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First EUDIN Newsletter

This is the first EUDIN Newsletter. The EUDIN newsletter will be published once every three months and provides you with an overview of the EUDIN project in terms of work done and next steps to be taken. Suggestions for improvement or reactions can be sent to the redaction of this newsletter (Diederik Journée - djo@t-win.nl).

The idea of the project EUDIN

Within the project EUDIN - European Data Interchange for Waste Notification-System - organisations of four EU-member states

- Belgium (OVAM)
- Netherlands (VROM)
- Germany (UBA, MUNLV, LUA NRW) and
- Austria (BMLFUW, UBA)

strive for the realisation of an application that facilitates a digital notification process and elaborate a standardised interface for the exchange of data between European member states for electronic transposition of the requirements of the European Waste Shipment Regulation 259/93 EC.

This project may be seen as a first definite step to introduce a standardised European interface in the transmission of waste and environmental related data between European countries.

Transporters will be enabled to notify their transports with the use of Internet. Competent authorities will be provided with the opportunity to register the notifications directly in their back-office systems without any manual intervention. On the longer term EUDIN will enable direct communication via EDI - electronic data interchange - between back office systems of competent authorities and between competent authorities and notifying organisations.

We expect to be able to facilitate the digital notification of waste transports mid 2003.

EUDIN website: www.EUDIN.org

In the beginning of August the EUDIN project team launched the EUDIN website. The URL of this website is www.eudin.org. The website is developed by the Austrian firm GUA in close cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Austrian Federal Environmental Agency. On the EUDIN website next to the homepage, five main topics can be found:

- In the 'about' section a general description is given about the goal and aimed at results. It also contains a downloadable version of the EUDIN brochure.
- In 'links' hyperlinks to EUDIN related websites are stated. Links to the participating Ministries and other organizations are given.
- 'Workshop' provides you with the most important content (presentations etc.) of both the EUDIN workshops held in Vienna and Cologne. The presentations give a rather good overview about the EUDIN project and about the digital solutions to be used at a national level in some of the participating countries.
- The 'newsletter' part of the EUDIN website contains all the EUDIN newsletters, beginning with this first edition number. In case you do not have the possession of one of the newsletters, you will be able to download it here.
- In the 'contacts' section the e-mail addresses of EUDIN project members of each of the participating countries are given. By clicking on these addresses, all your possible questions can directly be asked to the person you choose.

The website will be online during the entire development of the project. When having any suggestions for improvement or wanting to give a reaction on the website you are more than welcome to contact one of the persons in the 'contact' section.

EUDIN Workshop Cologne successful

The EUDIN Workshop, held in the Renaissance Hotel in Cologne on 12 April 2002, has led to positive reactions by both visitors and members of the EUDIN project group. Around 85 visitors came to Cologne to listen to eight speakers. Subjects like the scope and status of EUDIN project itself, used techniques and solutions on a national level in the participating countries were told about. The European Commission was responsible for one of the presentations in which it's representing speaker Ms. Karamat welcomed once again the EUDIN initiative and gave an outlook on the amendment of EC-regulation on shipment of waste. The representative of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, Ms. Huffer, presented status and outlook of the joint EPA and Environment Canada effort on the electronic notification of transfrontier shipment of waste under the Basle Agreement. The presentations can be found at the EUDIN website in the 'presentations' section.

EDIFACT message reaches final state

The German company Condat, responsible for the elaboration of the EDIFACT/XML messages, has finished its work on the messages in July 2002. The messages form the base of direct system-to-system communication between waste notifying companies and competent authorities with a preference for EDIFACT. Employees of Condat, who worked closely together with the EUDIN project group, developed the message in 8 months and based it on the existing EDIFACT message which is used for the German waste notification system ASYS. The files of the EDIFACT message can be found at the website: <http://www.eudin.org/fieldlist.html>. Based on the EDIFACT message, the XML message for EUDIN will be derived. This XML message will be used for both the web application and for direct system-to-system communication between waste notifying companies and competent authorities with a preference for XML.

X-plore starts with design EUDIN web application

The Belgian company X-plore has started with the design of the web-application for EUDIN. This design will be based on the already existing draft of the architecture made by OVAM, the Belgian organisation responsible for the registration of waste notifications. The design of the architecture is a first step towards the realization of the web-application which will be fully based on open standards so other countries and interested notifying companies can easily adapt to the system.

Wide interest of waste-companies in EUDIN

A large amount of Belgian and Dutch companies have already shown their interest in participating in the EUDIN pilot. A maximum of three companies in each of the two countries will be invited to participate in the pilot. In this pilot the principles of notifying digitally will be tested with the web application. Austrian and German companies will be enabled to participate as soon as national systems in those countries are available. In the beginning of September each of the companies will be approached formally for the participation.

Amendment of EC legislation

The EUDIN project group considerably participated in the amendment process of EC-regulation No 259/93 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community. The EUDIN members formulated a common position for changes in legislation to promote electronic data interchange in waste shipment regulation. The use of IT is proposed not only for the notification itself but also for the transport report, the certificate of receipt and the certificate of recovery or disposal. Further national regulations will be important. The European Commission expects to have finished the proposal at the end of the summer.

UN/CEFACT D 15 meets in Geneva

The UN/CEFACT "Environmental Management and Safety (EMS)" Sub-working Group (SWG) D15 meets in September in Geneva. UN/CEFACT is the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. The SWG D15, a joint effort initiated by US-EPA and Environment Canada (EC), defines the requirements for data transfer standards (EDIFACT, XML) for the (EC/US-EPA focused) documentation of hazardous waste imports/exports in accordance with the Basle agreement. These standards can then be implemented by standards-based data exchange systems. In the context of environmental information, EDIFACT standards are especially relevant to trade-related environmental reporting - e.g. the documentation required for the import/export of hazardous substances - and may provide an opportunity to integrate these currently paper-based reporting activities with automated customs documentation, which generally conforms to EDIFACT standards. EUDIN project members will participate in the Geneva meeting and bring in the European approach in the UN/CEFACT group. Participation in the world wide standardisation process helps safeguarding EUDIN project results and investment and legislative decisions on the longer term.

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