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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Antici Group (Simplification)
N° Cion doc.:	ST 16773 2025 INIT
Subject:	Environment Omnibus (INSPIRE Directive): WP meeting on 23 February 2026: Presidency steering note

With a view to the above mentioned meeting, delegations will find attached a steering note prepared by the Presidency.

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Presidency Discussion Paper

For AGS on 23 February 2026

Environmental Omnibus – INSPIRE Directive

In view of the **Antici Group (Simplification) meeting on 23 February 2026**, the Presidency puts forward a brief steering note for the INSPIRE Proposal (Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2007/2/EC as regards simplification of certain requirements for the establishment of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the Union; 2025/0393 (COD)).

The exchange of views aims to build on the previous exchanges in the AGS, the comments submitted by delegations as well as the written replies submitted by the Commission for the meeting of 9 February (WK 2171/2026). The Commission will briefly introduce these slides before the discussion.

The simplification proposal for INSPIRE involves deleting a number of provisions. These deletions eliminate specific technical requirements for data and data sharing, while aiming at preserving the core objectives of technical requirements through alignment with more recent EU legislation related to data. Moreover, a few elements (comitology, empowerments) have been added or amended to modernise this Directive from 2007.

For the discussion on 23 February, the Presidency suggests an **overarching guiding question**, along with some subelements, to verify whether the main issues covered by the simplification proposal have been adequately explained and understood. Given the maturity of the discussion on this proposal, the Presidency recommends structuring the discussion in one round only. After one round of the exchange of views, the Presidency will invite the **Commission to provide further explanations**.

The proposed structure of the discussion is:

- **A brief Commission presentation** of the slides distributed after AGS on 9 February;
- **One round of the exchange of views** based on the question below;
- **A reaction by the Commission** providing further explanations.

Question to Member States

In light of the deletion of several provisions and the addition of a few modernisation elements in the INSPIRE proposal, have delegations received sufficient explanations and assurances that this simplification proposal will continue to ensure the sharing of environmental spatial information among public sector organizations, as well as public access to spatial information across Europe?

Delegations are particularly invited to comment on whether the suggested simplifications as well as modernisation amendments linked to lisbonisation are robust enough in the following areas:

- *Ensures interoperability and, where necessary, data harmonisation*
- *Ensures continuity of (network) services*

- *Ensures data quality*
- *Ensures data sharing between public authorities*
- *Ensures transfer of functionality of today's geoportal to the new single EU entry point*
- *Keeps sufficient level of INSPIRE monitoring to maintain transparency and accountability*
- *Ensures that authorities responsible for INSPIRE are sufficiently involved in the governance of issues that are proposed to be handled under other horizontal EU legislation*
- *Clarifies the relation between the basic act and secondary legislation (delegated and implementing acts, comitology, etc.) and the timing for the related processes*
- *Ensures the EU's role in international (standardisation) bodies*

If sufficient assurances have been given, do delegations have (additional) drafting suggestions on specific elements of the proposal?