, German.

Creation date: December 1990.

Updating: daily.

Hardware: BULL of EDS-SCICON.

Query language: menu-guided user interface.

Users: in addition to the Members, officials and agents of the European Parliament, under specific conditions, Community Institutions, accredited journalists, opinion formers.

Access: online, against payment (free of charge for accredited journalists),
via EPINET, the data transmission network of the European Parliament;
via the public data transmission networks (X25);
via the national Videotex services;
via the public switched telephone network.

User aids/Documentation: EPISTEL - Practical Guide.

Database producer: European Parliament, Directorate General for Information and Public Relations, Press and Media Directorate.

Persons responsible:
DBA: Mr Erik PEETERS
European Parliament - EAS 113
B-1047 BRUSSELS
Tel +32 2 2842931
Fax +32 2 2305808

also:
F-67070 STRASBOURG
Tel +33 88 17 29 31
Fax +33 88 17 44 60

INFO92 is a system of information which follows up Community legislation and its effects on everyday life.

Information is divided into four sectors:

1. The development of the internal market

. News update
This sector contains recent and forthcoming events (Council and European Parliament agendas) as well as a statistical table showing the follow up of legislation (number of measures adopted, submitted to the Council or already in force).

. Development of the internal market
Summaries and publication references of adopted measures concerning the development of the Internal market are to be found in this sector.

. National implementing measures
This sector gives the legal form and publication references of acts transposing Community directives into the legal systems of the Member States.

. Consolidated legislation
This sector presents codified directives (informative codification), that is to say initial directives amended by one or more subsequent modifying directives. Apart from the sectors on "Pharmaceutical products", "Foodstuffs" and "Company law", other sectors will be added progressively, namely: "The new approach in harmonization", "Chemical products" and "Taxation"

2. Community Social Policy

This sector contains summaries and publication references of measures adopted within the Community Social Policy (acts adopted under the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights for Workers, the procedure according to the social policy Protocol, programmes, networks and Observatories mentioned in the Green paper on social policy).

3. Questions/Answers

The third sector, "Questions/Answers" contains information for the general public on the practical consequences of the completion of the Internal Market.
There are fifteen main subject areas ranging from "Free movement of individuals" to "Public procurement".

4. Free movement in practice

During 1994, a fourth sector entitled "Free movement in practice" will

become available. This sector will contain practical information (living and working conditions, social security, useful addresses, etc.) for all those wishing to move within the 12 Member States, for professional or other reasons. All this information will be available for all Member States and in all Community languages.

For all these sectors, the way to search is very easy. Research is done through menus and needs no previous knowledge of computers.

Sources:
- EC Official Journal (C and L series)
- Commission and Council press releases
- Documents of the EC Commission, Council, Parliament and Economic and Social Committee

Languages: all Community languages

Creation date: June 1989 (Development of the Internal Market)
June 1991 (Social Policy)
February 1993 (Questions/Answers)
1994 (Free movement in practice)

Size: +/- 15 000 documents

Update: one or more times per day (as often as new information is received)

Hardware: SIEMENS at the CEC Computer Centre

Query language: INFOTEX

Users: public

Access: online, against payment, via the following hosts: ALPHA COMMUNICATION (ML), BENSON COMPUTER RESEARCH CORPORATION (USA), BUNDESMINISTERIUM FR WIRTSCHAFT (D), CERVED (I), CONTEXT (GB), CREDOC (B), CINTI (BU), DAN-A (B), DIALOG (SU), DEUTSCHE MAILBOX GMBH (D), EDICMAIL (GB), EUROBASES (B), GFI (D), HELKETEC (GR), ICEX (E), INFOSCAN (DK), INFOPARTNERS ITALIA (I), INFOPARTNERS ESPAA (E), ITVASLINE (IN), JOUVE (F), KINOKUNIYA (JA), KOMMUNITY KOMSERVE (SU), MANCHESTER HOST (GB), MARCONI (P), MEAD DATA CENTRAL (USA), MUNDI PRENSA (E), OSEC (SW), OUTLAW (D), RDB (A), ROY (ISR), SARITEL (I), SPRI (E), TRENDLINE (ISR)

User aids/documentation:
- General Report on the activities of the European Community (yearly)
- Annual report on the application of Community law
- Annual Report on the Internal Market
- Strategic Programme: "Making the most of the Internal Market"
- Annual report on the application of the Community Charter of Basic Social Rights for Workers
- Green Paper on European Social Policy
- INFO92 User's Manual
- Tree charts (in two volumes) reflecting the structure of the database. They allow a direct access to the documents.
- Training courses

ALL THESE DOCUMENTS EXIST IN THE NINE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

Related products/services:
printed version of the database in six volumes (annual publication);
printed version of the National implementing measures (bi-annual publication).

Database producer: Secretariat-general of the European Commission

Person(s) responsible:

DBM: Mr Henri-Pierre LEGROS
A-25 04/06
CEC Brussels
Tel (29)57796
Fax (29)58727

Help Desk: Mrs MORALES DE SETIEN
Mrs LOIZIDOU-MARASCO
A-17 04/07
Tel (29)59007
Fax (29)58727

APC = Actes Préparatoires de la Commission
(Commission Preparatory Acts)

APC is a database which monitors Commission proposals and communications forwarded to the Council until completion of the procedures by their being adopted or rejected by the Council, adopted by the European Parliament or withdrawn by the Commission.

The database contains public documents as well as all the documents transmitted to the European Parliament.

