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EUROPEAN ARCHIVES GROUP

PROGRESS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 2005/835/EC
OF 14 NOVEMBER 2005
ON PRIORITY ACTIONS TO INCREASE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARCHIVES
IN EUROPE**

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INTRODUCTION

On 14 November 2005 the Council adopted a Council Recommendation on priority actions to increase cooperation in the field of archives in Europe¹. The Council Recommendation calls for the creation of a European Archives Group (EAG) to ensure co-operation and co-ordination on general matters relating to archives and, in particular, to implement five priority measures referred to in the Recommendation. The Council furthermore requests that "*at the latest three years after the date of publication of this Recommendation, the European Archives Group should present a progress report on implementation of the priority measures*".

The European Archives Group adopted this progress report at its meeting of 6 June 2008. It considered that the report should include not only the achievements on the implementation of the Council Recommendation but should also set out some of the new challenges for archives that lie ahead. This report has been structured accordingly.

Part A of this report sets out the achievements of the past three years, both with respect to co-operation in the field of archives in Europe in general (part A.1) as with respect to the implementation of the five priority measures of the Council Recommendation (part A.2). Cooperation in general concerns not only cooperation between archives but also cooperation with other relevant networks and sectors, as was explicitly requested in the Council Recommendation.

In order to have a certain degree of coherence, the reports on the five priority measures (section A2) were written with the following question in mind:

- what was the issue at stake at the time that the Council Recommendation was drafted?
- what has been done since then?
- has the situation changed and, if so, how has it changed?
- what has been achieved and what still needs to be achieved?
- some recommendations.

In part B of this report the European Archives Group identifies five challenges for archives in the future. The European Archives Group proposes that Archives reflect on their role in a rapidly evolving environment and examine how Archives can better serve society in general and public administration in particular. The Group therefore proposes to more closely study how to better exploit and more widely disseminate archival content (section B1 and B2). It furthermore proposes to examine the consequences of digital record keeping for administration and society and the changing role of Archives (section B3). Finally, the European Archives Group recommends that European networks of archival expertise are strengthened and that a centre of excellence is established to help train future Archives managers in a European context (sections B4 and B5).

For ease of use a table with the dispositions of the Council recommendations and the degree to which they have been achieved is included as an annex to this progress report.

¹ OJ L 312, 29.11.2005, p.55

PART A – ACHIEVEMENTS

A.1 INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARCHIVES IN EUROPE

1. *Increased co-operation between archives*

Background

Cooperation between the Archives of the Member States is not a new phenomenon. Following a Council Resolution of 14 November 1991 on arrangements concerning archives², a first report on *Archives in the European Union* was published in 1994³. This report led to the Council Conclusions of 17 June 1994⁴ which became an important catalyst in promoting co-operation between archives in Europe for nearly a decade. Since the early 1990s co-operation has both widened and deepened. Co-operation between archives has spread further geographically following successive enlargements of the Union. The number of Member States, and thus the number of participating national archives, has increased from 12 at the beginning of the 1990s to 27 today. While this increase in numbers has brought increased benefits and opportunities, it also poses challenges.

In its Resolution of 6 May 2003 on archives in the Member States⁵, the Council recognised the challenges that archives were facing on the eve of the enlargement of the Union with ten new Member States. The Council called for an assessment of the situation of public archives in the EU, taking particular account of enlargement, and asked the Commission to submit a report that would address the possibilities for enhanced co-ordination and co-operation. The challenges identified in the resolution included the continuing rapid development of information and communication technologies and the specific issues this raises with regard to authenticity and long term preservation, but also more traditional issues such as the protection and restoration of archives from damage following natural catastrophes.

In response to the Council Resolution, the *Report on archives in the enlarged European Union*, prepared by a group of experts from the Member States, was submitted to the Council by the Commission in February 2005⁶. The Report contains not only an analysis of the situation of archives in the European Union but also a large number of proposed actions and future orientations for increased co-operation between archives at the European level.

The Report on Archives led to the *Council Recommendation on priority actions to increase cooperation in the field of archives in Europe* of 14 November 2005.⁷ The Council Recommendation calls for the creation of a European Archives Group (EAG) to ensure co-operation and co-ordination on general matters relating to archives and to follow-up on the work referred to in the Report on Archives, and in particular the five priority actions referred to in the Recommendation. The archives were asked to not only work together to

² OJ C 314, 5.12.1991, p.2

³ European Commission, *Archives in the European Union. Report of the Group of experts on the Coordination of Archives*, Brussels – Luxembourg, 1994

⁴ OJ C 235, 23.8.1994, p.3

⁵ OJ C 113, 13.5.2003, p.2

⁶ COM(2005) 52 final.

⁷ OJ L 312, 29.11.2005, p.55

achieve concrete results but also, where and when appropriate, to look beyond the boundaries of the archives sector itself and to seek co-operation with other relevant networks and sectors.

The progress on co-operation between archives and with other relevant sectors in general is set out below. The progress achieved with regard to each of the five priority actions of the Council Recommendation is set out in more detail in the ensuing sections.

Progress on co-operation between archives

The European Archives Group (EAG) was created at the beginning of 2006 and comprises experts from all 27 Member States of the European Union as well as from the five European institutions.⁸ Since its inaugural meeting in April 2006, the EAG has met once every semester to discuss the progress achieved in the implementation of the Council Recommendation and to provide guidance and general orientations for the work undertaken on the five priority actions.

Since 2007, in order to plan the work of the EAG, a meeting between the Commission and the National Archives representing the current and forthcoming EU presidencies is organised each semester. These meetings also serve to co-ordinate the activities of the EAG with those of the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA).

A number of working groups were established to implement the priority actions. A working group for 'preservation and disaster prevention' (the first priority action) is chaired by the German Bundesarchiv. The Subdirección General de los Archivos Estatales in Madrid leads a working group for the 'Creation and maintenance of an Internet Portal for archives in Europe' (priority action 3). The Swedish Riksarkivet chairs the working group for the 'Measures to prevent theft of archival documents' (priority action 5).

For the second priority action, 'the reinforcement of European interdisciplinary co-operation on electronic documents and archives', the EAG and the Commission are working closely together with the DLM Forum, a stakeholder organisation that unites many of the National Archives of the EU27 and other public and private organisations interested in electronic records and archives management. To promote 'best practice with regard to national and European law on the management of, and access to, archives' (priority action 4), co-operation was sought with the working group of the European Branch of the International Council on Archives (EURBICA), led by the Direction des Archives de France, that is developing a legal database for archives in Europe.

