



INSPIRE - a directive to support environmental policies in EU

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INSPIRE is a framework directive for establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community. The purpose of the Directive is to lay down general rules for the establishment and operation of the infrastructure to support environmental policies and decision making as well as policies that affect the environment.

One important objective of INSPIRE is to reduce obstacles between public authorities in sharing spatial data, especially in the field of environment, and to make more and better spatial data available for the public, public authorities and Community bodies. It has two purposes:

- to make high quality geographical data available at all levels in the Member States, for better implementation of community environmental policies; and
- to give the public access to the spatial information.

The Directive entered into force on the 15th May 2007. The implementation of INSPIRE requires specific Implementation Rules, for which five drafting teams have been established: Metadata, Data specifications, Network services, Data sharing, and Monitoring and reporting. The draft IRs will be open for comments before their approval.

INSPIRE covers over 30 spatial data themes which are referred to in three Annexes to the Directive. Atmospheric conditions and Meteorological geographical features are included to Annex III. The implementation of INSPIRE will take place in sev-

eral stages. The implementation rules shall be adopted in 2008 and 2009. Complete implementation of Annex III spatial data themes would take place in 2014.

The presentation will include a reference to other EU directives which concern meteorological data, the INSPIRE work programme and the current status of implementation rules from the meteorological point of view.