

**Abstract relating to a paper from England and Wales for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Theme**

**XIII CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE DERECHO REGISTRAL CINDER**

***Access to Land Information held by public Land Registries. A Study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe***

*(including as an Annex a paper on Public Access to the open land register in England and Wales)*

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This paper describes the outcome of a Study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Land Administration. The Study examined the 'Access of public and private agencies to the information managed by land registration systems.'. This was considered at a Workshop of the UNECE WPLA held in Tirana, Albania in March 2000.

The Workshop considered both the arguments for a land register that was wholly open to public inspection and the reasons why some or all of the register information should remain private. It examined arrangements whereby some information could be available or particular enquirers should be permitted access to all or some of the information held on land registers.

In its examination it considered the position and experience in 36 member states of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The paper explores issues relating to the pricing of information and how systems should be developed to assist enquirers including partnerships between government agencies and private companies. Issues relating to the sharing of information between government agencies and the avoidance of duplication are also considered.

The need for improving customer service in information provision is examined, as are the questions of developing world-wide standards and protocols in relation to land information and its availability.

As an Annex to the paper the author has included a paper which describes the position in England and Wales. This describes the developments in Land Registration over 130 years and how, in England and Wales a register which, until 1990, could only be inspected with the agreement of the owner is now wholly open to public inspection by anyone on payment of a small fee.

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