In accordance with the Council Recommendation, the Commission has sought, where possible, to support projects aimed at the implementation of the Council Recommendation. Funding for the update and extension of the Model requirements for the management of electronic records (MoReq2)⁹ and for the Legal database for archives in Europe¹⁰ was requested and obtained in the framework of the IDABC programme¹¹. A proposal from the

⁸ Bulgaria and Romania participated as observers in 2006 and are full members of the EAG since their accession to the EU at the beginning of 2007.

⁹ See section A2.2 below

¹⁰ See section A2.4 below

¹¹ Interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens; see: OJ L 181, 18.5.2004 p. 25

EAG working group to create an internet portal for archives¹² will be funded from the eContentplus programme¹³. Where necessary, the Commission has also provided logistics support for the different working groups.

2. Cooperation with other relevant networks and sectors

The European Archives Group has sought to co-operate with other relevant networks and sectors that face comparable problems and challenges. The potential advantages of such co-operation are most apparent in the areas of digitisation and the dissemination of digital content. In these areas the potential benefits to be gained from co-operation in terms of knowledge sharing and achieving economies of scale are significant.

In order to ensure co-operation with other cultural heritage sectors, the archives sector is actively participating in the European Digital Library Foundation where the president of EURBICA, who is also a member of the European Archives Group, is represented on the Board. The archives sector is also represented on the High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries and have nominated two representatives to the EDL interoperability working group.

The EAG has developed a proposal for the development of an internet portal for archives in Europe linked to the European Digital Library (EDL) project. It now seems likely that funding for the internet portal will be made available from the eContentplus programme¹⁴. This project will serve to make digital content and descriptions from archives available from a common multilingual access point for the archival part of Europe's cultural and scientific heritage.

The DLM Forum continues to be successful in organising inter-disciplinary co-operation between archives, public administration, academics, and software developers and suppliers and others in the area of electronic records and archives management. The fruit of this co-operation, MoReq2,¹⁵ is positioned to become an influential European standard in the area of electronic records management.

Finally, the working group *Measures to prevent theft of archival documents* has sought to work closer together with museums and libraries to address a problem common to all three sectors, i.e. the need to prevent theft and illegal trade of our cultural heritage. From the very beginning the group had contacts with similar efforts in libraries and museums. The Liber Security Network, a network consisting of research and national libraries, started to co-operate to prevent theft already in 2003, and it offered the archives to join. For this reason the discussions concerning the creation of a similar network for archives were postponed. Cross-sector co-operation is fundamental if we are to be successful in recovering stolen goods. To this end a joint conference to discuss the problem will be organised by the French EU presidency in Roubaix in October 2008.

¹² See section A2.3 below

¹³ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1

¹⁴ See also section A2.3 below.

¹⁵ See section A2.2 below.

3. Recommendations

Co-operation between the archives of the Member States has moved forward since the adoption of the Council Recommendation at the end of 2005. As in the past, this is an evolutionary process, based on shared interests and ambitions and the recognition that co-operation should, and can, be mutually beneficial. On this basis, co-operation between archives has been surprisingly successful over the last two decades. In order to continue that success, this report includes a number of recommendations from the National Archives to continue to work together during the coming years:

- the European Archives Group shall continue to monitor and provide guidance for the implementation of the priority actions set out in the Council Recommendation of 14 November 2005 as well as the new measures that have resulted from these actions and that may result from this progress report. The EAG shall closely co-ordinate its work with the European Board of National Archivists;
- the European Archives Group shall increasingly work together with other relevant sectors and networks with a view to achieving maximum mutual benefits and economies of scale in the efficient management, storage, preservation and retrieval of public sector information, as well as more efficient and user friendly access to archival content and services for the European citizen;
- the European Commission is requested to continue to support the work of the European Archives Group.

A.2 THE FIVE PRIORITY MEASURES OF THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

1. Preservation and disaster prevention

The situation at the outset

Before the Council Recommendation was published there was a lack of formal exchange between archivists on a multinational level on the topics of preservation and disaster management. Archivists and other experts often met on a national or regional basis and networks on that level clearly existed. Only in special cases, such as for example the planning of a new archives building, was that exchange extended to a bi- or even multinational level but no formal networks were established.

Normally preservation activities were organised on the level of single institutions, locally or regionally. Research in different aspects of preservation as well as in the field of archives buildings were conducted on the same basis but of course here an exchange between the specialists existed in form of conferences, papers and journals. Nevertheless, even here language barriers often prohibited the spread of new knowledge in the entire archival community.

What has been done

Since the publication of the Council Recommendation a tri-national working group – with members from Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic - has been established. This working group will tackle the problem of disaster prevention mainly, since this is the most urgent problem, in the realm of preservation regarding the disastrous events in the last few

years. The working group is not going to deal in detail with the other two topics mentioned in the Council Recommendation.

Especially in cases of building projects but also on certain topics on preservation there have been exchanges between archives on different levels but this has not been done formally or systematically and it is hard to estimate the frequency of such exchanges.

New developments

The situation has only changed gradually – one problem might be that the actions concerning preservation and restoration of documents are very much based on national or even regional levels. Exchange of experience or even the active help between archives on a cross-border basis hardly exist at the moment. A strengthened exchange of experience between archivists, preservation managers and restorers in the European Union is a prerequisite for a community wide dealing with the common problems. This aspect of network building should be enhanced.

As regards the situation in the case of standardisation of archive buildings, of course international standards like ISO 11799 and national standards exist. Even if archival traditions and practices in Europe differ, the promotion of a coherent European standard would be progress. Here, as in the other cases, the building of networks should be enforced.

Achievements

The working group met two times already and agreed on a general agenda. It is planned to establish an internet based information service in 2008. This should include detailed information on disaster prevention and disaster management, but also give hints where to find appropriate resources and capacity either in other archives or public institutions or by consulting commercial companies providing such services. One main part will be the enlarging of the German based internet database NORA – Notfall Register Archive (register of archives for cases of emergency) to an European level. This database should be the main tool to structure and enable networking between the European archives. This internet platform should first be operated in English but might be enlarged by the languages of the participating countries in due time. The information on the platform should be always presented in one local language and in English.

This is certainly only a first step in enabling the archives to prepare themselves properly for all possible cases of disasters. Even more steps are to be taken to face the problems of the continuing disaster of deterioration of archival material. For example the acidity of modern paper and the fragility of audiovisual material needs special efforts of all archives.

