



PRIMET: The Association of Private Meteorological Services

Supporting the private sector in meteorology and working to deliver the full value of publicly-funded weather information across Europe.

www.primet.org

Discussion paper for PRIMET-ECOMET Meeting 11-Sep-19.

Review of progress towards increasing the availability of publicly-funded meteorological data over the last two decades.

• Positive Developments

- Much more data is available than 25 years ago which has allowed the private sector also to **grow in Europe**
- With specific discounts for small providers new ideas have a chance to enter the market
- An increasing number of countries has moved to open data policies which further reduce barriers to enter the market
- The ECOMET catalogue is much more complete than when we started
- Significant improvements in license arrangement / prices (EUMETSAT) and availability of data (ECMWF) in other European organisations
- Trust has increased during the past 25 years, we are moving towards tackling challenges together

• Negative Issues

- Where a free/open data policy has not been adopted, the underlying strategy on pricing is often unclear as tariffs may appear to be unnecessarily complex and actually work against generating revenue from private sector businesses accustomed to normal commercial practices
- The prevailing high cost of publicly-funded data (both observations and forecasts) from some public bodies work against the ability of private sector weather businesses to deliver the full value of the data to the user community
- A prohibitively high cost of entry to the market for startup weather businesses inhibits innovation and development of services to new sectors and threatens the WMO aspiration for Public-Private Engagement
- Changes still take a long time to implement
- Not enough cohesion within Europe on data policy and role of public & private sector / no single European market
- Technology advancement often not reflected in service level or pricing
- Observation prices haven't changed in many countries despite automation and measurement equipment & communication becoming cheaper
- No real-time European radar composite available, no plan how to get there provided
- Higher level of detail in the ECOMET catalogue needed (availability per parameter)
- Despite having sufficient bandwidth and moving to more flexible formats like BUFR still only a subset of parameters is exchanged cross-border
- Large difficulties when observations are taken outside of NMS (e.g. radar in Austria and Italy)
- Increasing difficulties to enforce licensing rules and create a level playing field (radareu.cz, rainviewer.com)