Community calls on ICANN to uphold the multistakeholder principles

Last week, the European ccTLDs met with the High Level Group on Internet Governance for an exchange of views on the ICANN accountability improvement process. Following updates from Lise Fuhr, Mathieu Weill and Martin Boyle, a lively panel discussion allowed all participants to ask questions and share their views. At the end of the meeting, all participants stated their support to draft a Joint Statement that would send out a strong call for consensus building at the ICANN meeting in Dublin, and send positive reinforcement of our believe in the multistakeholder model. You can read the full version of this statement below.

This statement was agreed upon following a joint meeting between the European Commission's High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) and the Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries (CENTR) on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) stewardship transition and Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) accountability improvement processes, which was held in Brussels on 8 October 2015.

European Domain Name System (DNS) stakeholders, including governments and country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries, have called for the IANA stewardship to be transitioned to the multistakeholder community for a long time. Within the ground rules set by the United States' National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), stakeholders from across the world have engaged to make sure that the IANA transition and the absence of NTIA oversight goes hand-in-hand with improved accountability and transparency.

At a time when the importance of the internet is steadily increasing – at political, social and economic levels – and in the advent of WSIS+10, it is crucial that the IANA Stewardship Transition process also leads to an improved accountability towards the global internet community.

We wish to reiterate our support to the Cross-Community Working Group on the IANA Stewardship Transition (CWG) and to the work of the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG).

The requirements set forth by the proposals from the CWG and ICG groups can only be met if implemented by credible, enforceable powers in the ultimate interest of all stakeholder groups. This has already been underlined by the unanimous but conditional approval of the CWG proposal by all of ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) at the Buenos Aires ICANN Meeting in June 2015.

The accountability proposal has gone through the multistakeholder process, it has been legally assessed and went through two public consultations. The process as outlined by the NTIA was followed and all stakeholders should respect the outcome. The outcome will only have the necessary legitimacy if the bottom-up, consensus-driven process continues to be fully respected.

We strongly encourage all participants in the next face-to-face meeting of the Cross-Community Working Group on Accountability (CCWG) to review the second draft proposal and present it to all stakeholder groups at the ICANN 54 meeting. We are looking forward to seeing a consensus-based draft and updated timeline by the end of the ICANN Dublin meeting. We will work within the process to make sure this happens.

Link to the PDF version of the statement

CENTR holds its 54th General Assembly in Brussels

On 8-9 October 2015, CENTR held its 54th General Assembly in Brussels. The two-day meeting had a full schedule covering many key topics of interest among CENTR members, including data and statistics, updates on the IANA stewardship transition, ICANN accountability and ICG, geo TLDs, country and territory names as TLDs, cost optimisation in registries and many more.

CENTR also held a joint meeting with the European Commission's High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG), followed by a keynote address from Megan Richards (DG Connect). A joint statement on the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability improvement processes was also published following the meeting.

Complete agenda of the General Assembly
Photos

CENTR recognizes industry excellence

On 7 October, CENTR held the second edition of its Awards at the Palais des Académies in Brussels. The CENTR Awards aim at highlighting ccTLD registry projects, teams and people that are making a difference in our industry.

During the ceremony, the finalists in each of the five categories presented short videos of their projects or people nominated. This was a great opportunity to showcase the inspiring projects and teams that truly make a difference in the registries' world.

This year's CENTR Awards winners are: Christa Falkensammer (SWITCH), Boban Krsic (DENIC) and Christian Proschinger (NIC.AT) for their collaboration on auditing their respective ISO 27001 ISMS (Security category); Zonemaster by Afnic and IIS (R&D category); AustriaLoves.at - "Darlinks" of the nation, NIC.AT (Marketing category); the Community Investment Program, CIRA (CSR category); and Lise Fuhr, DK Hostmaster and Mathieu Weill, Afnic (Contributor of the Year category). Congratulations to all participants!