Recommendations

The European Archives Group recommends the following measures to promote preservation and the prevention of damage to archives:

- establishing regional centres of competence and training, these centres should at least have possibilities to simulate events of disaster in order that training is not only theoretical but can also include practical aspects;
- funding of local, regional and cross-boundary training on topics of disaster prevention

- and management as well as preservation, conservation and restoration;
- opening research and funding programs of the European Union to topics of preservation, conservation and disaster prevention;
 - trying to establish European standards on topics in the realm of preservation, conservation and restoration;
 - funding of translations of helpful material (standards, best practices etc.) in the languages of all Member States in order to spread the existing knowledge to the whole archival community;
 - raising the awareness in the archival community and the public as a whole that especially the modern media are very fragile and might not last long, this includes especially audiovisual material but also traditional archival material like paper bound files (problem of acidity);
 - preservation is always the primary precondition for enabling access to archival material – therefore programs of digitisation should be integrated into preservation strategies. It is important to note, that digitisation in itself is not a measure of preservation! The then necessary digital preservation carries risks which it is not entirely known how to deal with at the moment;
 - creating networks of experience in the field of archive buildings. Fostering interdisciplinary contact between engineers, architects and archivists by financing and organising conferences and seminars.

2. *European interdisciplinary co-operation on electronic documents and archives*

The situation at the outset

The DLM Forum is an independent stakeholder organisation that brings together many of the EU National Archives, academic organisations, software suppliers and developers, consultancies and others to cooperate on good practice for managing electronic records. From 1996 onwards, the DLM Forum has organised a large conference every three years, the last of which was held in Budapest in October 2005, and holds members' meetings twice every year. The conferences and other activities of the DLM Forum are described in detail in the Report on Archives.¹⁶ The DLM Forum is an important partner in the area of electronic records management for the European Commission and it has been instrumental in the development of Model Requirements for the management of electronic records (MoReq).

MoReq was published in 2001 and has been used widely throughout Europe and beyond. MoReq is now regarded as an unqualified success. It has been cited many times on many continents and it has a central role on the electronic records management scene.

However, by 2005 much had changed since MoReq was first published. Electronic records management is a relatively young discipline and many new national standards and best practices were developed after MoReq was completed. There were furthermore rapid developments and changes in many technology areas that affect the management of

¹⁶ COM(2005) 52 final, pp. 133 – 137. The *Report on Archives in the enlarged European Union* was published by the European Commission: Luxembourg, OPOCE 2005, ISBN: 92-79-00870-6.

electronic records. It had indeed become apparent that if MoReq was to retain its influence, it would be necessary to address these changes.

The Council Recommendation of 14 November 2005 asks for the further development of European interdisciplinary co-operation on electronic documents and archives. In particular the Recommendation asks for the updating and extending of the current requirements for setting up electronic document and archive systems, such as MoReq. The Council Recommendation also asks for a continuation of the DLM Forum conferences on electronic documents and archives.

What has been done

The DLM Forum has been instrumental in the development of MoReq. An extensive consultation of stakeholders and a thorough review of what was needed for the update and extension of MoReq was concluded in 2005 and led to a detailed scoping report for the development of MoReq2. The scoping report was presented to the DLM Forum Conference in Budapest in October 2005.

In 2006 funding for MoReq2 was obtained from the European Union's IDABC programme. The development by an outside company of MoReq2 was managed by the Secretariat General of the European Commission working closely with the DLM Forum. The DLM Forum appointed an expert who acted as an advisor to the European Commission throughout the project. The DLM Forum also created a MoReq2 review group, comprising experts from a representative portion of the EU Member States, which reviewed drafts at key stages in the development of MoReq2.

The DLM Forum has reported regularly to the meetings of the European Archives Group on its activities in general and on the development of MoReq2 in particular.

During this period the DLM Forum has also continued to organise members' meetings once every semester. Since the Council Recommendation of November 2005, members' meetings were organised in Vienna, (April 2006), Helsinki (November 2006), Berlin (April 2007), Lisbon (November 2007) and Ljubljana (April 2008).

New developments

MoReq2 includes a complete metadata model, with definitions of each metadata element, to support all the MoReq2 functionality. However, the scoping report of 2005 did not foresee the production of an XML schema for the metadata elements. It became apparent during the development of MoReq2 that the production of such an XML schema for MoReq2 would be an important addition to the requirements because it would facilitate the adaptation of systems to this standard and allow for much greater interoperability between one MoReq2 compliant system and another. For this reason an additional contract was awarded at the end of 2007 for the development of such an XML schema.

Achievements

MoReq2 was completed in February 2008. It is written as an evolutionary update of the original Model Requirements. Furthermore, MoReq2 will for the first time allow for a software testing regime to be implemented. It is written specifically to support the

execution of independent compliance testing and a suite of compliance tests have been developed in parallel with the model requirements themselves.

The years of experience in using and applying MoReq have shown a need to take account of the different national record keeping and archival traditions as well as different legislation, regulations and language (terminology). For this reason, MoReq2 introduces the so called 'Chapter Zero'. This will allow Member States to add their unique national requirements to MoReq2 with regard to:

- translations of key terminology and national concepts;
- national legislative and regulatory requirements;
- national standards
- possible other national requirements.

The DLM Forum is responsible for the governance of MoReq2. It ensures that the MoReq2 name is not abused, manages the translations of MoReq2 and ensures that the national chapters zero are not in contradiction with the requirements themselves. It will furthermore manage proposed changes, corrections and possible updates to MoReq2. The DLM Forum will also put in place and manage a compliance testing regime for MoReq2. This will allow software developers to demonstrate that their electronic records management systems (ERMS) are MoReq2 compliant, thereby giving users a degree of quality assurance.

The fifth DLM Forum Conference will be held in Toulouse France from 10-12 December 2008. The conference will focus on achievements and new directions for information and records management in Europe, notably with regard to eGovernment and standards, strategies for new information resources and information architectures, managing e-information and developing strategies for transferring electronic records from records management systems to archives.

Recommendations

The European Archives Group encourages the DLM Forum to pursue its work in the field of electronic records and archives management. In particular it recommends that the DLM Forum:

- maintains a viable governance regime for MoReq2, including notably the translation of MoReq2 into the official languages of the EU and the addition of national chapters zero to take account of the national traditions and legislative framework;
- sets up and monitors a European compliance testing and certification regime for MoReq2;
- continues to promote interdisciplinary co-operation in the area of electronic records and archives management and to hold a members meeting during each EU presidency;
- continues to organise large DLM Forum conferences once every three years;

and requests that the DLM Forum continues to regularly report on its activities to the European Archives Group.

