The Internal Market Information (IMI) System -
*Better communication, better service*

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What is IMI?

- multilingual electronic tool for cross-border exchange of information between public authorities
- developed by the European Commission in partnership with the Member States
- currently used for: Professional qualifications and Services
- as of May 2011: used for Posting of Workers in pilot phase
What is IMI - facts and figures

- more than 6300 authorities registered
- more than 11,500 users
- 160 requests for information per month
- 58% answered within 2 weeks
- 92% of users find IMI user friendly
What is IMI used for?

- Search for the right counter part in another Member State
- Secure bilateral exchange of information (one-to-one)
- Alerts about dangerous situations regarding service providers (one-to-many)
- Search for national registers
IMI addresses obstacles to cooperation

- Language barriers - 23 official EU languages
  - Multilingual interface, pretranslated questions and answers

- Lack of clearly identified partners in other countries
  - Searchable database of authorities

- Different administrative structures and cultures
  - Flexible set-up to reflect administrative realities

- Lack of procedures for cross-border cooperation
  - Agreed workflows, tracking mechanism
IMI benefits for citizens and businesses

- Faster replies from authorities
- Less need to produce translations of documents
- Less rejections of applications due to lack of information
The Strategy Communication: main elements

- Adding new policy areas
- Developing new functionality
- Exploring synergies with other IT tools

Cheaper and faster than building new tailored systems, exploiting synergies
The Strategy Communication: next steps

- Study on IT architecture 2011
- Start IT development / new functionality - end 2011
- Timetable & Roadmap included in IMI 2011 Annual Report- 02/2012
Forthcoming IMI Regulation

Objectives

- to provide a sound legal framework for IMI (establishing act)
- to set out the rules for the processing of personal data

>> The Commission proposal to be adopted before the summer 2011
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or consult the IMI website:
http://ec.europa.eu/imi-net
Goodbye dictionaries, hello IMI
Goodbye phone books, hello IMI