



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 31 August 2012**

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**NOTE**

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from: Presidency  
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Subject: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending  
Directive 2003/98/EC on re-use of public sector information

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In view of the Telecommunications Working Party on 7 September, delegations will find at Annex I a Presidency draft on the above proposal.

Annex II comprises the consolidated version of Directive 2003/98/EC with the proposed changes. Changes proposed by the Commission as part of the proposal (doc. 18555/11) are in *italics*.

Changes compared to the proposal (doc. 18555/11), up to and including those in document DS 1315/12, are in **bold** (and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~),

The changes since the last version (document DS 1315/12) are in **bold underlined** (and deletions in ~~strikethrough underlined~~).

The proposed changes reflect the discussions held in the Working Party on 20 July that focused on the set of questions addressed to delegations in the document 12237/12 and the delegations' written comments on the same. They also take into account the concerns raised during the discussion of doc. DS 1315/12 in the Working Party and the ensuing discussions at the TTE Council of 8 June.

Besides improving the readability of the text, the main proposed changes, some of which build on what was already introduced in DS 1315/12, aim at:

- Providing the Member States with the possibility of future, non-binding, Commission guidelines that could provide clarification or guidance on the marginal costs and other charging issues: Recital 18 and Article 6(6).
- Further clarifying the role of the 'impartial review body' with powers of review, and making it distinct from an 'appropriate body' or 'appropriate bodies', competent to set the objective, transparent and verifiable criteria for charging above marginal costs: Recitals 12, 12a, and 14a, and Articles 4(4) and 6.
- Emphasising the compatibility between the legal systems of the Member States and the organisation of the bodies whose existence is necessary under the Directive - the 'impartial review body' and the 'appropriate body': Recitals 12a and 14a.
- Clarifying that all decisions on a request for re-use should be subject to a redress procedure. This should include refusals (negative decisions) but also decisions which, although permitting re-use, may be open to appeal on other grounds, notably to allow contesting the charging rules applied: Recital 14a and Article 4(4).
- Emphasising the principle that the Directive is without prejudice to national and EU rules on privacy protection: Recital 16 and new Recital 7c.

During the discussions held in the Working Party on 20 July, most Member States emphasised that Article 6(2) should contain an “open” list of exceptions which would allow for certain flexibility. Few Member States opposed the “open” list as it would undermine the uniform implementation of the Directive, the harmonisation effect and would not improve the functioning the internal market.

Article 6(2), as it currently stands, constitutes a closed list and in the view of the Presidency also allows at the same time for a certain degree of flexibility. More clearly defined exceptions could be potentially added to this list to address the situations that create concern for Member States. For example, an exception could be added for public institutions that incur significant additional costs linked to the investments made in order to make their data available in digital form.

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**Draft amended**  
**DIRECTIVE 2003/98/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**  
**AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
**of 17 November 2003**

on the re-use of public sector information

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee <sup>2</sup>,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>3</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 251 of the Treaty <sup>4</sup>,

**[ORIGINAL RECITALS FOR CLARITY]**

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 227 E, 24.9.2002, p. 382.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 85, 8.4.2003, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 73, 26.3.2003, p. 38.

<sup>4</sup> Opinion of the European Parliament of 12 February 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal), Council Common Position of 26 May 2003 (OJ C 159 E, 8.7.2003, p. 1) and Position of the European Parliament of 25 September 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal). Council Decision of 27 October 2003.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,  
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>5</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>6</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information<sup>7</sup> establishes a minimum set of rules governing the re-use and the practical means of facilitating re-use of existing documents held by public sector bodies of the Member States.
- (2) Open data policies which encourage the wide availability and re-use of public sector information for private or commercial purposes, with minimal or no legal, technical or financial constraints, can play an important role in kick-starting the development of new services based on novel ways to combine and make use of such information. However, this requires a level playing field at Union level in terms of whether or not the re-use of documents is authorised, which cannot be achieved by leaving it up to the different rules and practices of the Member States or the public **sector** bodies concerned.
- (3) Allowing re-use of documents held by a public sector body adds value for the re-users, for the end users and for the society in general and in many cases for the public **sector** body itself, by providing feedback from re-users and end users which allows the holder to improve the quality of the information collected.

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<sup>5</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>6</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90.