3. *The establishment and maintenance of an internet portal for documents and archives in Europe*

The situation at the outset

The “Archives Portal of Europe on the Internet” aims at making Europe's diverse archival material kept by private or public cultural heritage institutions easier to access and to use online for work, leisure and/or study. For the first time it will be possible to retrieve archival information in Europe regardless of national, institutional and sectoral boundaries. This will be an important contribution to fulfilling the vision of a common multilingual access point to Europe's distributed digital cultural and scientific heritage.

The project will build up a strong network of archival institutions and enrich contacts with other cultural heritage institutions (libraries, museums). It will also face the technical challenges of disseminating archival content and the insertion of information in EUROPEANA.

The project will not establish or identify new standards but implement a common framework across Europe that includes existing global archival standards targeted for a European context and that encourages their use. The project will also support and encourage the acceptance of trans-national standards in order to guarantee interoperability with different archival portals set up on national and institutional level

What has been done

The working group has met regularly. After a first constitutive meeting in Madrid in January 2007, a second meeting took place in Brussels in May of that year and a third meeting was held in Warsaw in September 2007. In addition a number of working meetings were organised in Brussels to draft the proposal for the internet portal. The following countries are represented in working group: Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Malta, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Greece, Latvia, Sweden and Finland. The meetings are also attended by an observer from the European Commission. .

As a result the Working group have presented a proposal to eContentplus with six work packages:

- WP1. Logical Model of the Portal (chaired by Germany)
- WP2. Physical Model of the Portal (chaired by Finland)
- WP3. Development of the IT structure to achieve interoperability with the European Digital Library / EUROPEANA (chaired by the Netherlands)
- WP4. Insertion of content and other products and services defined in WP1 (chaired by France)
- WP5. Dissemination and awareness (chaired by Sweden)
- WP6. Project management (chaired by Spain)

Achievements

What has been achieved:

- The objective of the project: to make approximately 20.000.000 descriptive units accessible through the Portal in 3 years.
- The concept of the Portal: it should not be a supplier of content or a storage system of data but a search system which will serve to find existing digital content from archives across Europe.
- The adoption of the required metadata standards: EAD, EAG, EAC and METS or in a format that can be converted into EAD, EAG, EAC and METS.
- Financial support to the project. An important question is to obtain financial support for the European Portal, mainly from European Union programs such as eContentplus. We are in negotiations with the European Commission, so far successfully.
- The establishment of a permanent link to the European Digital Library and EUROPEANA

What still needs to be achieved:

1. Countries represented in the working group. The possibility of inviting other EU Member States to participate in the working group is foreseen, even though there are as yet no concrete plans to enlarge the group.
2. It is necessary to realise some first results before end of the 2008.
3. The relationships with other kind of portals. There are other initiatives for European Internet portals, mainly from libraries. It is necessary to define the relationship with these other initiatives.
4. It will be necessary to provide a permanent structure for the maintenance of the Portal once it has been created.

4. Promotion of best practice with regard to national and European legislation regarding archives

The situation at the outset

Legal matters have always been a very important issue in the field of records and archives management. Furthermore, over the last several years legal issues have become increasingly linked to the concepts of transparency, accountability and good governance. These concepts cannot be developed without good records and archives management and access policy, for which the responsibilities and the legal framework have to be clearly defined.

There is an increasing awareness of these ideas in Europe, not only within the archival profession but also within the governing bodies. In several Member States, a reflection was developed leading to a change of the archival legal framework in order to take into account of these preoccupations, the general trend being to give a wider access to documents and archives. Moreover, the evolution of the professional working environment and the

development of e-government and administration have an important impact on records and archives management and should also be considered from a legal point of view.

Legal regulations from constitutions and laws to by-laws and decrees not only constitute a framework for the archivists' and records managers 'daily work, of which they have to take account, but are also conditions which they have to learn to define or to influence. It therefore seemed essential to increase the awareness and knowledge on archival legal matters, not only for archivists but also for other administrators, lawyers, users, etc.

This issue was taken up by the International Council on Archives, through its European branch, EURBICA, which in 2003 began to develop a project for an archival legal database for Europe. The project was subsequently supported in the Report on Archives in the enlarged European Union.

The Council Recommendation of 14 November 2005 asks for the promotion of best practice with regard to national and European law on the management of, and the access to, documents and archives. To achieve this it proposes setting up a database that will link data on archival legislation and other related laws at national and Community level and facilitate their consultation. The database will provide an overview and show the diversity of existing legislation and allow best practices to be identified and disseminated.

What has been done

The project of a European legal database had already been launched by the European branch of ICA, EURBICA. A working group had been set up, led by the Direction des Archives de France, and a prototype of what could be the database was presented to the International Congress on Archives in 2004 and at the DLM Forum Conference in Budapest in 2005. The EURBICA working group also produced guidelines for each partner to develop its contribution to the database.

The group, composed of France, Finland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, was maintained in the framework of the implementation of the Council Recommendation. It met twice while further regular exchanges were organised by e-mail. With the support of the Direction des Archives de France, the group was provided with a technical training session for the use of the prototype. Moreover the working group continued to develop the structure of the database as well as the guidelines and it proposed an indexing system which will facilitate access to the legal texts, irrespective of their languages.

The work of the group is supported by the European Commission and the further development of the database is funded from the European Union's IDABC programme.

Achievements

The concrete implementation of the project has noticeably progressed after financial support from the IDABC programme was obtained.

In January 2008, after a firm was contracted for the development of the database, the calendar, content and details for the project were defined in more detail. A new prototype was delivered by mid-March 2008, and a definitive version a month later. The database will be presented to the archival community at the international congress on archives in Kuala Lumpur in July 2008. The official launch will take place during the French Presidency of

the European Union, in November 2008, at the meeting of the European Board of National Archivists (EBNA).

With regard to the content, a network of correspondents from the Member States and the EU institutions has been set up, responsible for preparing the national contribution for the database and the structure of content from the European institutions. The working group expects that most of these contributions will be ready by July 2008 and could be uploaded into the database for the Kuala Lumpur and Paris presentations. Training sessions for the correspondents will be organised in Paris in order to enable them to index and upload the content.

The maintenance of the database will be shared by the International Council of Archives (hosting the database), and the Member States (updating the content).

