



20th plenary meeting of the European Forum of Official Gazettes in Paris, 3-5 October 2024

The new Spirit of the Laws in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

The 20th anniversary edition of the European Forum of Official Gazettes took place in Paris from 3 to 5 October 2024. The event was hosted by the Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA) of the French Government. The Forum is the network of publishers of official gazettes in Europe. Its aim is to exchange best practices in facilitating access to law, an essential function for transparency and for the well-functioning of democracy, the economy and society as a whole. The topic of the 20th edition was the new spirit of the laws in the era of artificial intelligence, with a nod to the pioneering work, *The Spirit of the Laws* (*De l'esprit des lois*), written in 1748 by the French lawyer and political philosopher Montesquieu.

Participants at the Forum were welcomed by **Ms Claire Landais**, Secretary-General of the French Government. Ms Landais cited the importance of free access to legislation for upholding the rule of law, as well as the obligation of the publishers of official gazettes to help citizens in understanding legislation passed.

The Director-General of the Publications Office of the European Union, **Ms Hilde Hardeman**, gave a speech on access to law, accessibility and artificial intelligence. She stressed that 'making law accessible requires a multi-layered approach. It's about understanding our users, reaching out to them in meaningful ways, and using the best technologies available to deliver a product that is not only useful but also trustworthy'.

In her presentation, the Director of Legal and Administrative Information of DILA, **Ms Anne Duclos-Grisier**, addressed the challenges of publishing legal information, in particular technical challenges like IT security or accessibility for persons with disabilities. She also underlined the significance of legal data structuring in order to develop new services and facilitate the work of public servants.

In two days of thriving discussions, the Forum addressed topical subjects such as consolidation and dissemination of law, e-democracy, ergonomics at the service of the citizen, accessibility, personal data protection, the environmental impact of the Publications Office's activities, electronic seals and signatures in legal publishing, experimentation with and the industrialisation of trustworthy AI solutions.

Knowledge sharing among publishers of official gazettes will continue in the months ahead, in view of the Forum's next plenary meeting that will take place in Brussels in 2025 under the Belgian presidency.