- (4) Since the first set of rules on re-use of public sector information was adopted in 2003, the amount of data in the world, including public data, has exploded and new types of data are being generated and collected. In parallel, we are witnessing continuous revolution in technologies for analysis, exploitation and processing of data. This rapid technological evolution makes it possible to create new services and new applications, which are built upon the use, aggregation or combination of data. The rules adopted in 2003 no longer keep pace with these rapid changes and as a result the economic and social opportunities offered by re-use of public data risk to be missed.
- (5) At the same time, Member States have now established re-use policies under the 2003/98/EC Directive and some of them have been adopting ambitious open data approaches to make re-use of accessible public data easier for citizens and businesses beyond the minimum level set up by the Directive. To prevent different rules in different Member States acting as a barrier for the cross-border offer of products and services, and to enable comparable public data sets to be re-usable for pan-European applications based on them, a minimum harmonisation is also required as to what public data is available for re-use in the internal information market, consistent with the relevant access regime.
- (5a) ~~Member States have adopted rules allowing access by members of the public to the documents held by public sector bodies under the principles of transparency and freedom of information. At the same time, they have placed limits on the rights of access. In some cases, access is restricted, for example to those who show a special interest, and in other cases, access is excluded because of the sensitive nature of the information for example based on the grounds of national security, defence or public security.~~

- (6) Directive 2003/98/EC does not contain an obligation on access to documents or an obligation to allow re-use of documents. The decision whether or not to authorise re-use remains with the Member States or the public sector body concerned. At the same time, the Directive builds on national rules on access to documents **and so re-use of documents is not required under the Directive where access is restricted (for example, national rules restrict access to citizens or companies who prove a particular interest to obtain access to documents) or excluded (for example, national rules exclude access because of the sensitive nature of the documents based, inter alia, on the grounds of national security, defence, public security)**. Some Member States have expressly linked the right of re-use to this right of access, so that all generally accessible documents are re-usable. In other Member States, the link between the two sets of rules is less clear and this is a source of legal uncertainty.
- (7) Directive 2003/98/EC should **be** therefore **amended to** lay down a clear obligation for Member States to make all ~~generally available accessible~~ documents re-usable **unless access is restricted or excluded under national rules on access to documents and subject to the other exceptions laid down in the Directive**. These amendments do not seek to define or change access regimes within Member States, which remain under the responsibility of the Member States. ~~Generally accessible documents are documents accessible under the national rules on access to documents (where access does not require the demonstration of any specific individual interest, and documents that public sector bodies license, disseminate or give out). As it constitutes a limitation to the intellectual property rights held by the authors of the documents, the scope of such a link between the right of access and the right of use should be narrowed to what is strictly necessary to reach the objectives pursued by its introduction. In this respect, taking into account the Union legislation and Member States' and Union's international obligations, notably under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement), documents on which third parties hold intellectual property rights should be excluded from the scope of Directive 2003/98/EC. If a third party was the initial owner of a document held by libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives that is still protected by intellectual property rights, that document should, for the purpose of this Directive, be considered as a document for which third parties hold intellectual property rights.~~

- (7a) ~~As it constitutes a limitation to the intellectual property rights hold by the authors of the documents, the scope of such a link between the right of access and the right of use should be narrowed to what is strictly necessary to reach the objectives pursued by its introduction. In this respect,~~ Taking into account the Union legislation and Member States' and Union's international obligations, notably under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement), documents on which third parties hold intellectual property rights should be excluded from the scope of Directive 2003/98/EC. If a third party was the initial owner of a document held by libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives that is still protected by intellectual property rights, that document should, for the purpose of this Directive, be considered as a document for which third parties hold intellectual property rights.
- (7b) For the purpose of identifying documents the supply of which is an activity falling outside the scope of the public task of the public sector bodies concerned as defined by law or by other binding rules in the Member State, the public task could be defined generally or on a case-by-case basis for individual public sector bodies.
- (7c) This Directive should be implemented and applied in full compliance with the principles relating to the protection of personal data in accordance with the Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of data and of the free movement of such data. In particular, re-use of documents access to which is not restricted by virtue of access regimes in the Member States should respect the restrictions set by national law in compliance with Directive 95/46/EC on processing of personal data contained therein.**
- (8) The application of Directive 2003/98/EC should be without prejudice to the rights that employees of public sector bodies may enjoy under national rules.
- (9) Moreover, where any document is made available for re-use, the public sector body concerned should retain the right to exploit the document.

- (10) The scope of application of the Directive is extended to libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives. The Directive does not apply to other cultural institutions, such as operas, ballets or theatres, including the archives that are part of these institutions.
- (11) To facilitate re-use, public sector bodies should make documents available through machine readable formats and together with their metadata where possible and appropriate, in a format that ensures interoperability , e.g. by processing them in a way consistent with the principles governing the compatibility and usability requirements for spatial information under Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)<sup>8</sup>
- (11a) A document should be considered as a document in a machine readable format if it is in a file format that is structured in such a way that software applications can easily identify, recognise and extract data of interest from it. Data encoded in files that are structured in a machine-readable format are machine-readable data. Machine-readable formats can be open (for example Comma Separated Values) or proprietary (for example as used by various proprietary spreadsheet programs, such as XLS); they can be formal standards (for example XML or RDF) or not (for example Comma Separated Values). Documents encoded in a file format that limits such automatic processing, because the data cannot or cannot easily be extracted from these documents, should not be considered as documents in machine-readable format. Member States should when appropriate encourage the use of open, machine-readable formats.**

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<sup>8</sup> OJ L 108, 25.4.2007, p. 1.