Recommendations

The European Archives Group recommends that:

- the archives of the EU Member States and the European institutions assume the responsibility of updating the content of the legal database for archives in Europe;
- the database is promoted not only at the European Union level but also more widely, as a model, in a larger Europe and in the rest of the world by the International Council on Archives;
- the database is promoted among other professional environments outside archives, at the European and at the national levels;
- the possibility of setting up a monitoring function is examined, in order to identify best practices in the draft legislation to be enacted in any of the Member States and to promote these best practices in the framework of the database;
- the possibility is considered of associating the Member States, at an experts level and in an advisory capacity, to the process of drafting EU directives or regulations, as far as they could have an impact on records and archives management issues.

5. Measures to prevent theft of archival documents

The situation at the outset

The Working Group appointed at the EBNA meeting in April 2006 was tasked with steering work in the priority field of Theft of Archival Documents. The group had to deal with five subjects: 1. Legal practice relating to the restitution of stolen property, 2. Prevention and property restitution, 3. Business and awareness raising, 4. Report on the current situation and 5. Organisation.

What has been done

The Working group was made up of representatives from Poland, the Netherlands, Estonia, France, Spain, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Meetings of the Working group have been held in Stockholm (1 meeting), The Hague (1 meeting) and Brussels (3 meetings). Two issues were on the agenda as the most important ones; first, what measures could be taken

against theft from archives and the ensuing trade in cultural artefacts and second, the need to undertake a study that will show the extent of theft problems among archival institutions in the Member States.

New developments

During the meeting in The Hague, it was decided to prioritise two of the five subjects, i.e. to examine the current situation and to develop good practice guidelines. Since that meeting, the work has concentrated on collecting information about the situation and problems with theft from archival institutions in the member countries. A survey was sent to the member countries in the summer of 2006 with the purpose of ascertaining the extent to which theft is a problem, the nature of that problem and the measures which have been taken to deal with it. The survey was also aimed to find out what we know about theft and how it is resolved, what we know about the thief and what measures have been taken to prevent theft.

The response rate to the survey was based on the questionnaire being sent to National Archives in 25 European countries, requesting them to distribute it to 15 archival institutions in each country, representing both state and private archival institutions. 190 replies were received. The answers were closely studied and presented in a report, "Stealing from Archives. A report on European archive theft", presented to meeting of the European Archives Group in Brussels in June 2007. The report is available at <http://www.statensarkiv.se/Sve/Dokumentarkiv/Filer/stealing-from-archives.pdf>.

Achievements

As a result of the report and the knowledge we now have, the discussions at the last Working group meetings concentrated on awareness and the recovery of stolen documents on one hand and technical advice and best practice on the other.

The report shows that a great deal of archival institutions is not fully aware of the problems of theft. The awareness that archives are a vital part of our common cultural heritage must also be emphasized. Raising the awareness of the problem throughout Europe by providing a text on general issues concerning sensitisation and training should enhance the idea of spreading information about theft.

In the field of prevention, the need of technical advice and best practice should aim at harmonising policies in different areas, such as reading room regulations, rules concerning and access to storage areas, as well as rules/guidelines for the behaviour of the staff in archival institutions. Technical advice should for example encourage the use of digitised or microfilmed documents instead of originals. Another important issue is dealing with any possible co-operation within EU in the field of recovering stolen documents.

The Working Group has fulfilled its assignment. Following the survey on theft in archives, it has developed 'Principles and practical guidance' for the prevention of theft in archives which will serve as a common tool for archival institutions and were presented to the European Archives in June 2008. It has furthermore prepared a draft declaration on the prevention of theft in archives and the fight against their illegal trade for adoption by the Heads of the National Archives of the 27 Member States. This declaration will be presented

at a seminar about theft in archives will be held in Roubaix, during the French EU presidency in November 2008.

Recommendations

The European Archives Group recommends the following measures to prevent theft of archival documents.

A. Measures to improve security of archival documents

- archives as an important part of our cultural heritage;
- increase the awareness about the value of archives;
- staff in archival institutions must be aware of the problems of theft;
- co-operation within the EU in the field of recovering stolen items, including recognition of the importance of the international market and trade with stolen items;
- priority as one of the five areas of action within the EAG;
- development of principles and practical guidance to be distributed among the member states.

B. Measures to promote cooperation on restitution of stolen archives

- raise awareness with legal and police authorities that archives are part of the European cultural heritage;
- exchange information on stolen archival documents within the relevant networks for missing cultural heritage;
- study the possibility of improving measures to facilitate the reclamation of archives.

PART B – CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

B.1 - The European directive for the re-use of public sector information

The Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information¹⁷ (PSI) was approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2003. By July 2005, the initial deadline, 8 Member States had ratified it, and by mid-2007 a total of 22 countries had done so. The European Commission set up e-PSIplus to monitor progress and spread good practice across the community, and will undertake a formal review of the implementation of the regulations by July 2008.

Public sector information is a very valuable, but under used asset. Governments create information for a variety of purposes, which can have a use well beyond those purposes. The PSI Directive aims to open up such information to allow the private sector to use it to create new goods and services, stimulating the information and publishing industries and encouraging creativity. Citizens should benefit from an improved flow of information and better services, as well as from the new economic opportunities.

National archives hold important quantities of public sector information, both in the content of their holdings of records, and in their range of finding aids and databases, which represent the intellectual input of their staffs. This information is already in the public domain, as national archives make it available. However, it may have additional value, if processed or combined with other information.

Archives, libraries and cultural establishments are currently excluded from the Directive, though in the UK, the National Archives (TNA) does comply with the regulations because it stores a wide variety of information from government departments and other public sector bodies. The question of whether the Directive should be extended to include cultural establishments such as archives is under consideration and was for example discussed at an e-PSIplus meeting in September 2007.

When the PSI regulations were introduced in the UK in 2005, there was initial uncertainty about the scope of organisations covered and the categories of information that were to be included. A 2007 report on the operation of the regulations pointed to a range of initiatives to improve reuse, including the Information Fair Trader Scheme which sets standards for public organisations trading information, and the Click Use License, which gives customers fast and efficient permission to use government information.

Awareness of PSI and the Directive appears variable across the community, and is probably low in organisations like archives. The content of archives is immensely rich, and potentially valuable for the private sector. The huge interest in family history has already brought commercial interests into the market, offering internet based services that provide direct access to digitised documents. In some cases, archive organisations actively work with private sector companies to digitise content and make it available on the internet. This may be a good way of exploiting the content of archives at lower public cost, and will work best with series of records for which there is high demand. In other cases, archive organisations have used public funding to digitise content and seek to recoup revenue from

¹⁷ OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90–96

online services. In such cases they may be reluctant to see this content re-used by private sector companies which would bring them into direct competition.

