

Oslo Declaration

At their Meeting in Oslo, Norway on 26-27 March 2009 to discuss data policy matters, the directors of the EUMETNET National Meteorological Services,

Recognizing that:

- Significant investments and sustained funding are necessary at national level to maintain and develop the basic components of the European Meteorological Infrastructure required to fulfill the general needs of the public, the decision makers and the European economy;
- National governments can meet this basic requirement under different funding policies associated to different economic models for NMHSs and variations in data policies;
- Although their NMHSs operate under different official mandates and economic models and accordingly run different activity portfolios, all are committed to provide the best possible contribution to protection of life and property under their Public Weather Service mission, directed at national authorities and the general public;
- The Internet and the web technologies have changed radically the expectations from the general public and the access to and possible sharing and use of data, products and services;
- The ongoing development of the WMO Information System will take advantage of these innovative technologies;
- The legal framework provided by the EU including the INSPIRE and PSI Directives places new expectations on the way the NMHSs provide their services.

Have reached consensus on the following:

- 1) Data policies of the EUMETNET members, ECMWF and EUMETSAT and the related development of on-line services, should:
 - Facilitate direct access to basic meteorological data and products on a non discriminatory basis, under well-documented licensing conditions, in compliance with relevant international and national regulations and with WMO resolutions;
 - Be harmonized as far as possible to achieve greater transparency and improve accessibility for re-users within the constraints of the legal frameworks and respective economic models of the NMHS, taking into account relevant discussions in the context of EUMETNET, ECMWF, ECOMET and EUMETSAT bodies.
- 2) The evolution of the basic output of NMHSs, as a result of advances in science and in observation and numerical weather prediction and technology, should lead to regular reviews at NMHS level, and, when appropriate, to progressive expansions of:

- Their set of “Essential” data and products made available on a free and unrestricted basis;
 - Their catalogue of data and products licensed for re-use by the private sector, under the PSI directive where applicable.
- 3) In the same spirit, NMHSs should also consider adapting their licensing conditions with the objective of delivering more information per price unit, if financial constraints allow.
 - 4) The EUMETNET members should continue to develop, individually and jointly through EUMETNET programmes, on line services giving user-friendly access to these catalogued data and products, in order to facilitate further the re-use of public meteorological information and to maximize the societal benefits.
 - 5) In the spirit of the INSPIRE directive, the EUMETNET members should expand the set of graphical products accessible free of charge to the public for general purposes, through the viewing services of their respective web sites, whilst continuing to license as appropriate the underlying digital data and products.
 - 6) In the context of GMES, meteorological data and products required by the operators of the GMES Core Services to deliver new, non meteorological public good services, could be licensed to them at no information cost to fulfill their production duties, subject to commitment from EU and national authorities to fund these Core Services on a sustainable basis.