Photos of the ceremony
Videos of the shortlisted nominees
More information on the Awards

Registries and registrars meet up in Brussels

Last week during the CENTR Registrar Day in Brussels, European ccTLD managers had the opportunity to meet with the registrar community and discuss topics of mutual interest. The meeting was kicked off by Patrick Myles from the CENTR secretariat who presented the latest trends, facts and figures on the European DNS landscape. Patrick explained why 2017 will be a crucial date for our industry: for the first time, a majority of ccTLDs might experience a decrease in the number of domains under their management. During the discussions that followed, registries and registrars agreed they want to work more closely together, in particular to better exchange information and data. Three projects have been identified, two of which have already moved from planning stage to execution: 1) CENTR will manage an overview of every European ccTLD's registrar accreditation policy; 2) Registries and registrars will work together on translations of Domain Name status terminology; and 3) CENTR and participating registrars will exchange datasets to help us all better understand market dynamics.

Complete agenda of the Registrar Day
Photos

EU Policy Update

By Nina Elzer, CENTR Policy Advisor

"Safe Harbour" - Never safe, and unlikely to be?

The European Court of Justice's (ECJ) invalidation of "Safe Harbour" has stirred turmoil in the EU and the US. According to the ECJ, "Safe Harbour" did not provide adequate data protection to EU citizens, as US public authorities were still able to tap on the data. Also, the court stressed that, despite the EU-level agreement, national data protection authorities were still competent to investigate such cases deemed to breach EU law. Read more

"European" net neutrality is coming

After the Council's formal approval of the telecoms single market package, the European Parliament's (EP) industry committee (ITRE) chimed in on 14 October. The last hurdle to the new rules abolishing roaming by June 2017 and installing the European interpretation of "net neutrality" is the EP's plenary vote at the end of October. Read more

European Data Protection overhaul - One step ahead

EU Justice Ministers, in the beginning of October, agreed on a "general approach" (i.e. their position) on how personal data can be handled by law enforcement. The deal is part of the data protection package aimed at updating 20-year old legislation. It consists of a directive (the one on law enforcement) and the (in)famous general data protection regulation (GDPR). Negotiations are set to be concluded by the end of this year. Read more

NIS Directive stumbling ahead

The European Commission is still hopeful that negotiations about the Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive can be concluded by the end of the year. The working party, however, which is hammering out the Council's position, is still working on agreement on the types of entities that should be subject to what kind of regulation. Read more

EU Copyright Reform to start only in 2016?

The launch of the Commission's copyright reform proposal is likely to be postponed – again – reportedly to spring 2016. The move seems to be related to the decision to decouple (the less contentious) content portability from the rest of the proposal. Draft legislation on cross-border portability of copyright protected content is expected in December and aims at allowing Europeans to access online subscription services, such as Netflix or Spotify while travelling. Read more

European Parliament's response to the Digital Single Market Strategy

The co-rapporteurs of both the industry (ITRE) and internal market (IMCO) committees, Kaja Kallas and Evelyne Gebhardt, have published their draft report reacting to the Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy launched in May 2015. It focuses on the need to (re)build consumers' trust on online services, e.g. through harmonised contractual rules not only for buying tangible goods online but also digital content. Read more

Digital Single Market consultations and Horizon 2020 calls launched

Consultations

Regulatory environment for platforms, online intermediaries, data and cloud computing and the collaborative economy ("platform consultation" until 30/12/15): To look at the economic role of online platforms (e.g. search engines, social media), the liability of intermediaries as regards illegal content hosted online, how to improve the free flow of data in the EU and to build a European Cloud

Evaluation and the review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services ("Telecoms consultation" until 07/12/15): To look at investments in network, spectrum policy, OTT services, governance.

Needs for Internet speed and quality beyond 2020 (until 07/12/15): To develop public policy to accompany investors in the deployment of connectivity networks.

Modernisation of VAT for cross-border e-commerce: To address the challenges of companies that have to deal with many different national tax system when trading cross-border both online and offline.

Horizon 2020 calls

Prevention, detection, response and mitigation of the combination of physical and cyber threats to the critical infrastructure of Europe

Digital security related calls, including topics such as privacy, data protection, cryptography, certification for trustworthy and secure ICT

News and Events

ICANN hope for quick decision on break with US government *(EurActiv)* ICANN, the non-profit organisation that administers internet domain names, is up against a tough deadline to cut ties with the US government by next autumn.

IDN .БЕЛ (.BEL) Opened for General Availability From 1 October, users can register domains in new Cyrillic zone .БЕЛ (.BEL) without any restrictions. During the first hour of general registration, 1,303 domains were registered, whereas the first 24 hours ended up with 6,454 registrations – and this number keeps growing.