APC makes it possible to follow the main stages of the decision-making process involving the Commission and the other Community institutions. Information is provided on the work of the Commission (basic information), the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee, the Council, the Court of Auditors and the Court of Justice as well as of the different consultative organisms.

Main information provided in each documentary unit:
reference,
type,
titles,
domain(s),
dates (e.g.: date of transmission to the Council, dates relating to the document),
timetable (dates for consultation of and examination by the various institutions),
authorities (e.g.: Council = addressee for formal act),
legal basis,
references (publications etc.),
procedural information.

Sources: Community institutions involved (primarily Commission).

Language(s): French, but title in all Community languages (except Greek).

Creation date: 1984.

Period covered: 1975 onwards (plus proposals transmitted to the Council before 1975 and still pending).

Size: +/- 12 800 entries (December 1992).

Growth rate: about 950 entries per year.

Updating: weekly.

Hardware: Bull at the CEC Computer Centre.

Query language: Mistral.

Users: Community institutions and related bodies.

Access: online.

User aids/documentation:
MISTRAL user manual (available in French);
APC interrogation manual (available in French);
training courses on MISTRAL and interrogation of APC.

Training: not scheduled

Database producer: CEC Secretariat-General.

Person(s) responsible:
DBM: Mrs Nicole HUCKERT
BREY 7/186
CEC Brussels
Tel. (29)51582
Fax (29)52032

CELEX = Communitatis Europeae LEX

CELEX is the computerized interinstitutional documentation system for Community law.

CELEX covers:
1) Community legislation,
2) case law,
3) preparatory acts,
4) parliamentary questions,
5) national provisions implementing directives.

1) Community legislation:
   Treaties establishing the Communities; amending Treaties;
   Treaties of Accession and the Single Act (Sector 1);
   Agreements and other acts resulting from the Community's external relations (Sector 2);
   secondary legislation (Sector 3);
   supplementary legislation (Sector 4).
2) Case law (Sector 6):
   judgements and other rulings;
   opinions of the Advocates-General.
3) Preparatory acts (Sector 5):
   Commission proposals;
   preparatory acts under the ECSC Treaty;
   communications, reports, programmes;
   opinions of the European Parliament;
   opinions of the Economic and Social Committee;
   opinions of the Court of Auditors.
4) Parliamentary questions (Sector 9):
   questions addressed by Members of the European Parliament to the Commission or the Council (written, oral, at Question Time);
5) National provisions implementing directives (Sector 7):
   references to national provisions adopted by each Member State to comply with Community Directives.

Information provided:
a) bibliographical data: document number, sector number and year, author, legal form, etc.;
b) classification data:
   - subject-matter descriptors;
   - numerical classification codes for the document as found in the ^ZIDirectory of Community Legislation in Force;I^Z
c) dates: date of document, publication, entry into force, etc;
d) text:
   - full title of all documents;
   - full text of all Court decisions and legislation (except for acts expiring before 1 July 1979); a number of legislative texts should still be loaded.
   - summaries or descriptors for other documents;
e) cross references: references to legal bases, other acts citing the document or being cited in it, etc.

Sources:
Official Journal of the European Communities, "L" and "C" Series,

European Court Reports,
COM final documents, etc.

Language(s): Celex is available in English, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek and Italian. Portuguese and Spanish versions are in preparation.

Creation date: 1966; operational from 1971;
available to the public since 1981.

Period covered:
. Legislation: 1951 onwards;
. Commission proposals: 1984 onwards (including those pending at 1 January 1984);
. EP resolutions: 1974 onwards
. Economic and Social Committee opinions: 1975 onwards;
. Court of Auditors opinions: 1977 onwards;
. Judgements and orders: 1951 onwards;
. Opinions of Advocates-General: 1965 onwards;
. written parliamentary questions: 1963 onwards;
. oral questions: 1973 onwards;
. questions at Question Time: 1975 onwards.
For non-French versions, parliamentary documents: July 1979 onwards.

Size: +/- 135 000 entries (December 1992).

Growth rate: +/- 5000 entries per year.

Updating:
weekly: legislation;
monthly: court decisions and parliamentary questions;
variable: preparatory acts (once, twice or three times a month) and national provisions implementing Directives.

Hardware: Bull at the CEC Computer Centre.

Query language: Mistral

Users: general public.

Access: on-line, against payment, on the following hosts: EUROBASES, and also ALPHA COMMUNICATIONS (M), BISTEL (B), CEDIS (CD-ROM) (I), CERVED (I), CINTI (BG), Confindustria (I), Context (CD-ROM) (GB), Corte Suprema di Cassazione (I), CREDOC (B), Dafa Data AB (S), DAN-A (B), Dansk DIANE Center (DK), Data Star (GB), Deutsche Mailbox (D), Edicmail (GB), Edilink (I), Euridoc (E), Européenne des Donnes (F), FT Profile Information (GB), GFI (D), GVS (B), Helketec (GR), ICEX (E), Infopartners Espaa (E), Infopartners Italia (I), Internationaal Belasting Documentatie Bureau (NL), JURIS (D), Kinokuniya (J), Kommundata (S), Komunity Komserve (S), LD-Lovdata (N), Manchester Host (GB), Marconi SVA (P), Mead Data Central (USA), Ministry of Justice (SF), Mundi-Prensa (E), OSEC (CH), Outlaw (D), RCC IVEV (NL), RDB (A), ROY (IL), Scalaire (F), SDU (CD-ROM) (NL), SEAT-Saritel (I), Seidl Datenbank Service (CD-ROM) (D), Spritel (E), Swisslex (CH), Textel (P), Trendline (IL), Vestlandforsking (N), World Trade Center (P).
Not all these hosts offer the same sectors or the same services.