(12) Where charges are made for **supplying and allowing** the re-use of documents, they should in principle be limited to the marginal costs ~~incurred for their reproduction and dissemination, unless higher charges are exceptionally justified according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria~~. However, the necessity of not hindering the normal running of public sector bodies **that are required to covering** a substantial part of their **operating** costs relating to the performance of their public task ~~from the exploitation of their intellectual property rights~~ as well as the normal running of libraries, museums and archives should notably be taken into consideration. **Those public sector bodies should be allowed to charge higher charges for re-use. ThoseSuch charges above marginal costs should be set according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria and the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents should not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction and dissemination, together with a reasonable return on investment. Member States should designate the appropriate body authority (other than the public sector body itself) competent to approve review the criteria for charging. That authority body could be an existing authority body with budgetary executive powers and under political responsibility. It should however be distinct from the independent authority with powers to review public sector bodies' decisions on re-use.** The burden of proving that charges are cost-oriented and comply with relevant **limits criteria** should lie with the public sector body charging for the re-use of documents.

**(12a) Member States should designate the appropriate body or appropriate bodies, other than the public sector body itself, competent to lay down the criteria for charging above marginal costs. That body should be organised in accordance with the constitutional and legal systems of Member States. It could be an existing body with budgetary executive powers and under political responsibility.**

(13) In relation to any re-use that is made of the document, public sector bodies may, where practicable, impose conditions on the re-user, such as acknowledgment of source. Any licences for the re-use of public sector information should in any case place as few restrictions on re-use as possible. Open licences available online, which grant wider re-use rights without technological, financial or geographical limitations and relying on open data formats, may also play an important role in this respect. Therefore, Member States should encourage the use of open government licences.

- (14) ~~Proper implementation of some of the features of this Directive, such as means of redress, compliance with charging principles and reporting obligations require supervision by independent authorities competent on the re-use of public sector information. To ensure consistency between approaches at Union level, coordination between the independent authorities should be encouraged, particularly through the exchange of information on best practices and data re-use policies.~~
- (14a) ~~The independent authorities~~ **impartial review body with powers to review public sector bodies' decisions on re-use should be organised in accordance with the constitutional and legal systems of Member States and should not prejudice any means of redress otherwise available to applicants for re-use ~~and public sector bodies~~. It should however be distinct from the appropriate body or appropriate bodies competent to lay down the criteria for charging above marginal costs. The means of redress should include the possibility of review of negative decisions but also of decisions which, although permitting re-use, could still affect applicants on other grounds, notably by the charging rules applied. The ~~authority~~ **impartial review body** should have powers to review any public sector body's decision on re-use. Member States could grant appropriate powers to existing ~~authorities~~ **bodies** such as the national competition authority, ~~or~~ the national access to documents authority or the national judicial system authorities.**
- (14b) **Competition rules should be respected when establishing the principles for re-use of documents avoiding as far as possible exclusive agreements between public sector bodies and private partners. However, in order to provide a service in the public interest, an exclusive right to re-use specific public sector documents may sometimes be necessary. This may be, inter alia, the case if no commercial publisher would publish the information or if digitisation of public cultural resources would not be possible without a public-private partnership concluded between a library, museum or archive and a commercial partner without such an exclusive right. A period of preferential commercial exploitation of the digitised material may be necessary in order to give the private partner the possibility to recoup its investment. This period should be limited in time and as short as possible, in order to respect the principle that public domain material should stay in the public domain once it is digitised. The period of preferential use should not exceed in general 7 years. In addition, any public private partnership for digitisation of cultural resources shall grant the partner cultural institution full rights with respect to the post-termination use of digitised objects.**

- (15) Since the objective of this Directive, namely to facilitate the creation of Union-wide information products and services based on public sector documents, to ensure the effective cross-border use of public sector documents by private companies for added-value information products and services, and to limit distortions of competition on the Union market, cannot be sufficiently achieved by Member States and can therefore, in view of the intrinsic pan-European scope of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In accordance with the principles of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (16) This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including the right to property (Article 17) **and protection of personal data (Article 8)**. Nothing in this Directive should be interpreted or implemented in a manner that is inconsistent with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- ~~(17)~~ It is necessary to ensure that the Member States (~~see recital 19~~) report to the Commission on the extent of the re-use of public sector information, **and** the conditions under which it is made available, **and the work of the independent authority**. ~~To ensure consistency between approaches at Union level, coordination between the independent authorities should be encouraged, particularly through exchange of information on best practices and data re-use policies.~~
- ~~(18)~~ ~~The Commission should assist the Member States in implementing the Directive in a consistent way by giving guidance, particularly on charging and calculation of costs, on recommended licensing conditions and on formats, after consulting interested parties.~~ The Commission may assist the Member States in implementing the Directive in a consistent way by making available guidelines on recommended standard licenses, **and datasets and charging for the re-use of documents**.

