Designing a Knowledge Management Platform for the Council of the EU and its Member States
A changing environment

• EU Council as co-legislator with European Parliament
• From intergovernmental forum to co-decision
• European Council as central driver of developments in EU
• Growing requests for information from civil society
Changing role, higher scrutiny, growing demands

- Decision-making and crisis resolution
- Wicked policy problems
- Need for the most comprehensive information and knowledge on process and substance
The General Secretariat of the Council

- Provides advice to
  - the ministers in their political deliberations
  - experts in substantive discussions
- Is the permanent structure at EU level at the service of member states.
- Holds a trove of EU knowledge through its 60 years of experience
Challenges for the General Secretariat

- Small organisation
- Limited resources
- Conceived as secretariat, note taker and archivist
- Role challenged in a digitalised world: how can we still be relevant? And how can we continue to fulfil our original role in a digital age?
A knowledge management platform for the EU Council and EU Member States
What does that mean?

• Connecting point for 28 national government systems
• Add context and connections to Council information
• Link information among EU institutions and bodies
• Bring national knowledge together for EU-wide benefits
• Add a thin layer for discovery

→ Maximise value added and respect subsidiarity and national sovereignty
How

• Building interoperable and from the outset connected information and knowledge management
• Focus on areas where we can add real value
• Identify connections and provide context
• Leave content responsibility with author/owner
Challenges

• Building the right system (esp. for interoperability at EU and with national level)
• Building trust (to share information)
• Resources
• Adapt the GSC’s way of working: from bespoke butler to procedural advisor to knowledge broker