User aids/documentation:
Mistral User Manual available in English and French;

Celex Vademecum in English, French and Italian;
Celex manual in French;
training courses.

Related products/services:
Directory of Community Legislation in Force, published in all nine Community languages with a new edition every six months.

Database producer: all Community institutions.

Person(s) responsible:
DBM: Mr Luis MOITINHO
MER 02/208
OOPEC Luxembourg
Tel. (49928)2234

Information: CELEX
L-57 5/50
CEC Brussels
Fax (29)60624

Help Desk: Tel. (29)59576

SCAD = Community Documentation Access System
(Système Communautaire d'Accès à la Documentation)

Up to date database which contains references to:
. Community instruments and related preparatory works
. Publications of the EC institutions
. Articles from periodicals dealing with Community affairs
. Statements and opinions from the two sides of industry

Sources:
. COM documents (Commission of the European Community)
. Official Journal of the EC, C and L series
. Office for Official Publications of the EC
. Perodicals from all over the world

Languages:
. Community instruments and preparatory works: French English and German (from 1992)
. European Community publications: French, English, German and Spanish (from 1992)
. Articles from periodicals: original language, if it is one of the nine Community languages (French, Danish, Dutch, English, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish)
. Statements and opinions from the two sides of industry: French, English, German, Italian

Creation date: 1983

Period covered: from 1983 (the SCAD database has been completed to trace back all instruments and preparatory works related to the Commission's White Paper on the completion of the internal market)

Size: +/- 172 000 online references (January 1994)

Growth rate: 15 000 documents per year

Updating: weekly
Hardware: Bull at the CEC Computer Centre

Query language: Mistral

Users: public

Access: online, ageinst payment, via the hosts ALPHA COMMUNICATION (ML), CERVED (I), CONTEXT (GB), CREDOC (B), CINTI (BU), DAN-A (B), DEUTSCHE MAILBOX GMBH (D), DIALOG (SU), EDICMAIL (GB), EPMS (NL), EUROBASES (B), HELKETEC (GR), ICEX (E), INFOSCAN (DK), ILI (GB), INFOPARTNERS (L), INFOPARTNERS ITALIA (I), INFOPARTNERS ESPAA (E), ITVASLINE (IN), KINOKUNIYA (JA), KOMMUNITY KOMSERVE (SU), MANCHESTER HOST (GB), MARCONI (P), MUNDI PRENSA (E), OSEC (SW), OUTLAW (D), RDB (A), ROY (ISR), ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY (GB), REUTERS (GB), SARITEL (I), SPRI (E), TRENDLINE (ISR), VESTLANDSFORSKING (N)

User aids/documentation:
- SCAD user manual available in the nine Community languages
- Alphabetical list of keywords (French)
- Alphabetical list of periodicals

- Training courses in MISTRAL and in interrogating SCAD

Related products/services:
- Weekly SCAD bulletin
- Other publications: SCAD Bibliographies

Database producer: Secretariat-General of the European Commission

Person(s) responsible:

DBM: Mr Henri-Pierre LEGROS
A-25 04/06
CEC Brussels
Tel (29)57796
Fax (29)58727

Help Desk: Mrs MORALES DE SETIEN
Mrs LOIZIDOU-MARASCO
A-25 04/07
Tel (29)59007
Fax (29)58727

RAPID is intended to give rapid access to press releases and information from the Spokesman's Service of the Commission of the European Communities.

The database contains the full text of all documents issued by the Spokesman's Service:
- press releases: short texts on events or decisions or reactions to them;
- information memos: background and summaries of Commission proposals and reports;
- memos: background information on events;
- speeches: speeches by Members of the Commission;
- key documents: important public documents such as European Council conclusions and Economic Summit communiques.

Since September 1992 press releases from the Council of Ministers of the EC are also included.

Searches can be made using any of five parameters:
document type;
document date;
keywords;
document title and text;
document number.

Sources: CEC Spokesman's Service.

Language(s): French, English and German (since 1 April 1990).

Creation date: 1985.

Period covered: 1985 onwards.

Size: +/- 12 000 documents (December 1992).

Growth rate: +/- 1 000 per year.

Updating: daily, two hours after publication.

Hardware: ICL at the CEC Computer Centre.

Query language: 1) guided interrogation (menu-guided search);
2) advanced interrogation (similar to the BASIS query language).

Users: general public.

Access: on-line, against payment, on Eurobases and on Alpha Communications (M), Benson (USA), CINTI (BG), DAN-A (B), Dansk DIANE Centre (DK), Deutsche Mailbox (D), Edicmail (GB), Helketec (GR), Infopartners Espana (E), Infopartners Italia (I), INFOTAP (L), Kinokuniya (J), Kommundata (S), Komunity Komserve (S), Manchester Host (GB), Marconi SVA (P), Mead (USA), Mundi-Prensa (E), OSEC (CH), Outlaw (D), RDB (A), Reuters Ltd (GB), ROY (IL), Spritel (E), Textel (P), Tradexport (F), Trendline (IL).

User aids/documentation:
RAPID user manual (in English, French and German).

Database producer: CEC Spokesman Service.
Person(s) responsible:

DBM: Mr Denis McCANN
BREY 06/118
CEC Brussels
Tel. (29)56332

Help Desk: Mr Johan REYNIERS
BREY 06/71
CEC Brussels
Tel. (29)56728

CATEL = ELectronic CATalogue of the Office for Official Publications of the EC.