~~(19)~~ In accordance with the Joint Political Declaration of Member States and the Commission on explanatory documents of [date], Member States have undertaken to accompany, in justified cases, the notification of their transposition measures with one or more documents explaining the relationship between the components of a directive and the corresponding parts of national transposition instruments. With regard to this Directive, the legislator considers the transmission of such documents to be justified.

(20) Directive 2003/98/EC should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*  
*Amendments to Directive 2003/98/EC*

Directive 2003/98/EC is amended as follows:

1. Amendments to Article 1: (Subject matter and scope):

~~(0) — In paragraph 1, the following subparagraph is added:~~

~~"Subject to paragraph 3 of this Article, this Directive shall apply to generally accessible documents."~~

(1) In paragraph 2, point (a) is replaced by the following:

‘(a) documents the supply of which is an activity falling outside the scope of the public task of the public sector bodies concerned, as defined by law or by other binding rules in the Member State in question;’

**(1a) In paragraph 2, new point (ca) is added between points (c) and (d) :**

**‘(ca) documents access to which is restricted by virtue of the access regimes in the Member States, including cases whereby citizens or companies have to prove a particular interest to obtain access to documents, situations whereby the access is restricted to ensure protection of personal data; ’**

(2) In paragraph 2, point (e) is replaced by the following:

‘(e) documents held by educational and research establishments, ~~such as research facilities, including, where relevant, organisations established for the transfer of research results, schools and universities (except university libraries) in respect of documents other than research documents protected by third party intellectual property rights)~~ and ;’

(3) In paragraph 2, point (f) is replaced by the following:

‘(f) documents held by cultural establishments, other than libraries, museums and archives;’

**(3a) Paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:**

‘This Directive builds on and is without prejudice to ~~the existing~~ access regimes in the Member States. ~~This Directive shall not apply in cases in which citizens or companies have to prove a particular interest under the access regime to obtain access to the documents.~~’

(4) In paragraph 4, ‘Community’ is replaced by ‘Union’.

~~(5) At the end of paragraph 5, the following sentence is added:~~

~~‘The provisions of this Directive are without prejudice to the economic or moral rights that employees of public sector bodies may enjoy under national rules.’~~

2. In Article 2 (Definitions) the following paragraphs ~~is~~ are added:

‘6. "document in machine-readable format" means ~~that~~ a digital documents ~~are in a file format that is sufficiently structured in such a way that for~~ software applications can easily identify, recognise and extract data of interest from that document ~~to identify reliably individual statements of fact and their internal structure.~~’

~~‘7. "generally accessible documents" means documents that are accessible under the national rules on access to documents.~~

‘7. “university” means any institution a public sector body that provides post-secondary higher education leading to academic degrees.’

3. Article 3 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 3

General principle

(1) Subject to paragraph (2) Member States shall ensure that ~~generally accessible~~ documents ~~referred to in~~ to which this Directive applies in accordance with Article 1 shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV.

(2) ~~For d-~~Documents for which libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives have intellectual property rights, **Member States shall ensure that, where the re-use of such documents is allowed, these documents shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV. ~~where the rightholder library, museum or archive re-uses them or allows their re-use.~~**

4. Amendments to Article 4 (Requirements applicable to the processing of requests for re-use):

(1) At the end of paragraph 3, the following sentence is added:

‘However, libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives shall not be required to include such a reference.’

(2) Paragraph 4 , is replaced by the following:

‘Any **negative** decision **on re-use** shall contain a reference to the means of redress in case the applicant wishes to appeal the decision. The means of redress shall include the possibility of review by an **impartial review** body, **such as the national competition authority, the national access to documents authority or the national judicial authority, ~~independent authority~~** that is vested with **specific regulatory** powers regarding the re-use of public sector ~~information~~ **documents** and whose decisions are binding upon the public sector body concerned.’

5. Amendments to Article 5 (Available formats):

(1) ~~In paragraph 1, the words ‘through electronic means’ are replaced by ‘in machine-readable format and together with their metadata.’.~~

**Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following :**

Public sector bodies shall make their documents available in any pre-existing format or language and, where possible and appropriate, in machine-readable format together with their metadata. This shall not imply an obligation for public sector bodies to create or adapt documents in order to comply with the ~~request~~ requirement set out in the previous sentence, nor shall it imply an obligation to provide extracts from documents where this would involve disproportionate effort, going beyond a simple operation.