The European Archives Group should carry out further study in this area, in order to:

- raise awareness of the importance of the Directive and of the potential for re-using the rich content of Europe's archives;
- consider the advantages and disadvantages of extending the terms of the Directive to archives and seek to establish a common view;
- evaluate the different models for exploiting the content of archives and making it more widely available to European and world citizens.
- examine ways of opening up the little known and less popular records held in archives.

B.2 - The relationship between on-site and on-line access to archives

The balance of access in archives across Europe is changing as Internet technologies become more widespread among customers, and as the archives themselves put more material online. National archives commonly make their catalogues available for remote searching, and increasingly they are also putting images of archival documents online. **Not all archive documents can be put online and there will always be constraints as a result of preservation needs and the costs of digital capture. However, more archive material will be available online in the future.** In the United Kingdom, visitors to the websites of the archive organisation now outnumber visitors who pass through the doors by several times, and it is likely that the same is true of other European countries.

This raises a series of interesting questions. First, what priority should national archives give to the different types of access? Once the initial investment is made in digitising finding aids and documents, online visits and visitors are much cheaper, meaning that archives can serve more customers and make more archive materials available to more people, more often. What, however, should be the balance of services for the onsite visitor?

Second, what are the relationships between online and onsite visits and visitors? Some archives find that the availability of materials on the Internet has reduced onsite visits, but is this common across Europe, and in different types of archive institution? Anecdotal evidence from the National Archives of Scotland is that putting catalogues online has stabilised the numbers of onsite visitors, but increased the number of records that they ask for and use. How can we achieve a balance between serving the onsite and the online visitor?

Third, if onsite visits and visitors have reached a plateau or are even dropping, should archives seek to increase their online presence, and if so how should they achieve this? What are the opportunities, and what are the successful models from across Europe, for archives co-operating with other government organisations, other cultural heritage organisations, or with other information providers? What role can the private sector, now becoming active in the family history market, play in assisting archive organisations? And what should be the role of the European Digital Library?

This question would benefit from a wider study of practice and experience in a number of European countries. A simple exchange of information would itself be of value, but beyond that it may be possible to develop best practice guidelines.

The European Archives Group should undertake further study in this area, and in particular:

- gather evidence on the changing balance between online and onsite access to archives and consider the implications for European archive services;
- exchange information about current approaches to digitisation of archival materials in Europe, including selection of material, standards of capture and delivery systems;
- make recommendations to archives in member countries on future digitisation of archival material for online access and encourage them to develop appropriate strategies;

B.3 - Digital record keeping: consequences for administration and society and the changing role of Archives

It is evident that the growing use of new technologies has crucially affected public administration and how they manage information and the way that documents are created, stored and accessed. Over the past several decades the implementation of ICT in administration has moreover gone hand in hand with the development and implementation of efficiency and quality of service and with growing attention to transparency and accountability of government. Good governance and e-government are central concepts in the public administration of the 21st century. It is unmistakable that e-government and digital record keeping will profoundly change many of the traditional principles and practices of archives services.

Digitisation of society will affect not only the traditional archival concepts and practices, but it will also change the relations between archives services and records creators and ultimately the role that the archives services and the archivists fulfil in public administration and in society. An analysis of the developments in the EU member states, within the context of their different legislative and administrative traditions, could give a valuable insight in the value of different standards and practices. Such an analysis could be made on three levels.

First of all an analysis should be made at the level of the internal processes in the archives services. It is already clear that existing archival paradigms will not be adequate to meet the challenges of the new digital world. For traditional concepts as for instance transfer, long term preservation, appraisal and selection, description or accessibility, new methods arise for which new 'best practices' or standards will have to be found. This will also have its effect on the everyday work of the archivists.

Secondly the interrelation between the archives services and record creators will change. Inevitably archivists will have to move up to the front of the recordkeeping process, as decisions on selection and long term preservation have to be made at the very beginning. This also affects the traditional concept of transfer of records and leads to questions as: will digital born archives still be transferred to the archives services, do the archives services get privileged access to the digital management systems of government bodies or will they go further and take on the role of trusted repository?

And finally digital record keeping will affect the role of archivists and archives in society. Governments promote civil participation in society and e-government, but often this ambition is not translated in practice. Ownership and responsibility need more attention. Reliable (digital) record keeping is of vital importance for the functioning of the state. The adverse effects of lack of attention for archives, not unknown in the traditional paper based environment, will be strengthened by continuing digitisation. If nothing changes important values as transparency, accountability, accessibility and responsibility will suffer. It is a primary responsibility of archivists “to protect the integrity of archival material and thus guarantee that it continues to be reliable evidence of the past”.¹⁸ It is imperative that government organizations assume responsibility for reliable digital records management. The archivists and archives services will have to find their role and become as such a crucial factor in the working of the democratic society. Furthermore the archives services will have to ascertain whether the legal environment in which they work needs adaptation to these new challenges.

The way these matters are handled in the different countries, could benefit from an exchange of information on the current situation in the EU member states. The National Archives are actively looking at their current and future role in e-Government. It is recommended that the European Archives Group stimulates and promotes discussion on this issue with a view to exploiting the full potential value of the Archives for society in general and public administration in particular and reports more fully on this issue in 2010.

B.4 - Creation of a European expertise network

Background

The Report on Archives in the enlarged European Union and the Council Recommendation of 14 November 2005 pinpointed a number of areas where cooperation must be strengthened. The current core priorities of the European Archives Group focus on defining the European instruments that will facilitate cooperation between professionals in the Member States. Progress is being monitored by the group of national experts, although the latter are representative more on a strategic level than on an operational one. Once these projects are finished, there is no guarantee that they will be duly disseminated and implemented despite the fact that the appropriate provisions are generally included in the projects' management plan.

Objectives

The aim of establishing a European expertise network is to provide archive institutions and professionals in Europe with:

- firstly, support in implementing – at their respective levels – different projects developed as part of current priorities or those yet to be defined;
- secondly, support and information regarding the other areas of expertise mentioned in the report.

¹⁸ Art. 1 of the international *Code of Ethics*, adopted by the General Assembly of the International Council on Archives in its XIIIth session in Beijing (China) on 6 September 1996.