ABEL = AmtsBlatt ELektronisch (Electronic Official Journal)

ABEL is a bibliographical database which can be used to search, select and order documents from the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Communities.

ABEL contains the tables of contents archived in the ARCDON system (optical archives). The documents are entered in the base on the day of publication of the Official Journal.

ABEL is a document delivery service of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Sources: "L" and "C" Series of the Official Journal.

Language(s): the nine Community languages.

Creation date: September 1989.
Period covered: the documents are kept in the base for 90 days.

Size: +/- 15 000 documents.

Growth rate: 50 to 300 documents per Official Journal (all languages together).

Updating: daily.

Hardware: Siemens at the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Query language: CCL.

Users: general public.

Access: on-line, against payment, under contract with the Publications Office (no ordering facility for EC institutions); also via the hosts Alpha Communications (M), DAN-A (B), Dansk DIANE Center (DK), Edicmail (G), Helketec (GR), Infopartners Espaa SL (E), Infopartners Italia (I), Kinokuniya (J), Kommundata (S), Komunity Komserve (S), Mundi-Prensa (E), OSEC (CH), Outlaw (D), RDB (A), ROY (IL), Spritel (E), Stel Servizi Telematici (I), Textel (P), Tunisie Telecom Network (TN).

User aids/documentation:
User Manual (available in several languages);
training.

Related products/services:
document delivery ("L" and "C" Series of the Official Journal).

Database producer: Office for Official Publications of the EC.

Person(s) responsible:
DBM: Mr John MORTIER
MER 129
OPOCE Luxembourg
Tel. + 352 499282563
Fax + 352 407877

Help desk: M. KUELIFATI
Tel + 352 400174

CATEL is a bibliographical database from which can be searched, selected and ordered:
publications and documents of the Community institutions (CATEL part);
documents published in the Official Journal of the EC, "L" Series, and in the "C" Series (OJ part).

Sources: catalogues of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, "L" and "C" Series of the OJ.

Language(s): all nine Community languages.

Creation date: 1988.

Period covered: publications and documents: 1985 onwards.
OJ part: 1987 onwards.

Size: CATEL: +/- 70 000 documents (all 9 languages)
OJ : +/- 210 000 documents (all 9 languages).

Growth rate: CATEL: +/- 1 000 documents per month (all 9 languages)
OJ : +/- 3 000 documents per month (all 9 languages).

Updating: monthly.

Hardware: Publications Office Siemens.

Query language: CCL.

Users: Community institutions;
EDCs, Euro-Info Centres; Euro Info Points; Eurolibraries;
sales offices for official Community publications.

Access: on-line, free of charge (ordering facility not available to Community institutions).

User aids/documentation: user manual (available in several languages); training.

Related products/services: document ordering.

Database producer: Office for Official Publications of the EC.

Person(s) responsible:
DBM: Mr John MORTIER
MER 129
Publications Office
Luxembourg
Tel. + 352 499282563
Fax + 352 407877

Help desk: Mr KUELIFATI
Tel + 352 400174

PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

Annex 9

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES ÉTUDES

DIRECTION C ET CERDP

Documentary Data-Processing Applications
and Indexes of Debates Division

SEMINAR

The role of Parliaments in the genesis of Community law and its transposition into national law

Berlin Reichstag, 4 March 1994

How to develop the data processing of legislative information in the European Parliament

I. Why develop the data processing of legislative information?

The EP's involvement in legislative action starts with the submission of a proposal by the European Commission and terminates with the Council's final decision on the proposal. To strengthen its legislative role, the EP wishes to develop two major priorities:

1. Taking its legislative activity as a whole, to improve the programming of future legislation and to participate in this programming:

   The EP does not wish to be a passive recipient of the European Commission's proposals. The Commission submits each year a legislative programme which the EP wishes to examine; it wishes to exert an influence on the aspects of the subjects selected for inclusion in this programme, on the follow-up to the preceding legislative programme and on the links between these annual legislative programmes and structural objectives (White or Green Papers published by the Commission, etc.). Within this annual programme the EP wishes the programming to be organized on a quarterly basis and the legal base of each legislative proposal to be included. This agreement on the legislative programme is the subject of a joint Commission-Parliament declaration in the presence of the Council; this programme is then forwarded to the national Parliaments.

2. To improve the preparation and monitoring of each separate legislative proposal:

   For each proposal to be included in the legislative programme, the EP can start its examination before the formal submission of the proposal and can be notified subsequently of any problems in the application of this Community legislation in the Member States.

II. How to prepare for this development of legislative information: the legislative backbone

To carry out this development of legislative information the EP has established a "legislative backbone", an inter-service cooperation

L-2929 LUXEMBOURG ■ TÉL.: 352/43.00.21.18 / 21.21 ■ TÉLEX 3494 EUPARLU LU / 2894 EUPARLU LU ■ FAX: 352/43.40.71 / 43.00.25.06
F-67006 STRASBOURG CEDEX ■ TÉL.:33/88.17.41.18 / 41.21 ■ FAX: 33/88.17.49.14

structure (each service or Directorate-General being regarded as a vertebra in a chain ensuring continuous operations).

In addition to the Legal Service, three Directorates-General are mainly involved in the new structures which have been established:

- DG II for the Parliamentary Committees: responsible for the programming and coordination of legislative work by the parliamentary committees, interinstitutional consultation and conciliation phases and political relations with the Member State national parliaments (especially in the framework of CEAC, (Conference of European Affairs Committees).

- DG III for Information and Public Relations: responsible for keeping the press and the public informed of the work of the parliamentary committees and the plenary debates. This DG must engage in more systematic coverage of work so that these texts can be used in the context of the legislative backbone.