6. Amendments to Article 6 (Charges):

(1) The following paragraphs are inserted at the beginning of the Article:

~~‘1. Where charges are made for the re-use of documents, the total amount charged~~ by public sector bodies, they those charges shall be limited to the marginal costs incurred for ~~their reproduction and dissemination~~ supplying and allowing the re-use of documents.’

~~‘2. In exceptional cases, in particular where public sector bodies generate a substantial part of their operating costs relating to the performance of their public service tasks from the exploitation of their intellectual property rights, public sector bodies may be allowed to charge for the re-use of documents over and above the marginal costs, according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria, provided this is in the public interest and subject to the approval of the independent authority referred to in Article 4(4), and without prejudice to paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.’~~

~~‘3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives may charge over and above the marginal costs for the re-use of documents they hold.’~~

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the following:

(a) ~~In exceptional cases, such as~~ public sector bodies that are required to generate revenue to cover a substantial part of their costs relating to the performance of their public tasks,

(b) Libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives.

- (2) The ~~existing text of Article 6 becomes~~ paragraph 4 shall be replaced by the following :

"4. Where charges are made **under paragraph 2, the total charges shall be set according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria** and the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents shall not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction, ~~and~~ dissemination, **preservation and rights clearance**, together with a reasonable return on investment. Charges should be cost-oriented over the appropriate accounting period and calculated in line with the accounting principles applicable to the public sector bodies involved."

**4a. Member States shall designate the appropriate ~~authority~~ body or appropriate bodies, other than the public sector body itself, competent to lay down review approve the criteria for charging above marginal costs as laid out in paragraph 4. "**

- (3) A new paragraph 5 is added:

‘The burden of proving that charges comply with this Article shall lie with the public sector body charging for re-use.’

- (4) A new paragraph 6 is added:

**‘In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines on charging for the re-use of documents.’**

7. In Article 7 (Transparency), ~~the words ‘over and above the marginal costs or’ are inserted after ‘calculation of charges’~~, the third sentence is replaced by the following :

"The public sector body in question shall also indicate which **factors criteria** ~~will be~~ are taken into account in the calculation of charges above the marginal costs."

8. In Article 8, a new paragraph 3 is added:

~~(1) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:~~

~~‘Public sector bodies may allow re-use without conditions or may impose conditions, such as indication of source, where appropriate through a licence. These conditions shall not unnecessarily restrict possibilities for re-use and shall not be used to restrict competition.’<sup>2</sup>~~

New paragraph 3 is added:

**‘3. In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines on recommended standard licenses for the re-use of public sector information.’**

9. Article 9 is replaced by the following:

*‘Article 9*

Practical arrangements

1. Member States shall ~~ensure that~~ make practical arrangements facilitating the ~~cross-lingual~~ search for documents available for re-use ~~are in place~~, such as asset lists of main documents with relevant metadata, ~~accessible~~ preferably ~~accessible online and~~ in machine-readable format, and portal sites ~~that are~~ linked to ~~decentralised the~~ assets lists.

**2. In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines with make available a list of recommended datasets available for re-use.**

10. In Article 11 (Prohibition of exclusive arrangements), ~~the following sentence is added at the end of paragraph 3~~ paragraphs 2 and 3 are replaced by the following :

~~‘However, such arrangements involving cultural establishments and university libraries shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any case not later than 31 December 20XX [6 years after entry into force of the Directive].’<sup>2</sup>~~

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, where an exclusive right is necessary for the provision of a service in the public interest such as digitisation, the validity of the reason for granting such an exclusive right shall be subject to regular review, and shall, in any event, be reviewed every three years. The exclusive arrangements established after the entry into force of this Directive shall be transparent and made public.

2a. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, where an exclusive right relates to preferential commercial exploitation necessary to digitise cultural resources, the period of such preferential exploitation shall not exceed in ~~principal~~ general 7 years and need not be subject to review. The exclusive arrangements established after the entry into force of this Directive shall be transparent and made public. Where an exclusive right relating to the preferential commercial exploitation necessary to digitise cultural resources exists, the public sector body shall be provided with a copy of the digitised cultural resources as part of that agreement.

3. Existing exclusive arrangements that do not qualify for the exception under paragraph 2 shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any case not later than 31 December 2008. However, such arrangements involving libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives that do not qualify for the exception under paragraph 2a shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any case not later than 31 December 20XX [6 years after entry into force of the Directive].