EURid confirms its green touch for the next three years Since 2011 EURid has implemented the Environmental Management System (EMS) - certified by ISO 14001:2004 and EMAS (Regulation No. 1221/2009/EC) so as to adequately assess the environmental impact of its activities and monitor the compliance of its policies and procedures.

Accountability and IANA transition: behind the scenes *(Blog post by Mathieu Weill, Afnic)* Last week, Lise Fuhr and I had the great honor to be the recipients of the 2015 CENTR Contributor of the Year award, for our respective involvement in chairing the working groups that form the basis of the IANA Stewardship transition process.
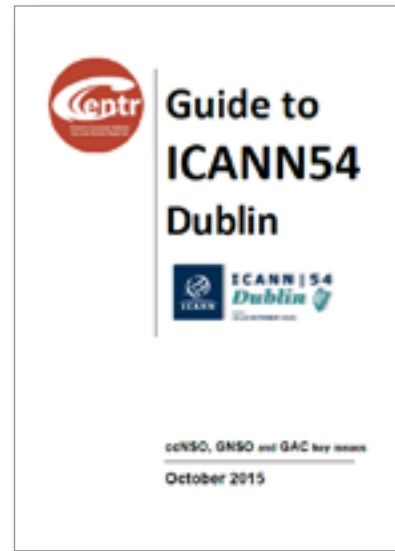
Italian Internet Festival 2015 edition kicks off Since the first edition of Internet Festival, the CNR of Pisa's Institute of Informatics and Telematics and Registro.it have been active promoters of the international event, and continue to play a major role in the fifth edition, which took place in Pisa from 8 to 11 October.

Marking European Cyber Security Month in October RNIDS is organising a series of talks and a panel debate as part of European Cyber Security Month, initiated by ENISA, the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security. This is the third time RNIDS is taking part in this initiative, which will be marked this year by a series of events in October.

Pirate Bay verdict appealed Just before summer, the verdict came from the district court. The domains thepiratebay.se and piratebay.se need not be removed. The prosecutor, however, has chosen to appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals, as we wrote about in June already.

CENTR GUIDE TO ICANN54

CENTR published its Guide to ICANN54 in Dublin. It provides an overview of discussions to expect on the IANA Stewardship Transition, as well as topics of interest in the ccNSO, GNSO and GAC.

Upcoming CENTR Events

26 October 2015

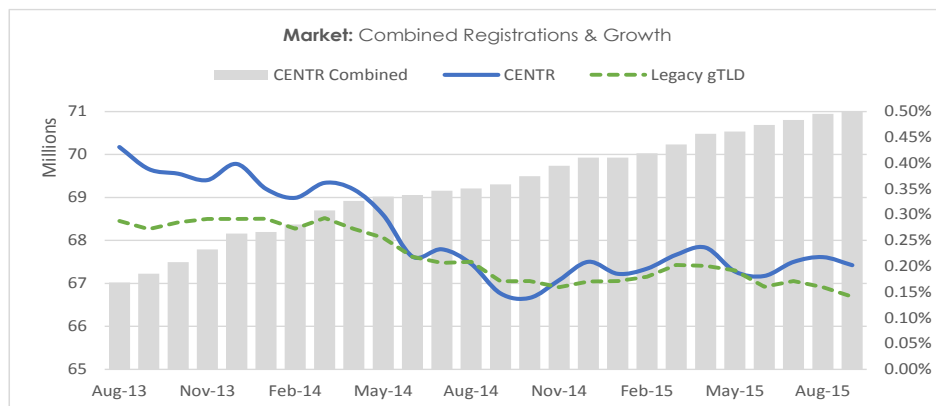10th CENTR Security workshop (Oxford, UK)

15 November 2015

33rd CENTR Technical workshop (Bucharest, Romania)

3-4 December 2015

18th CENTR Marketing workshop (Dublin, Ireland)

Domain Name Statistics

Market: Combined Registrations & Growth

Source: CENTR (based on 57 ccTLDs), ICANNwiki
Growth lines use 3-month moving averages to smooth the line * Refers to CENTR full members only

CENTR combined registrations*

71.1 *million*

Combined registrations among CENTR full members stands at 71.1 million over 57 recorded ccTLDs – a growth of around 2.6% over the past 12 months and a ccTLD median growth of 4.1% over the same period. CENTR produces detailed registration stats and trends to its members.