- DG IV for Research: required to orient its research programme on the basis of the legislative programme, to analyze each legislative proposal even before the Commission document is submitted and to follow up the application of the legislation.

The responsibilities of and information produced by the Legal Service and these three DGs are thus combined to produce an overall improvement in the preparation and monitoring of each legislative procedure. In terms of documentation, DG IV, in addition to adapting its research programme accordingly, has:

- undertaken an ongoing updating of the EP Fact Sheets (a publication consisting of documentary information on each field of Community policy). Hitherto, these fact sheets have been revised twice during each parliamentary term. Now, however, they are updated regularly in accordance with the progress of legislation and are available on line on the EPOQUE database;

- established a link between these Fact Sheets and the legislative procedures (each procedure refers to the corresponding fact sheet and each fact sheet refers to the principal procedures employed in this field);

- edited, for the last two years, a summary of each procedure, i.e. a text about one page long summing up the nature and effect of Parliament's action on each Commission proposal.

III. <u>What measures are being taken to improve parliamentary information?</u>

In the EP three specific actions to improve this legislative information are in progress:

- for each legislative project included in the annual programme a specific documentary fact sheet is to be drawn up giving information on existing legislation, its application in the Member States, earlier work, the position of the EP in this work, the potential objectives of the new legislation, and so on;

- the information which may be available in the EP on the application of parliamentary legislation in the Member States is to be reorganized. It will serve for the analysis of any future proposal to amend Community legislation in the area in question;

- periodic analyses of the progress of European legislation in relation to the legislative programme are to be undertaken and the impact of this legislation in the major policy areas is to be examined.

IV. <u>What information is currently available to the parliaments?</u>

1. AT EP level, three data-processing products are currently available for use by parliaments:

   - EPISTEL (in the framework of the OVIDE server) gives access to DG II publications on the work of the parliamentary committees and of the plenary;

   - OEIL or Legislative Overview (in the framework of the OVIDE server). This service gives information on the progress of the legislative programme and a summary of each stage of the procedure for each proposal being examined. This information is highly detailed and is intended for those within the parliamentary committees who are closely following the progress of these procedures;

   - the EPOQUE document database (accessible via the OVIDE server or via public data transmission networks). In addition to full information on all parliamentary activities (non-legislative activities, questions, petitions, and so on), EPOQUE provides, in the context of legislative information:

     - detailed data on each document involved in the procedures (with EUROVOC thesaurus indexing) and information on the stages completed in each procedure;
     - the summary of these procedures referred to above (since the end of 1991);
     - the full text of the Fact Sheets, plus details of their links with the procedures;
     - (since May 1993) the full text of resolutions including the text of the amendments adopted by the EP to the Commission's proposals;
     - DG IV publications relating to the legislative programme;
     - a selection of research studies published by the parliaments of Council of Europe member countries (in the framework of the ECPRD).

     The Fact Sheets, resolutions and summaries of procedures are available in the official languages on EPOQUE, while the detailed information (sometimes running to several pages per procedure) in the Legislative Overview is at present available only in the language in which it was written.

2. At the interinstitutional level, the CELEX database contains the full text of existing legislation and reference data for the Commission's proposals. In the next few months CELEX will offer the option of guided

research, which will make it easier to use. The Council's Legal Data-Processing Group, consisting of representatives of the Member States and the institutions, is examining how to improve the transmission to CELEX of information on the application of Community legislation in the Member States.

3. Of the Commission databases, INFO 92, RAPID and SCAD are particularly useful. RAPID contains information on the Commission's views and the Council's communiqués.

V. Forms of cooperation between parliaments for legislative information

There are four main ways in which cooperation between parliaments can be improved:

1. Interchange of information on the research done by each parliament

Reference data of research publications on comparative legislation are already compiled and disseminated via the EPOQUE database. This needs to reinforced and systematized and an extra stage could be added for the interchange of information on research programmes (publications in preparation).

2. Legislative fact sheet for each project

Some national parliaments already produce documentary fact sheets for each Community legislative proposal. It is necessary to determine which items of information are of common interest to national parliaments and the European Parliament for inclusion in this fact sheet and to decide to what extent this information can be jointly drawn up and made available.

3. At the level of transposition

Parliaments must bring greater pressure to bear on national administrations to get them to forward to the European Commission, for inclusion in the CELEX database, full and precise information on the measures taken to transpose Community law.

4. At CEAC level

The specialized bodies have started to exchange information on their activities. A link needs to be established between the information available at this level and the information which can be made available in the framework of the activities of the ECPRD.

VI. The two questions which developing this cooperation raises

- Development of this cooperation raises two main questions:

  - What is the value of this cooperation?
  - What means can be used to achieve it?

The value of such cooperation was the focus of the discussion at this seminar. An initial study had been carried out three years ago on the initiative of DG IV of the EP: the PIEP (Parliamentary Information

Exchange Project), which showed disparities in the information available to the national parliaments regarding Community legislative activity. It also revealed a risk of a clash of interests: the solidarity of parliaments working together on the one hand as against national solidarity between a parliament and its executive, which exchange information for their own purposes, on the other. This dilemma still faces us today.

As regards the means to achieve the objective of improved cooperation, access to on-line information has improved enormously. Attention should be drawn to the Commission proposal for a multiannual Community programme to support the implementation of trans-European networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA programme, COM(93) 69 of 12 March 1993). The IDA programme seeks to finance research aimed at establishing information interchange networks between national administrations and Community institutions, with extension to the member countries of the European Economic Area planned. It is up to the parliaments, if they so wish, to highlight at their own level the need to finance such information interchange activities as are of particular interest to them.