~~11. Article 12 (Transposition) is replaced by the following:~~

~~*Article 12*~~

~~Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.<sup>2</sup>~~

12. In Article 13 (Review) the date of 1 July 2008 is replaced by [~~3~~ 5 years after the ~~transposition date entry into force~~] and the following paragraph is added:

‘Member States shall submit a ~~yearly~~ report ~~every 2 4 years~~ to the Commission on ~~the extent of the re-use availability~~ of public sector information ~~for re-use and~~ the conditions under which it is made available ~~and the work of the independent authority referred to in article 4(4).~~’

#### *Article 2*

- (1) **By (18 months from the day of entry into force of this Directive)** Member States shall adopt and publish, ~~by 18 months at the latest,~~ the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions ~~and a correlation table between those provisions and this Directive.~~
- (2) When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

#### *Article 3*

This Directive shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

#### *Article 4*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*

*For the Council*

The President      The President

**DIRECTIVE 2003/98/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 17 November 2003**

on the re-use of public sector information

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee <sup>2</sup>,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>3</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 251 of the Treaty <sup>4</sup>,

**[ORIGINAL RECITALS REMOVED FOR CLARITY]**

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 227 E, 24.9.2002, p. 382.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 85, 8.4.2003, p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 73, 26.3.2003, p. 38.

<sup>4</sup> Opinion of the European Parliament of 12 February 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal), Council Common Position of 26 May 2003 (OJ C 159 E, 8.7.2003, p. 1) and Position of the European Parliament of 25 September 2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal). Council Decision of 27 October 2003.

Chapter I  
General provisions

Article 1  
Subject matter and scope

1. This Directive establishes a minimum set of rules governing the re-use and the practical means of facilitating re-use of existing documents held by public sector bodies of the Member States.

~~Subject to paragraph 3 of this Article, this Directive shall apply to generally accessible documents.~~

2. This Directive shall not apply to:

- (a) documents the supply of which is an activity falling outside the scope of the public task of the public sector bodies concerned as defined by law or by other binding rules in the Member State, ~~or in the absence of such rules as defined in line with common administrative practice in the Member State~~ in question;
- (b) documents for which third parties hold intellectual property rights;
- (c) documents which are excluded from access by virtue of the access regimes in the Member States, including on the grounds of:
  - the protection of national security (i.e. State security), defence, or public security,
  - statistical or commercial confidentiality;
- (ca) documents access to which is restricted by virtue of the access regimes in the Member States, including cases whereby citizens or companies have to prove a particular interest to obtain access to documents, situations whereby the access is restricted to ensure protection of personal data;**

- (d) documents held by public service broadcasters and their subsidiaries, and by other bodies or their subsidiaries for the fulfilment of a public service broadcasting remit;
- (e) documents held by educational and research establishments, ~~such as schools, universities, archives, libraries and research facilities~~ including, ~~where relevant~~, organisations established for the transfer of research results, *schools and universities (except university libraries)* ~~in respect of documents other than research documents protected by third party intellectual property rights~~ and;
- (f) documents held by cultural establishments *other than*, ~~such as~~ museums, libraries, and archives, ~~orchestras, operas, ballets and theatres~~.

3. This Directive builds on and is without prejudice to the existing access regimes in the Member States. ~~This Directive shall not apply in cases in which citizens or companies have to prove a particular interest under the access regime to obtain access to the documents.~~

4. This Directive leaves intact and in no way affects the level of protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data under the provisions of *Community Union* and national law, and in particular does not alter the obligations and rights set out in Directive 95/46/EC.

5. The obligations imposed by this Directive shall apply only insofar as they are compatible with the provisions of international agreements on the protection of intellectual property rights, in particular the Berne Convention and the TRIPS Agreement. ~~The provisions of this Directive are without prejudice to the economic or moral rights that employees of public sector bodies may enjoy under national rules.~~

Article 2  
Definitions

For the purpose of this Directive the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) "public sector body" means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;
- (2) "body governed by public law" means any body:
  - (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; and
  - (b) having legal personality; and
  - (c) financed, for the most part by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law;
- (3) "document" means:
  - (a) any content whatever its medium (written on paper or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording);
  - (b) any part of such content;

- (4) "re-use" means the use by persons or legal entities of documents held by public sector bodies, for commercial or non-commercial purposes other than the initial purpose within the public task for which the documents were produced. Exchange of documents between public sector bodies purely in pursuit of their public tasks does not constitute re-use;
- (5) "personal data" means data as defined in Article 2(a) of Directive 95/46/EC;
- (6) **"document in machine-readable format" means ~~that a digital documents are in a file format that is sufficiently structured in such a way that for software applications can easily identify, recognise and extract data of interest from that document to identify reliably individual statements of fact and their internal structure;~~**
- (7) **"generally accessible documents" means ~~documents that are accessible under the national rules on access to documents~~ "university" means any institution a public sector body that provides post-secondary higher education leading to academic degrees.**

### Article 3

#### General principle

*Member States shall ensure that, where the re-use of documents held by public sector bodies is allowed, these documents shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV. Where possible, documents shall be made available through electronic means.*

1. Subject to paragraph (2) Member States shall ensure that **generally accessible documents to which this Directive applies in accordance with ~~referred to in~~ Article 1** shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV.

