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From: Paul Tighe [<mailto:paul.tighe@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 7:22 PM

To: MARKT COMPLAW

Subject: Consultation reply Interconnection of Business Registers - Citizen

Dear sir/madam,

after reviewing the documents provided for consultation, I would like to observe the following.

Firstly, IMI (which I believe has a bright future in other areas), seems likely to generate increased workload for MSs in answering registry queries from other MSs and the general public. It seems like needless work for MSs to have to manually respond to every browser of a business registry. This is work that can be done cheaper and faster by an automated system which can access and retrieve the relevant information from the registries of other MSs.

So, I turn to EBR and the possibility of using the BRITE project's work to update its functioning.

Firstly, BRITE's work seems to offer a simple universal coding which will be easy for MSs systems to work off of (REID). The BDS also seems like a simple solution to a real problem.

However, I note from the Working Paper that BRITE includes a centralised registry (CNI). This sounds expensive. I cannot guess the running costs of such a project, but it doesn't take much to imagine that maintaining a registry of every company in the EBR will require significant resources.

I have serious doubts that a centralised system will present value for money. I hope the Commission will think long and hard about costs before committing itself to this course of action.

If BRITE proves too expensive, then the only prudent course in my view, is for the Commission to involve itself in EBR's current system of mutually compatible national registers and try to improve the functioning of this group. In particular, the REID codes and a modified BDS seem like they could bring much to the EBR system. The Working Paper also raises serious technical questions about its legal form.

However, the Commission Working Paper also includes a lot of handwringing about the non-participation of some MSs in EBR. This seems like total nonsense to me. If MSs do not wish to join this grouping then I see little justification to compel them to do so. Sharing information on business registers is a useful service, but it is hardly critical to the functioning of the Internal Market.

Nonetheless, Community membership of EBR seems reasonable, given the potential for Community dimension. The inclusion of non-MSs on the other hand can only be a good thing in my view, and there would be additional benefits to membership by new countries (such as the US with which many European countries have branches and vice versa). I would hope that whatever changes may be encouraged in EBR take into

account the needs of non-EU countries as well.

regards

Paul Tighe