



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 June 2006**

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**NOTE**

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from	United Kingdom delegation
to :	Working Party on Legal Data Processing
Subject :	Legal information systems in the Member States
	- Recent developments in the United Kingdom

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1. The United Kingdom is currently in the process of a major investment programme aimed at transforming the delivery of legislation online. This will eventually provide a greatly improved service for those who use the existing Official Legislation website

([www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/about\\_legislation.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/about_legislation.htm)).

2. The overall strategy involves:

- improving the search (new search engine involving integration of Google with Semaphore) and addressing usability issues (colour schemes, revised menus), improved presentation of the html version, and adding pdf versions of legislation, which have only been available on the website since October 2005 back to 1999.

- adding new features to the website including Browsealoud software which enables the text to read to the user and a new legislation alerting service using RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds.
- augmenting the content on the website with links to information on the Eur-lex website; and
- providing access to the UK Statute Law Database, thus enabling users to access all legislation as it is first enacted and as it is revised and updated over time.

3. The UK Statute Law Database, which will include the revised and updated texts of all UK, Northern Ireland and Scottish Primary legislation from 1235 to date, is also now in its final stages of development with an internal government service having gone 'live' on 31 May 2006 and a Public service about to be tested by a number of selected users, prior to a planned general release later in the year.

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