



EU Interparliamentary Conference
on the INSPIRE Directive
2-4 April 2006, Gävle, Sweden

SVERIGES 
RIKSDAG 
THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT

Stockholm 24 January 2006

Invitation

***EU Interparliamentary Conference on the INSPIRE Directive,
2-4 April 2006, Gävle, Sweden***

Dear Madam Speaker/Mr Speaker,

The proposed INSPIRE Directive (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) creates a legal framework for the establishment and operation of an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe for the purpose of formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Community policies in Member States at all levels and providing public information. INSPIRE focuses on environmental policy, but is open for use by and future extension to other sectors such as agriculture, transport and energy.

The Swedish Parliament and its Committee on Housing will be hosting a conference on INSPIRE on 2-4 April 2006 in Gävle¹. On 15 November 2005, a letter of invitation was sent to you from the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament.

The proposed Directive will be of great importance and lays down the general rules for the establishment of an infrastructure for spatial information in the Union. It will also have an impact on the development of national spatial data infrastructures within the Member States. It should be noted, however, that part of the work is already dealt with at international level.

The main objective of the conference is to share expectations on the consequences of an increased access to high-quality harmonised spatial information, taking into account both developments in individual Member States and the Union as such, and comprising different sectors of society. It is also important to note that the Directive will affect not only the public administration but also the private sector e.g. in the development of new services. In the light of this, focus will be given to how the

¹ The conference will be held in Gävle, a one hour's train-journey from Stockholm Airport (Arlanda). Gävle is a centre for geographical information in Sweden. Lantmäteriet, the government agency responsible for such information is situated here.

Directive will deal with access to spatial information for the public and public authorities. In this context, issues relating to data sharing between public authorities, intellectual property rights and charging of spatial information will be essential in the exchange of views. Many of the different aspects of the Directive and its impacts will of course be discussed in the light of the forthcoming implementation of INSPIRE.

According to the present timetable for the decision-making process, the conference will probably coincide with the second reading of the proposal. An exchange of views among national parliamentarians should therefore be particularly valuable and timely.

On behalf of the Swedish Parliament I have the great pleasure to confirm the Speaker's invitation to three members of your Chamber to attend the Conference. Please forward this invitation to the relevant members in your Chamber². One official is also invited.

The national parliaments of all Member States and candidate countries, as well as the European Parliament are invited to the Conference. The Conference will be open to the media, experts and observers from organisations interested in INSPIRE. However, these persons will only be able to attend the conference as observers and will not be able to participate in the debates.

A preliminary programme is enclosed as well as registration forms and some general information. The registration forms can be submitted by regular mail or fax. However, for the sake of convenience it would be preferable that the form is submitted electronically at www.gavlekongress.com. Please note that the deadline for registration is 24 February 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Ragnwi Marcelind
Chairperson of the
Committee on Housing

² In case the legislative work in your country is so organised that INSPIRE is not the responsibility of your national parliament, but of a regional parliament, we are happy to welcome parliamentarians at this level instead.