EUPL

Preamble

The attached “European Union Public Licence” (“EUPL”) has been elaborated in the framework of IDABC, a European Community programme, with the aim to promote Interoperable Delivery of European eGovernment Services to public Administrations, Business and Citizens. IDABC continues and deepens the previous IDA (“Interchange of data between Administrations”) programme.

Software applications, such as CIRCA, a groupware for sharing documents within closed user groups, IPM, a tool helping administrations to close the gap between them and their stakeholders by providing a powerful and yet easy to use tool for direct consultation through the Internet, or eLink, a tool comprising the identification of remote services and the provision of reliable and secure messaging services over a network infrastructure, have been developed within the framework of the IDA or IDABC programmes. The European Community, on the basis of the contracts that permitted the development of such software, is owner of all Intellectual Property Rights and consequently of the source code and executables.

Such IDA or IDABC developed tools are used by public administrations outside the European Institutions, under a licence delivered by the European Commission, which is the Institution acting on behalf of the European Community since the copyright for those tools belongs to the European Community. For some time, interest has increased in the publication of the software source code under a licence that would not limit access and modifications to the source code.

The original EUPL Licence was established for such software, as corresponding to the IDABC objectives. The Licence is written in general terms and could therefore be used for derivative works, for other works and by other licensors.

The utility of this Licence is to reinforce legal interoperability by adopting a common framework for pooling public sector software.

This preamble is not a part of the EUPL Licence.