

Resolution

7 th International Conference of Information Commissioners/ Ottawa

More transparency is an international task

Transparency is an essential and indispensable condition for a living democracy. Democracy and the rule of law can actually develop only where the bases for governmental action are disclosed. Genuine participation is only possible where there are no information asymmetries and where no government "monopoly of knowledge" prevails.

Already today, in many states and international institutions much information is made accessible to everyone. This applies to information regarding the environment, the actions of parliaments, courts, and many other areas.

Transparency strengthens the citizens' confidence in the work of national and international bodies. Transparent action within the meaning of open government makes it possible to understand political decision-making processes and to participate in them. Transparency makes an important contribution against corruption.

The International Conference of Information Commissioners is in favour of enshrining the right of information in national laws and of further developing existing rights of access to information. All states should above all have strong freedom of information laws which really and truly enable citizens to exercise the right to know. An effective appeal mechanism and its enforcement is of significant importance. The states and the international organizations should provide more information than before about their activities. The technical means are available for achieving this!

The Conference encourages states and international agencies to make greater use of the Internet for this purpose and to make information available in a proactive, structured and user-friendly way (Open Data). The conference supports the Open Government Declaration published in September 2011 in New York
<<http://www.opengovpartnership.org/open-government-declaration>>.