Organisation and content

Both of these objectives – immediate as regards the implementation of priorities, support and information in the longer run – require two types of partner:

- the archive institutions of the Member States, as they are involved in the projects. Depending on the project, each Member State could provide a list of competent experts to ensure the follow-up of these projects within the country itself, or even in other Member States. Under the legal databases project¹⁹, for example, the names of correspondents and legal experts should be supplied in the "contacts" section.
- professional associations, those breeding grounds of experts. The Report on Archives in the enlarged European Union highlights the European associations. While these associations are very diverse they are also extremely active. Some of them are members of the European branch of the International Council on Archives (EURBICA), which could represent them in the absence of a European archivist association as such. It is worth noting that EURBICA already a partner of the EU in the legal database project. Furthermore, EURBICA has an internet site which could prove useful to the network.

The network should take into account the Union's cultural and linguistic diversity, this being reflected in archival practice.

The content of the network should provide:

- a list of names of experts grouped by field as well as reference publications, case studies and good practice;
- information on current projects;
- advice and training opportunities for the use or implementation of the projects.

B.5 - Plan for a centre of excellence for European archivists

Background

Over the past few years, a number of societal²⁰ and professional changes have highlighted the need to develop a category of high-level professional managers in the field of document and archive management who could aspire to a successful career and occupy strategic posts.

Aim

The idea is therefore to create in the European Union an "archive elite"²¹, who have a sound knowledge of the profession's issues and challenges, such as the latest scientific or technological developments, but who are also able to define management strategies and

¹⁹ See section A2.4.

²⁰ We are thinking in particular that consideration is given to document and archive management at a strategic level in the functioning of states and organisations as the means of addressing principles of good governance, accountability and ensuring the authenticity and integrity of information. To this end the role of the archivist as organiser and provider of this authentic strategic information must be strengthened. At the same time, the profession is undergoing changes linked both to this socio-political context and to technological developments such as dematerialisation and e-administration.

²¹ This project does not concern existing national archivists.

can, if necessary, communicate at the very highest level. This proposal could take the form of a European centre of excellence that would bring together the archivists of the future and thus further develop European expertise.

The advantage of proposing this "centre of excellence" at European level is that it will ultimately allow for the training of a body of professionals capable of developing in both the national and international context. It will also create a specific network for exchanges and discussions on the basis of an approach encompassing not only national characteristics and expertise but also the purely European context, thereby furthering high-level European cooperation in this field.

Target

The goal is to identify "up-and-coming" archivists or records managers. Candidates should have some professional work experience of at least five or six years would be desirable.

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Organisation

The "centre of excellence" could be organised in a decentralised way so that its structures would be lighter and would not be attached permanently to the same organisation or institution, whilst still involving all Member States. The Presidency system that will be adopted under the Lisbon Treaty could be taken into account, with one or more seminars in Brussels, Strasbourg or Luxembourg.

Content

The course content should include both professional issues and thinking on cutting-edge practices, but also cover all aspects of management (finance, human resources, search for sponsorship). Knowledge and consideration of the political and social context, the defence and promotion of the profession, and communication techniques should also be taken into account.

The centre could be based on two types of activity to be spread over one year:

- short thematic seminars;
- active two-month training periods in institutions/organisations willing to welcome a candidate (with exchange arrangements, if necessary). This would allow the candidate to become acquainted with different working methods in Europe. The candidate would have to be involved in designing or implementing major projects. This practice was recommended in the Report on Archives in 2005.²²

Potential partners

- the European Commission
- the European Institute of Public Administration
- CEDEFOP (which would assist with the organisation of the project)
- the ICA

²² See COM(2005) 52 final, section 3c.

Financing

- Country participation: an attractive project meeting given expectations should prompt administrations or institutions to finance candidates from their own budget. Similarly, countries could contribute by sending experts at their own expense.
- The possibility of finding European partners (see above) must be explored.
- A project application to the EU could be envisaged under the Leonardo Da Vinci programme (transnational pilot projects).

CONCLUSIONS

Through the different projects developed in the framework of the implementation of the recommendation of 14 November 2005, European archival cooperation has become a reality. A first step has been completed with the publication of this report which describes the achievements of the last three years and includes some recommendations from the Member States as well as proposals for new areas of cooperation. The involvement of the Member States in the projects, with the support of the Commission, demonstrated the importance of developing and strengthening archival cooperation.

Indeed, the European Union has a key part to play in reinforcing professional development and thinking, not only at the national level but also at the Community level. These efforts are in line with principles and approaches widely shared by the Member States that they should promote in the framework of the enlarged European Union, which will doubtless welcome new members in the future.

The first principle aims at preserving the cultural diversity, enriched by the contributions of the countries which have recently joined the Union. This diversity was expressed, in the archival field through exchanges of expertise which enabled the implementation of different projects. The legal database, for example, presents the regulatory systems within the framework of the different national contexts in which they were produced. The introductory chapter 0 of the MoReq2 specification describes for each Member State the specific environment in which it will be applied. The European archival portal, in its final version, will provide access through a common tool to the archival heritage of each nation, as a reflection of its culture and traditions. Working and thinking together, while respecting cultural diversity, is therefore possible in the European archival community.

The second principle, which does not contradict the respect of cultural diversity, consists of efforts to produce and share common tools and technical standards. They aim above all to improve our action to meet the challenges of the 21st century: controlling electronic records and the mass of archives, improving recordkeeping, proposing better services to users. Common tools will also facilitate professional and cultural exchanges and mobility, a better knowledge of our European environment, and a new approach for cooperating and working together. The projects carried out in the framework of the working groups coordinated by the EAG, whether it is the legal database, the MoReq2 specification, the European archival portal, the guidelines to prevent theft of archival documents, or the cooperation network to prevent damage and preserve archives in case of natural disasters, are promising and full of future potential. Some of them can be considered as a first step towards harmonisation of professional procedures, even of European certification in the case of MoReq2 specification.

An essential component of the European cultural heritage, records and archives are also a tool at the service of the states in their efforts to promote and support, in the framework of the enlarged European Union, the principles of democracy and good governance. Therefore the archives services of the Member States are an essential part of modern administration, contributing to the development of good information management as a service to government and administration. In addition they provide citizens with easy access to documents produced by the administration so that they can verify its efficiency and understand its action. The legal database and the MoReq2 specification, which provides a framework to control the compliance of electronic records management systems, were

conceived in this context. The efforts made by archives to support the modernisation of States and to improve the efficiency of their activities should be continued during the next phase of European archival cooperation.

