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Press Release

Vitako's List of Demands: Decisive Topics for the Future

- ° **Networking**
- ° **IT-compatible legislation**
- ° **Standardisation**

Berlin, 16 June, 2010. Public IT requires a technical, legal and political framework that is more thoroughly aligned and concerted on a national and international basis to live up to its ambitious future challenges.

This claim to politics was voiced by Vitako, the German federal association of municipal IT service providers, during the first Berlin EU conference for administrative CIOs at Berlin's City Hall between 7 and 9 June, 2010. The meeting was attended by IT executives – among them members of the German Federal Ministry of Inner Affairs and the EU commission – and political and economical experts from all over Europe. The main topic of this conference was the “Application of Information Technology and the Transformation of Government in Europe”. 35 speakers and almost 200 participants worked out solution strategies.

“German municipalities play the most important role in regards to sustainably shape the relationship between citizens and their administration. A citizen has almost 90 percent of government agency contacts with his municipal administration”, stated Vitako's managing director Dr. Marianne Wulff. According to Wulff, public IT also has a special responsibility when it comes to the use of public funds; however, it can only exercise this responsibility in a appropriate framework. Vitako presented three central strategic topics at the Berlin conference: Networking, IT-Compatible Legislation and Standardisation.

Networking: The Number-One Topic for Administrative Modernisation and Transformation

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The importance of networking applies not only for the relationship between municipalities and the various levels of administration within Germany, but also increasingly for cooperations on a European level. There, public IT service providers play a central role, as organisational networking and administrative cooperations strongly demand IT networking: integration of IT systems, use of mutual networks and the search for coordinated and increasingly standardised solutions are topics for public IT service providers in all over Europe. For that reason Vitako is also involved in different contexts in order to advance these necessary cooperations: Thus Vitako is an integral part of CEMR's policy group, it is a member of the European Alliance of Government IT Service Providers, and – as in this conference – it cooperates with Major Cities of Europe (MCE) in order to support the exchange of experience and learning.

IT-compatible Legislation: Increased Recognition of the IT Transfer Level in the Political and Normative Process

Almost all political and legal parameters, i.e. laws, orders, and guidelines, today have consequences for IT infrastructure. So far they have been considered as too little and too late in the normative process of legislation. This leads to norms being transferred difficultly into technical solutions or at very high costs – which anyway need to be reduced. Additionally, there is often a lack of technical and organisational expertise on the part of IT service providers – which could otherwise effect different normative solutions for an integrated, collaborative e-Government. Together with its partners Vitako advocates a provident, collateral impact assessment of technology – in Germany as well as in the EU.

Standardisation: A European Topic

Networking of political-administrative systems in the European context is gaining increasing importance. The EU Services Directive shows this among other things. A lack of technical or solely national standards evolving in the heat of transfer deadlines lead mid-term to considerable additional costs. Especially if the EU announces European standards for

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large projects after the completion of national solutions. Here, too, Vitako is in favor of a improved coordination in panels and networks.

Vitako is the federal association of Germany's municipal IT service providers. More than 50 data processing centres, software enterprises and service providers with 7000 employees in 14 federal states concentrate their know-how in this association with legal capacity and make it available to the municipalities. Vitako advises and supports the municipal head organisations as they carry out their tasks in various questions concerning information and communication technology. Its participating enterprises are in charge of more than 500.000 IT jobs in more than 10.000 municipalities with a total yearly turnover of about one billion Euro.

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