2. ~~For documents~~ **For documents** for which libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives have intellectual property rights, **Member States shall ensure that, where the re-use of such documents is allowed, these documents shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapters III and IV** ~~where the rightholder library, museum or archive re-uses them or allows their re-use.~~

## Chapter II

### Requests for re-use

#### Article 4

##### Requirements applicable to the processing of requests for re-use

1. Public sector bodies shall, through electronic means where possible and appropriate, process requests for re-use and shall make the document available for re-use to the applicant or, if a licence is needed, finalise the licence offer to the applicant within a reasonable time that is consistent with the timeframes laid down for the processing of requests for access to documents.
2. Where no time-limits or other rules regulating the timely provision of documents have been established, public sector bodies shall process the request and shall deliver the documents for re-use to the applicant or, if a licence is needed, finalise the licence offer to the applicant within a timeframe of not more than 20 working days after its receipt. This timeframe may be extended by another 20 working days for extensive or complex requests. In such cases the applicant shall be notified within three weeks after the initial request that more time is needed to process it.
3. In the event of a negative decision, the public sector bodies shall communicate the grounds for refusal to the applicant on the basis of the relevant provisions of the access regime in that Member State or of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive, in particular Article 1(2)(a), (b) and (c), or Article 3. Where a negative decision is based on Article 1(2)(b), the public sector body shall include a reference to the natural or legal person who is the rightholder, where known, or alternatively to the licensor from which the public sector body has obtained the relevant material. *However, libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives shall not be required to include such a reference.*

4. Any **negative** decision **on re-use** shall contain a reference to the means of redress in case the applicant wishes to appeal the decision. *The means of redress shall include the possibility of review by an impartial review body, such as the national competition authority, the national access to documents authority or the national judicial authority, independent authority that is vested with specific regulatory powers regarding the re-use of public sector information documents and whose decisions are binding upon the public sector body concerned.*

5. Public sector bodies covered under Article 1(2)(d), (e) and (f) shall not be required to comply with the requirements of this Article.

### Chapter III

#### Conditions for re-use

#### Article 5

##### Available formats

1. Public sector bodies shall make their documents available in any pre-existing format or language, **and, where possible and appropriate, in machine-readable format and together with their metadata through electronic means where possible and appropriate.** This shall not imply an obligation for public sector bodies to create or adapt documents in order to comply with the **request requirement set out in the previous sentence**, nor shall it imply an obligation to provide extracts from documents where this would involve disproportionate effort, going beyond a simple operation.

2. On the basis of this Directive, public sector bodies cannot be required to continue the production of a certain type of documents with a view to the re-use of such documents by a private or public sector organisation.

## Article 6

### Principles governing charging

1. ~~Where charges are made for the re-use of documents, the total amount charged by public sector bodies, **they those charges** shall be limited to the marginal costs incurred for **supplying and allowing the re-use of documents** their reproduction and dissemination.~~

~~2.—In exceptional cases, in particular where public sector bodies generate a substantial part of their operating costs relating to the performance of their public service tasks from the exploitation of their intellectual property rights, public sector bodies may be allowed to charge for the re-use of documents over and above the marginal costs, according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria, provided this is in the public interest and subject to the approval of the independent authority referred to in Article 4(4), and without prejudice to paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.~~

2. **Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the following:**

**(a) ~~In exceptional cases, such as~~ Public sector bodies that are required to generate revenue to cover a substantial part of their costs relating to the performance of their public tasks,**

**(b) Libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives.**

~~3.—Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives may charge over and above the marginal costs for the re-use of documents they hold.~~

4. Where charges are made **under paragraph 2, the total charges shall be set according to objective, transparent and verifiable criteria and** the total income from supplying and allowing re-use of documents shall not exceed the cost of collection, production, reproduction, **and** dissemination, **preservation and rights clearance**, together with a reasonable return on investment. Charges should be cost-oriented over the appropriate accounting period and calculated in line with the accounting principles applicable to the public sector bodies involved.

4a. Member States shall designate the appropriate **authority body or appropriate bodies**, other than the public sector body itself, competent to **lay down review** approve the criteria for charging **above marginal costs** as laid out in paragraph 4.

5. *The burden of proving that charges comply with this Article shall lie with the public sector body charging for re-use.*

**6. In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines on charging for the re-use of documents.**

#### Article 7

##### Transparency

Any applicable conditions and standard charges for the re-use of documents held by public sector bodies shall be pre-established and published, through electronic means where possible and appropriate. On request, the public sector body shall indicate the calculation basis for the published charge. The public sector body in question shall also indicate which **factors criteria** ~~will be~~ are taken into account in the calculation of charges ~~over and above the marginal costs or for atypical cases~~. Public sector bodies shall ensure that applicants for re-use of documents are informed of available means of redress relating to decisions or practices affecting them.

