

Bienvenue à Bruxelles & Welkom in Brussel: CENTR invites partners in EU Capital

Recently in Brussels, CENTR members met with ccTLD colleagues as well as the High Level Internet Group, the European Commission and the Registrar Community

Meeting with EU Commission and the HLIG

Last week, CENTR held its 52 General Assembly in Brussels. Usually these meetings are only attended by CENTR members and provide an opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the DNS industry and allow for information exchange on operations and strategy. This one was somewhat different however as for the first time we invited the members of the High Level Internet Group (HLIG) and the European Commission to come and join us for a full day of discussion on registry issues (focusing on legal, technical and security) and debates on the IANA stewardship transition, ICANN accountability and the Internet Governance milestones for the last quarter of this year. In the 10 years that CENTR has been located in Brussels, we have always had a good relationship and exchange with the Commission, but this event has brought this exchange to a new level. It showed that at a European level and in the member states there is a strong willingness to address these issues in a synchronized way and listen to the industry's input. The Commission's invitation to meet at the next ICANN meeting in Los Angeles during the EU coordination meeting made this commitment very concrete.

First CENTR Open Day with Registrars

In addition to the meeting with the government officials, we also saw 25 Registrars and 45 registries answering a call to attend the first CENTR Open Day in Brussels. The goal of this event was to bring together ccTLD registries and European registrars and offer them a platform to discuss issues of common interest. It also provided both registries and registrars with an excellent opportunity to extend their networks and meet those that typically do not attend ICANN meetings.

The packed agenda included a tour-de-table, discussions on the Network and Information Security Directive, a proposal

for an identity federation that would help with the identification and authentication of registrars, a proposal for an association that would handle technical coordination for registries and registrars and a market analysis of the effects of the introduction of new gTLDs. The results of that market analysis will be published shortly. What probably underlined more than anything else the effectiveness of this meeting was an ad hoc presentation by one of the registrars about Data Quality Improvement projects. Not only did it provide elements for an excellent discussion, it also made it very concrete how registry policy decisions can affect registrar operations. As a concrete outcome of this discussion CENTR will explore if and how its members and registrars can coordinate Data Quality Improvement projects. This discussion will be open to everyone interested. While we are looking forward to the feedback from the participants, it is already clear that this initiative was long overdue and will take place again in 2015.

Building CENTR's future

On the final day of the General Assembly, CENTR members discussed the potential of a study on the factors that influence fraud in a TLD and we saw some excellent presentations on code of conducts for ccTLDs and the liberalization of the .NO Domain. We also set out the action plan to provide strong CENTR input for the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability and approved the strategy and budget for 2015. Our main priority for 2015 will be to safeguard and advocate the ccTLDs interest in the broader Internet Governance debates. The strong membership endorsement of CENTR's plan of action and the new position development rules provide us with the necessary foundation to tackle the challenges ahead.

NIS Directive: What's in it for European ccTLDs?

The Network and Information Security Directive (NIS) aims to increase overall cyber-security levels in the EU – specifically targeting the private sector

About the Directive

In 2013, the European Commission came up with a proposal on how to effectively respond to the increasing number and magnitude of cyber-security incidents in the EU. The draft directive sees need for action at both public and private levels.

Measures targeting Member States:

- Adopt a national NIS strategy and national NIS cooperation plan (strategic objectives, policy and regulatory measures)
- Designate a national NIS competent authority with adequate financial and human resources to prevent, handle and respond to NIS risks and incidents
- Create cooperation mechanism among Member States and Commission to share early warnings on risks and incidents through secure infrastructure; involvement of ENISA

Measures targeting industry:

Operators of critical infrastructures (i.e. financial services, transport, energy, health, enablers of information society services and public administrations) are required to comply with a broad range of requirements, including mandatory incident reporting and security audits.

How does this affect the ccTLDs?

Member States are defining their positions on the directive at Council level. Indications are that the DNS if not ccTLDs in particular are going to be included within the scope of the directive. The Italian Presidency's goal to start triologue negotiations (between Council, European Parliament and Commission) in mid-October seems out of reach, but exploratory discussions could still start.

