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DECLASSIFICATION

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dated: 23 December 2009
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Subject: Summary of discussions

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ADD 1

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Working Party on Legal Data Processing (e-Justice)

on : 20 November 2009

Subject : Summary of discussions

2. Implementation of the portal

2.1. Technical implementation

(a) State of play

The Commission representative informed the Working Party of the latest state of play regarding the development of the portal. The Working Party took note of considerable delays because of technical difficulties. As a result the launch event scheduled for 15 December 2009 was cancelled and the opening of the portal has been postponed to an undefined moment in the future.

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The Commission representative explained the difficulties encountered with its contractor and informed the Working Party of remediation activities employed. The Commission is striving to have a new confirmed date in place for the delivery of the portal in the light of the proposal of the contractor (9 April 2010) and the revised project plan. The Commission stated that immediate measures will be taken in case of non-delivery. In parallel a new call for tenders will be launched for the further releases of the portal.

The Member States demonstrated their disappointment at these developments and urged the Commission to do its utmost to ensure the delivery of the portal as soon as possible. Several Member States considered that a constructive approach should be taken to avoid spilling resources and time already spent on the project. Member States expressed their willingness to work together with the Commission to overcome the difficulties.

A few delegations expressed concerns that different functionalities will be developed by different enterprises.

One delegation pointed out that the action plan put the responsibility for the implementation for the portal on the Commission and that it was not foreseen that a contractor would do the actual work. That delegation also considered that discussions should be launched to discussing the future of the working structure.

Several delegations asked the Commission to provide more information about the substance of the technical difficulties and about the timetable, especially in the light of the upcoming JHA Council meeting.

The Commission representative agreed that they would present the updated project plan as soon as possible.

One delegation proposed that when planning the new contract for future releases the Commission should consider giving a role to a consortium of Member States.

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The Working Party concluded that the Commission was invited to present the updated project plan and confirm the date for the first release as soon as possible.

The Working Party confirmed their agreement on paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 36 a) and 36 b) with the addition that "as soon as possible" should be replaced by "by the end of the first semester of 2010" for the delivery of the first release of the portal in paragraph 36 a).

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