



The European Union data policy and its implementation to weather services

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The European Union data policy, which is relevant to weather information is implemented by several Directives in the European Union legislation. The three most important ones are a) the Directive for Environmental Data, b) the Directive for the Public Sector Information (PSI) re-use and the most recent one c) INSPIRE – Infrastructure for spatial data in the European Community. These Directives pursue three main objectives: to facilitate the creation of Community-wide services based on these data, to enhance effective cross-border re-use of information for added-value services, and to limit distortions of competition in the Community market. The spirit of the data policy is that European economy and society stands to benefit enormously if Public Sector Information is easily available for commercial re-use, with as few barriers and as at as low a cost as possible.

The paper presents an overview of the Directives and the status of their implementation in general and in weather services in particular. The remaining barriers are analysed and constructive resolutions for their removal are presented. The implications to the on-going work on re-writing the PSI directive are summarised.