CENTR has been in close touch with some of its members who have met their government to find out more about its positions, expectations and arguments. It is important to remain vocal about the potentially detrimental impact on the ccTLD community should it be included in the directive or if this should be the case, if the resulting requirements are excessive, disproportionate and do create distorted competition (e.g. if ccTLDs are included and gTLDs are not).

To raise awareness within the ccTLD community and among government actors, CENTR presented an overview of the NIS directive and implications at the L&R workshop in Oslo, the Open Day event for registrars and the following meeting with the High-level Group on Internet Governance.

More information

CENTR paper [available here](#) PowerPoint slides [here](#)

Market Analysis: Global Domain Registrations

The **DomainWire Stat Report** is CENTR's quarterly publication on status and growth evolution the global domain name market. The report captures and analyses the status and evolution of domain names registrations globally – it also has a special focus on European ccTLDs.

The most recent report (right) shows there are around 282.5 million domain name registrations globally - around 46% of those are ccTLD registrations. This ccTLD market share has been increasingly marginally over the past few quarters however the general growth continues to slow. Currently new gTLDs account for less than 1% of all domains but they are being delegated each week (roughly 1000 per year being added).

Other elements included in the report are: the top 20 ccTLDs by zone size (and growth), the status of European ccTLDs (size and growth), domains per capita and other statistics on DNSSEC and renewal rates.

This edition also includes an overview of the results of a recent survey on Registrar Authentication. The survey looked at the different methods in place as well as any potential areas for improvement particularly relating to 2-factor authentication.



See inside the report 

Nina Elzer recently joined the CENTR Secretariat in Brussels as Policy Advisor. Nina has already attended already several CENTR events and met many of the members however we thought we'd take the time to ask her a few questions on her role, thoughts on the industry as well find out a little about her own background.



Could you tell us a little about your new role at CENTR?

I have joined CENTR as policy advisor and am working on issues related to internet governance and European policy. In addition, I am supporting the CENTR Administrative and Marketing Working Groups and – even though I am not a lawyer - follow the debates in the Legal and Regulatory working group (L&R).

What kind of things were you doing before you joined CENTR?

Quite a lot as I have been living in Brussels for 10 years now. I worked in a trade association (direct marketing), was trainee at the European Commission (DG Enterprise), worked at a German consultancy (participatory processes), a PR agency (European Commission media relation campaigns), and for the past 5 years for a German MEP in the European Parliament as political and media relations advisor (focus: media policy, asylum and employment). BUT: I also enjoy doing other things, and am for instance a big fan of sports climbing!

What are some of the areas you are focusing on in the role currently?

One of the policy issues that is coming up to speed right now and could have quite an impact on ccTLDs is the NIS Directive (network and information security). If covered by the directive, ccTLDs could be faced with burdensome reporting requirements and costly external audits – whereas there competitors based outside the EU would not. Besides that, I have been very lucky to learn a lot about the Community and the “ecosystem” by attending the IGF in Istanbul, the L&R and Admin workshops and the recent GA, and will go to the ICANN meeting in LA.

Could you share some of your initial thoughts on the challenges European ccTLDs face going forward? Do you have thoughts as to how best to deal with those challenges?

As a result of the European elections in May 2014, new MEPs came in and a new Commission will be put in place, probably by January 2015. The Commissioner candidates are currently being “grilled” by the European Parliament to prove their competence and cancel out any conflicts of interest. Two commissioners will be responsible for the digital economy. In addition, there have been lots of internal changes in DG Connect, the Commission’s department dealing with ICT and media. So for us, it will be important to strengthen our existing and build up new networks within the EU-institutions and to reach out to them. To make our and the voice of the Community heard, we should also team up with other organisations that work towards the same or similar goals.

What was the most surprising thing for you at CENTR so far?

It was, in fact, great to learn that CENTR has an exchange programme in place. It almost sounds like a global Erasmus programme with offers coming from Sweden, France, and even China! All the more was I surprised to hear that up to now no one has ever participated in it! So please have a [look here](#) at and participate!