ANNEX

Implementation of the Council Recommendation of 14 November 2005 on priority actions to increase cooperation in the field of archives in Europe (2005/835/EC)

	Text of the Council Recommendation	Implementation of the Recommendation
A	<p>A European Archives Group, comprising experts designated by the Member States and the institutions of the Union, should ensure cooperation and coordination on general matters relating to archives and follow-up of the work referred to in the ‘Report on archives in the enlarged European Union’ of February 2005, and in particular the priority measures referred to in point B of this Recommendation. Where and when appropriate, the European Archives Group should also cooperate with other relevant European networks such as the National Representatives Group on Digitisation and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation (EBLIDA).</p>	<p>The European Archives Group (EAG) held its constitutive meeting on 28 April 2006. It has since met once every six months.</p> <p>The EAG discusses and monitors the progress achieved with regard to the implementation of the priority measures. The Group co-operates actively with other sectors, notably in the framework of the European Digital Library project.</p>
B	<p>The following measures in the field of archives:</p>	
	<p>1. preservation of and prevention of damage to archives in Europe:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — development of a model action plan by the European Archives Group to promote damage prevention measures for documents and archives in the context of natural catastrophes and other harmful incidents, 	<p>A tri-national regional working group consisting of Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic was established to tackle the problem of disaster prevention. The group plans to establish an internet based information service on disaster prevention and disaster management. This service will be based in part on the German internet database NORA (Notfall Register Archive) which will be enlarged to the European level.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — promotion by the European Archives Group of Community-wide actions for the preservation and restoration of damaged documents and archives, 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — establishment and promotion, by the national archives services of the Member States and the archives services of the institutions of the Union, of standards and specifications for the construction of new purpose built premises for archives; 	
	<p>2. reinforcement of European interdisciplinary cooperation on electronic documents and archives to be further developed, including within the framework of the Council Work Plan for Culture, in particular regarding the coordination of digitalisation:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — increase in cooperation on safeguarding the authenticity, long-term preservation and availability of electronic documents and archives, in particular by updating and extending the current requirements for setting up electronic document and archive management systems such as MoReq (Model requirements for electronic documents and archives management systems), which promote better public administration, and by continuing to organise DLM (2) forums on electronic documents and archives; 	<p>The update and extension of MoReq was completed in early 2008. The DLM Forum is instituting a governance regime for Moreq2 as well as a compliance testing regime. The development of Moreq2 and the accompanying test scripts were financed with funds from the IDABC programme. It is expected that the first MoReq2 compliant ERMS will appear on the market before the end of 2008.</p> <p>The 5th DLM Forum will be organised in Toulouse from 10 to 12 December 2008</p>
	<p>3. establishment and maintenance of an Internet portal for documents and archives in Europe as a priority:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — provision, through the national archives services of the Member States and the archives services of the institutions of the Union, of an Internet portal which would give easier and cross-border access to documents and archives of the Member States and institutions of the Union. That Internet portal could be hosted either on one of the European Union computer servers or by the national archives service of a Member State; 	<p>The European Archives Group is coordinating the realisation of the internet portal for archives in Europe and co-operating actively with Europeana. A project proposal for the internet portal submitted to the eContent^{plus} programme in October 2007 was approved and it is expected that the negotiations with the Commission for the development of the portal will be concluded in September 2008.</p>
	<p>4. promotion of best practice with regard to national and European law on the management of, and access to, documents and archives; the national archives services of the Member States and the archives services of the institutions of the Union should:</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — monitor new draft legislation in that field to be enacted in any of the Member States, with the aim of identifying best practices especially with regard to requirements for the management of and access to documents and archives, 	<p>The launch of a legal database for archives in Europe (see below) will lead to a more effective monitoring of draft legislation.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — link data on archival legislation and other related laws at national and Community level and facilitate consultation thereof by setting up a database in order to encourage dissemination of that legislation. That database could be hosted either on one of the European Union computer servers or by the national archives service of a Member State. It is advisable to take into account the work undertaken within the framework of the European legal data project, promoted by the European branch of the International Archives Council, EURBICA, as indicated in the 	<p>A 'Legal database for archives in Europe' is being developed by the Direction des Archives de France and EURBICA in co-operation with the European Commission with funds from the IDABC programme. The legal database will establish a pan-European e-Government service providing easy cross-border access to national and European law on the management of and access to documents and archives. It is intended to promote best practice, to allow for the monitoring and analysis of relevant legislation and to raise awareness and knowledge of such legislation.</p>

	‘Report on Archives in the enlarged European Union’ (priority action 4.2);	The legal database was developed during the first of 2008 and presented at the ICA congress in Kuala Lumpur in July.
	5. adoption of measures to prevent the theft of archival documents:	
	— development of an action plan and common guidelines by the national archives services of the Member States that will allow for the exchange of information and best practices in order to combat the theft of archival documents and to facilitate the recovery of stolen documents.	A report from the working group 'prevention of theft from archives', containing an inventory of the situation in archives based on extensive Europe-wide survey, was submitted to the third meeting of the EAG in June 2007. A follow-up report with an analysis of the results and recommendation is expected for 2008.
C	The Member States and the institutions of the Union should jointly promote the implementation of the priority measures identified in the ‘Report on archives in the enlarged European Union’ of February 2005 and referred to in point B of this Recommendation. The implementation of priority measures will take account of the work of the groups set up within the framework of the EBNA (European Board of National Archivists), notably with respect to cooperation in the fields of security and conservation of archives and putting into place a European information access portal. The adoption of this Recommendation and the implementation of these measures do not in themselves imply a commitment of new budgetary resources by either the European Union or the Member States. Where possible and in accordance with the relevant procedures, the European Union will endeavour, under existing programmes, to support projects aimed at the implementation of those measures.	In the course of implementing this recommendation, financial support from existing Community programmes, was obtained for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update and extension of the model requirements fore the management of electronic records (MoReq2) - (IDABC) - development of an xml schema for MoReq2 (IDABC) - hard copy publication of MoReq2 (EC publications) - development of a legal database for archives in Europe (IDABC) - development of an internet portal for archives (<i>eContentplus</i>)
D	At the latest three years after the date of publication of this Recommendation, the European Archives Group should present a progress report on implementation of the priority measures referred to in point B.	In June 2007 The EAG created a drafting group to prepare the progress report, the members of which included representatives of the working groups for the implementation of the five priority measures. The secretariat of the drafting group was provided by the European Commission.