Francis WATTIAU

Networks in Polish Senate (transparencies)

Republic of Poland

Jarosław Deminet

SENATE
CHANCELLERY

Novell NetWare Subnetwork

SENAT1	SENAT2	SENAT3	SENAT4
NetWare 3.11	NetWare 3.11	NetWare 3.11	NetWare 3.11
Server (250 users)	Server (250 users)	Server (100 users)	Server (100 users)
486DX40, 16 MB RAM	HP NetServer 4d66	386DX33, 16 MB RAM	386DX33, 16 MB RAM
HDD 2 x 540MB	32 MB RAM, RAID 5 - 2GB	HDD 2 x 620MB	HDD 1 x 340MB

10Base2

Mailboxes

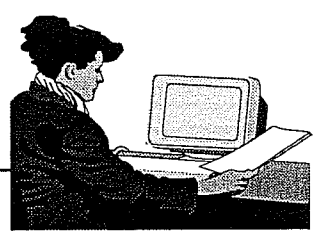
10Base2
to Sejm

Legislative Units

Administrative Units

IT & Publishing Units

Research and Analisis Units



USERS

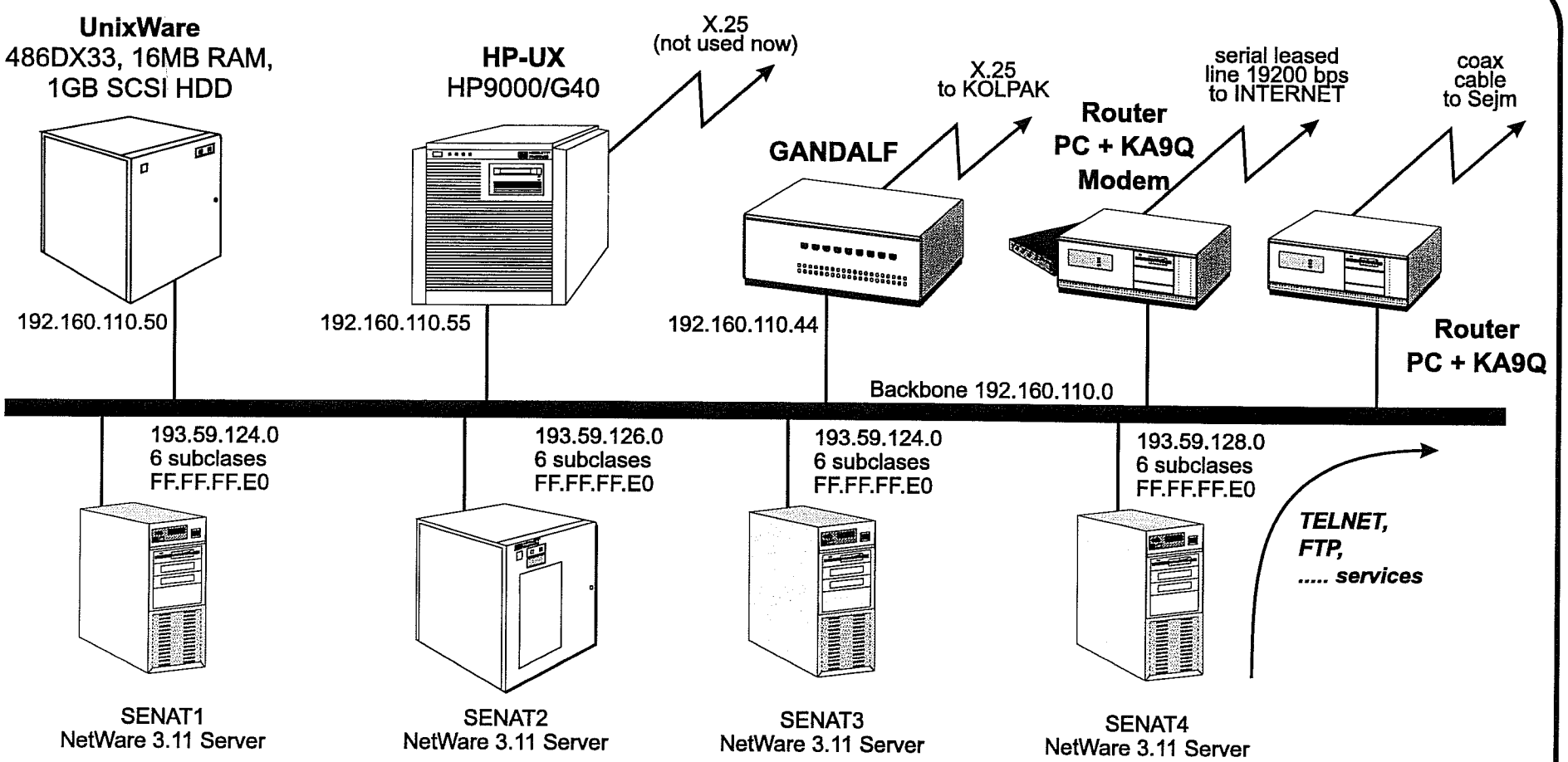
USERS

USERS

USERS

SENATE
CHANCELLERY

TCP/IP Subnetwork

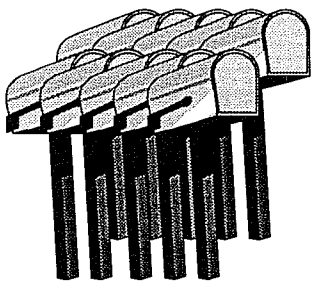


SENATE
CHANCELLERY

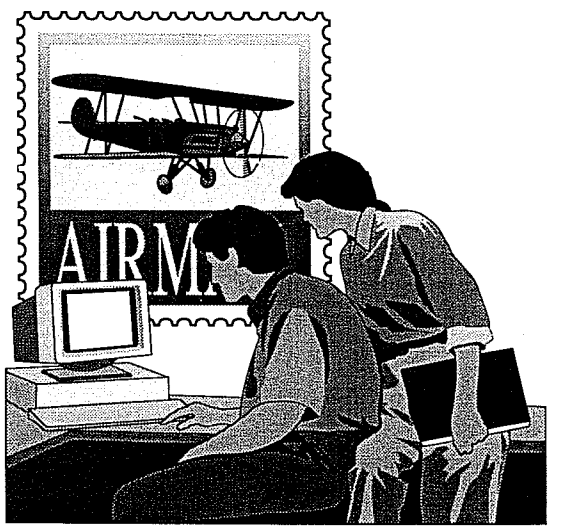
E-mail

NetWare 3.11
(SENAT2)
MERCURY.NLM

Mailbox

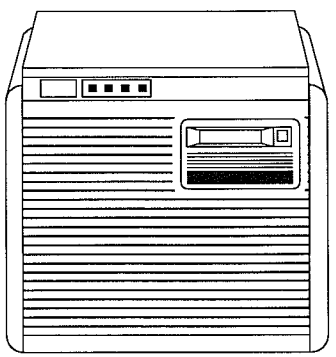


Pegasus
Mail
(DOS & Windows)



INTERNET

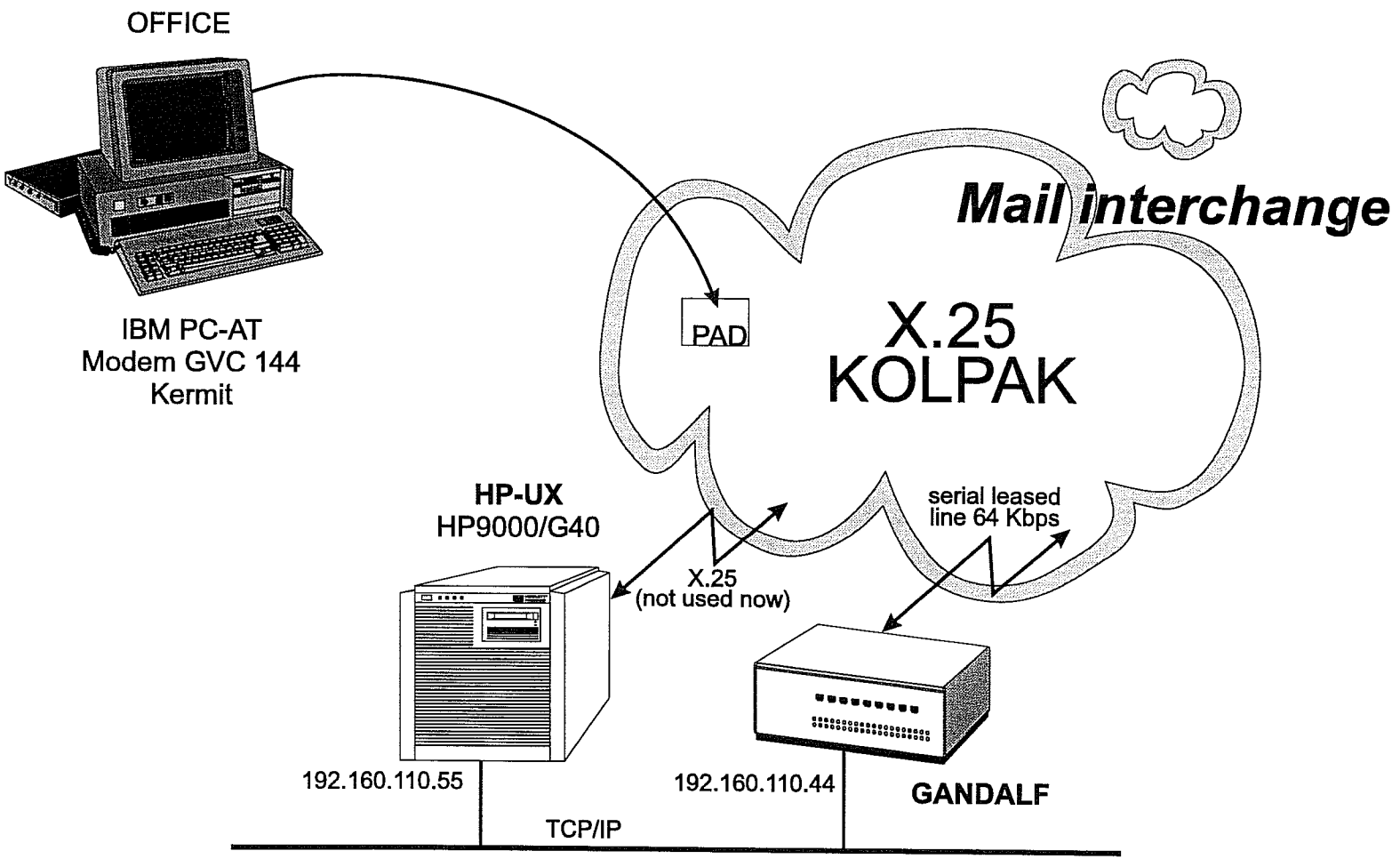
HP9000G40
HP-UX



senhp.senat.gov.pl

DEMINET@NW.SENAT.GOV.PL

District Offices (E-mail)