For any information on the above or to contact Nina, write to nina@centr.org

Q&A

Nina Elzer

Policy Advisor

CENTR
Secretariat

CENTR

Q&A

News & Blogs

Internet Resilience Observatory in France publishes 2013 report - The report by the Observatory in France provides an analysis of the state of the French Internet through an in-depth study of the Border Gateway (BGP) and Domain Name System (DNS) protocols.

Latest edition of "Focus .it" available - Articles on 'the right to be forgotten', monitoring and privacy in the digital society, data protection with privacy insurance.

.pt launches 2 character domains - As of November, it will be possible to register two-character domains under .pt.

"Internet security 3 in 1" panel – RNIDS will organise a panel debate called as part of "European Cyber Security Month" organised by ENISA

Possible use of .bv for Dutch Norid is negotiating with the Dutch registry, SIDN, about a collaboration to make the .bv top-level domain available to the Dutch market.

Watershed day for .nz domains - A new .nz registration option launched allowing registrations at the 2nd level.

"A European glimpse at the future of the IGF: A sense of foreboding at the EU coordination meeting in Istanbul?"

- Amidst all those highly international, largely interactive and participatory workshops and events at the IGF, the EU-coordination meeting organised by the European Commission almost felt like "coming home" to Brussels: familiar faces (Commission, Parliament, and even some stakeholders), familiar format (largely top-down with some input from participants), familiar messages (don't cause controversy!). **Read further**

Recent Workshops

45th CENTR **Legal and Regulatory** workshop

The two-day meeting in Oslo was kindly hosted by Norid and saw a large range of topics being discussed. Members reported about recent developments in their countries ranging from past or ongoing legal cases (in courts or their arbitration mechanisms), to changes to their terms and conditions and new services (e.g. the registry lock) being put in place and the corresponding legal implications.

33rd CENTR **Administrative** workshop

The workshop, kindly hosted by .ee, gave members the opportunity to update each other on new security services (also here the registry lock was an important example) being put in place, the launch of gTLDs (such as .vlaanderen or .paris) and accompanying customer support or communication activities. Congratulations go to Sascha Kämpf who was appointed Chair of the Working Group.

Upcoming Events

27 October 2014

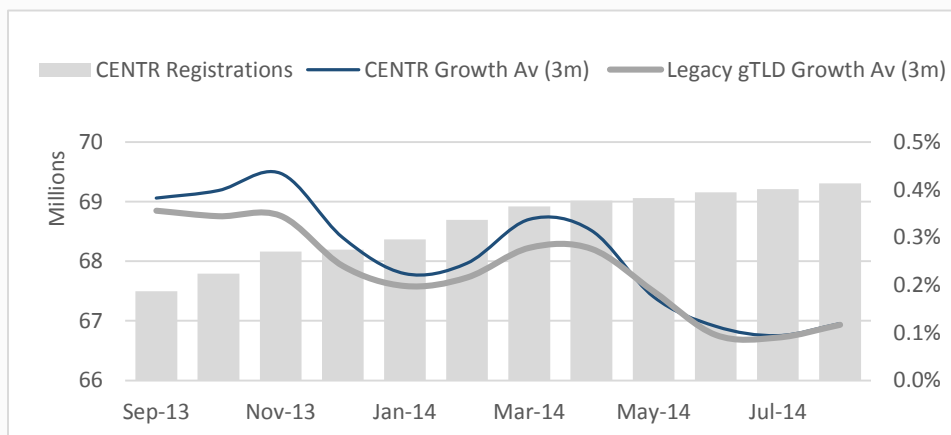
8th CENTR **Security Workshop** (Dublin)

2 November 2014

31st CENTR **Technical Workshop** (London)

27 November 2014

15th CENTR **Marketing Workshop** (Belgrade)



Source: CENTR stat database, gTLDs: Hosterstats.com

Note: 'CENTR' members represent more than 95% of European ccTLDs in terms of domain registrations

CENTR Total Registrations

69,304,584

The average monthly growth (taken over the past 3 months) for combined CENTR members was 0.12%. Combined registrations over the past 12 months growth 3.1%

The highest percentage growth for August 2014 was .by (Belarus) at 1.7% and in net domains was .pl (Poland) adding almost 20K domains.