

Harmonisation of Spatial Information on Utilities in the Netherlands

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SUMMARY

In the Netherlands the availability of geographic information on cables and pipelines has long been an issue that had little attention. Recently two events have brought the subject into attention again.

The Netherlands Centre for Underground Construction issued a report on the risks of the poor availability of information on cables and pipelines. The national politics reacted on this report. One of the main concerns mentioned was the economical damage caused by excavation activities.

The Supreme Court of the Netherlands ruled that telecom cables should be considered as immovable property, which will influence the way these cables are dealt with in taxation and registration within the Cadastre.

This paper will describe the current situation in the Netherlands, and will distinguish steps that have to be taken to reach a harmonised approach towards the registration and interoperability of cables and pipelines.

Since technical, legal and organisational issues will interact with each other, this paper will distinguish several objectives for the registration of cables and pipelines.

The description of the situation in the Netherlands will be used to illustrate the interaction between the various objectives and between the technical, legal and organisational issues.