Republic of Macedonia

INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- Silvija Kotevska, Ministry of Science -

Information System of the Republic of Macedonia

The basic concept of the system objectives, scope and organizational aspects of the Information System of the Republic of Macedonia, was stated in the Information System Development Basis and the Information System Development Program for the period 1987-1990, acts accepted by the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia in 1987, at the time when Macedonia was still a part of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia. These documents defined the participants of the Republic Information System (the Assembly, the Government, the committees (now ministries), local authorities and public administration), and elaborated the staff requirements for carrying out the system development. In 1990 began the staffing of the Common Information Center, a department formed under the Republic Comitee of Science, Technological Development and Informatics (now Ministry of Science).

The first activities in this period were the designing of the computer - communication network of the Information System, where the technical and technological basis were defined, procurement and installation of the equipment (hardware and system software) for the first phase of the project and establishment of the data communication network.

The network consists from:

- a central system in the Common Information Center - VAX 6320, and a development system μVAX 3100
- a central system in the Republic Bureau of Statistics - UNISYS A12, a development system in the Bureau - UNISYS μA and 5 micro-systems for the local departments of the Bureau - UNISYS μA
- 5 mini-systems at the locations of concentration of several ministries - 2 μVAX 3600, 1 μVAX 3400 and 2 μVAX 3100
- 1 development system in the Ministry of Defence - UNISYS B39
- 9 mini-systems for the local authorities in the communes - μVAX 3100
- over 100 personal computers and 150 terminals.

The communication is carried out via public packet-switching network, leased lines and dial-up lines.

After the separation from Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia and the recognition of Macedonia as an independent state, enormous changes in the political, social and economic sphere, affected also the Republic Information System. A lot of the initial assumptions needed to be redefined; changes of scopes occurred; new requirements aroused. All of these present a great motivation for the further development of the Republic Information System.

Development and Operation of the Asembly Information System

The Republic Information System is divided in two main groups of subsystems:

- functional subsystems, which cover the need for specific data processing, as a support to various ministries, bureaus, agencies etc. in performing their specialized tasks and
- common subsystems:
  - the Office Automation Subsystem
  - the Information and Documentation Management Subsystem and
  - the Subsystem for Asset and Finance Registries, Salary Calculation and Personnel Records,

which are shared between all public institutions - participants of the Republic Information System.

These common subsystems are currently being invoked in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia as a support to the modernization and effectiveness of administrative office management, information and documentation exchange and management.

The Office Automation Subsystem in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

This subsystem supports the activities connected with the preparation and realization of Assembly meetings:

- registration of incoming, outgoing and internal documents (draft laws, parliament members questions, Government acts etc.)
- coordination of the internal distribution of incoming documents to competent commissions
- production of documents (agendas, minutes, opinions, reports, obligations, proposed decisions and conclusions) which result from commission meetings
- preparation of draft and proposed agenda and scenario of the Assembly meeting
- preparation of decisions, conclusions, minutes, and other acts of the Assembly.

The subsystem is based upon DEC's ALL-IN-1, which provides the functions of word and document processing, electronic messaging, desk management, time management, communication etc. Some of the existing functions were redesigned to suite the end-users needs, and others were added using ALL-IN-1 programming facilities. All interfaces to the end-user are in macedonian and use the cyrillic character set.

The Information and Documentation Management Subsystem in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

The documents produced during the process of preparation and holding of commissions and Assembly meetings, are temporarily stored in local operational bases, and can be searched and retrieved using ALL-IN-1 select and search functions.

After adoption, full text of commissions and Assembly decisions is stored in a textbase, and they can be accessed using the date/number of the meeting and/or words used in it.

Another textbase is established from full text of legal documents which end the legislative process in the Assembly.

The subsystem is based upon STATUS/E2 from Harwell Computer Power Ltd (now STATUS/IQ Ltd). Searching facilities of this product are very powerful: interrogation can range from single word, truncated word, phrase to structured questions incorporating logical and positional operators.

Text searching and retrieval is organized through question caption panels and macros, using macedonian language and cyrrilic character set, in order to provide a user-friendly environment.

Current State of the Assebly Information System

The development of the Information System of the Assembly and whole support (consulting service, training courses, technical support), is currently being provided by the Common Information Center. As the number of users and their requirements increase, organizing a specialized unit within the Assembly should be considered.

The following hardware equipment is installed at the location of the Assembly:

- 10 terminals (VT220, VT420) connected to the central system VAX 6320 in the Common Information Center
- 4 personal computers (286, 386) and
- 4 printers (9-pin, laser).

As a technical support for the initiation of the functioning of the Assembly Information System, procurement of the following equipment is planned:

- 10 terminals
- 8 personal computers (486)
- 8 24-pin printers and
- 2 laser printers.

So far, the existing equipment is used for word processing and registration of incoming, outgoing and internal documentation, which is in effect for over two years. Interrogation of the textbase of the Government decisions (established via the same subsystems, which are fully operational in the Government for almost two years) also takes place frequently. In the summer of 1993, an access to the ECHO databases was provided.

After several recently held training courses, meetings and presentations of the possibilities of the Office Automation Subsystem, the Information and Documentation Management Subsystem and the Subsystem for Asset and Finance Registries, Salary Calculation and Personnel Records, the managing structures of the Assembly and the staff show increased interest for invoking the information technology in forming, managing and using information, required to accomplish modern and efficient work of the Assembly.