#### Article 8

##### Licences

*1. — ~~Public sector bodies may allow for re-use of documents without conditions or may impose conditions, where appropriate through a licence, dealing with relevant issues. These conditions shall not unnecessarily restrict possibilities for re-use and shall not be used to restrict competition.~~*

**~~Public sector bodies may allow re-use without conditions or may impose conditions, such as indication of source, where appropriate through a licence. These conditions shall not unnecessarily restrict possibilities for re-use and shall not be used to restrict competition.~~**

**Public sector bodies may allow for re-use of documents without conditions or may impose conditions, where appropriate through a licence, dealing with relevant issues. These conditions shall not unnecessarily restrict possibilities for re-use and shall not be used to restrict competition.**

2. In Member States where licences are used, Member States shall ensure that standard licences for the re-use of public sector documents, which can be adapted to meet particular licence applications, are available in digital format and can be processed electronically. Member States shall encourage all public sector bodies to use the standard licences.

**3. In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines on recommended standard licenses for the re-use of public sector information.**

#### Article 9

##### Practical arrangements

1. Member States shall ~~ensure that make~~ practical arrangements *facilitating the* ~~cross-lingual search for documents available for re-use~~ ~~are in place~~, such as asset lists of main documents with relevant metadata, ~~accessible~~ preferably ~~accessible online and~~ in machine-readable format, and portal sites ~~that are~~ linked to ~~decentralised the~~ assets lists.

**2. In order to contribute to a consistent implementation of this Article, the Commission may adopt guidelines with make available a list of recommended datasets available for re-use.**

Chapter IV  
Non-discrimination and fair trading

Article 10  
Non-discrimination

1. Any applicable conditions for the re-use of documents shall be non-discriminatory for comparable categories of re-use.
  
2. If documents are re-used by a public sector body as input for its commercial activities which fall outside the scope of its public tasks, the same charges and other conditions shall apply to the supply of the documents for those activities as apply to other users.

Article 11  
Prohibition of exclusive arrangements

1. The re-use of documents shall be open to all potential actors in the market, even if one or more market players already exploit added-value products based on these documents. Contracts or other arrangements between the public sector bodies holding the documents and third parties shall not grant exclusive rights.
  
2. ~~However~~**Notwithstanding paragraph 1**, where an exclusive right is necessary for the provision of a service in the public interest **such as digitisation**, the validity of the reason for granting such an exclusive right shall be subject to regular review, and shall, in any event, be reviewed every three years. The exclusive arrangements established after the entry into force of this Directive shall be transparent and made public.

2a. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, where an exclusive right relates to preferential commercial exploitation necessary to digitise cultural resources, the period of such preferential exploitation shall not exceed ~~in principle~~ in general 7 years and need not be subject to review. The exclusive arrangements established after the entry into force of this Directive shall be transparent and made public. Where an exclusive right relating to the preferential commercial exploitation necessary to digitise cultural resources exists, the public sector body shall be provided with a copy of the digitised cultural resources as part of that agreement.

3. Existing exclusive arrangements that do not qualify for the exception under paragraph 2 shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any case not later than 31 December 2008. *However, such arrangements involving ~~cultural establishments and university libraries~~ libraries (including university libraries), museums and archives that do not qualify for the exception under paragraph 2a shall be terminated at the end of the contract or in any case not later than 31 December 20XX [6 years after entry into force of the Directive].*

## Chapter V

### Final Provisions

#### Article 12

#### Implementation

*Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 July 2005. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.*

*When Member States adopt those measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.*

**Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.**

**Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 July 2005. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.**

**When Member States adopt those measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication.**

**Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.**

### Article 13

#### Review

1. The Commission shall carry out a review of the application of this Directive before ~~1 July 2008~~ [~~3 5 years after the transposition date~~ **entry into force**] and shall communicate the results of this review, together with any proposals for modifications of the Directive, to the European Parliament and the Council.

*Member States shall submit a ~~yearly~~ report every ~~4 2~~ years to the Commission on ~~the extent of the availability~~ **re-use** of public sector information **for re-use** and the conditions under which it is made available ~~and the work of the independent authority referred to in Article 4(4).~~*

2. The review shall in particular address the scope and impact of this Directive, including the extent of the increase in re-use of public sector documents, the effects of the principles applied to charging and the re-use of official texts of a legislative and administrative nature, as well as further possibilities of improving the proper functioning of the internal market and the development of the European content industry.

### Article 14

#### Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 15

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President