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Alliance supported by the European Commission to open up access to European case law

[Florence, 18 February 2005]: An alliance of European publishers, public case law content holders, legal research centres and the European Association of Judges has received financial support from the European Commission to develop an Internet service during 2005-2006 offering national and international court decisions across European jurisdictions. The CASELEX venture will boost the exchange and supply of important cases that will prove decisive to any legal works linked to EU law.

Challenge dominant market players in quest to serve 1 million legal professionals

Despite its crucial role for lawyers showing zero failure tolerance, national case law is hardly accessible due to national markets full barriers and exclusive deals supported by dominant market players seeking to maintain the status quo. Many of the current practices are incompatible with the European Public Sector Information Directive.

The growing demand for case law is fuelled by the European integration and globalisation, however without any current alternatives to access such for the user base of more than 1 million individuals, 260.000 professional organisations, 3.000 courts and at least 500 academic institutions across the enlarged Europe.

Best practice in linking national case law to EU treaties and directives

CASELEX will change the picture as a European case law backbone bringing together and adding substantial value to case law in line with the knowledge needs and expectations of the European user base. An "inclusive approach" will allow open distribution through publishers and intermediaries besides servicing end-users across Europe directly. As such it will contribute to exploitation of Europe's abundant base of valuable public sector content while at the same time allowing access for all, both key arguments for the support of the European Commission's eContent programme.

Alliance to launch pilot service in 2006

The strong Public-Private Partnership of CASELEX has set out with the intention of converting the case law of all EU Member States plus EFTA into an integrated European knowledge source. The first portfolio of cases will hit the market in 2006.

Further information at www.caselex.com or:

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