

CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING

on occasion of

4th International Conference of Information Commissioners

organized by: Open Society Justice Initiative
in cooperation with: Access Info Europe and the FOI Advocates Network
in coordination with UK Information Commissioner's Office
with additional support from Hewlett Foundation and Council of Europe

Hotel Britannia, Manchester

24 May 2006

AGENDA

9:00 – 12:00 **Session I: Role of and Models for Information Commissioners**

(with coffee break: 11:00 to 11:30)

Presentations:

- *Ivan Szekely: Information Commissions and Civil Society*
- *Benjamín Fernández Bogado: author of report on Mexican Information Commission (IFAI) by Annenberg School of Communications*
- *Venkatesh Nayak: Models for Information Commissioners in Commonwealth FOI laws*

Debate:

- Review of discussions at FOI Commissioners meeting
- Information commissions vs. judicial review
- Strategies for including independent oversight in ATI laws
- Models for financing of information commissions

Plans for 5th International Conference of Information Commissioners

- *Andrew Ecclestone of New Zealand Ombudsman's office, organizers of 2007 meeting*

12:30 – 13:00 **Session II: Report from FOI Advocates Network Steering Committee**

Helen Darbishire, Chair of FOIANet Steering Committee

Issa Luna Pla, member of the FOIANet Steering Committee

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 - 17:00 **Session III: Council of Europe Treaty: Civil Society Input**

(with refreshments served 16 hrs)

- *Frankie Schram, Chair of the Council of Europe Group of Specialists on Access to Official Documents, Secretariat of Commission on Access to Administrative Documents, Belgium, and lecturer in Public Management at Leuven University.*
 - *Jan van Schagen, Senior Legal Adviser, Constitutional Affairs and Legislation Department, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands, and member of Council of Europe Group of Specialists on Access to Official Documents.*
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- Review of discussions on Council of Europe Treaty
 - Discussion on substantive issues
 - Discussion on mechanisms for civil society involvement

20:00 **Dinner**