

INSPIRE: a European contribution to GEOSS

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In this statement to the GEO IV Summit, Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research Commissioner, said that “the GEO initiative is an outstanding example of international cooperation in the domain of science and technology”, and that “the European Commission is pleased to be a co-chair of GEO”. He also offered, on behalf of the European Commission, INSPIRE, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme, and European R&D programme as contributions to GEOSS.

INSPIRE is a 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. It entered into force on the 15th May 2007. Member States had until 15 May 2009 to transpose the Directive into their legislative systems. INSPIRE lays down general rules to establish an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe for the purposes of Community environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

INSPIRE foresees the establishment of more detailed provisions that are called Implementing Rules (IR). Implementing Rules need to be established for

- metadata,
- network services,
- data specifications
- data and service sharing
- monitoring and reporting.

The establishment of these Implementing Rules is the responsibility of the European Commission. A process for extensive stakeholder participation has been set-up, which is described in the INSPIRE Work Programme Transposition Phase 2007-2009¹. This presentation will review the state of play regarding the development of the Implementing Rules.

¹ Work programme: http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/reports/transposition/INSPIRE_IR_WP2007_2009_en.pdf