

Chairman's Report

A. Bartosiewicz, 2007-05-29

CENTR is becoming stronger and stronger organization. All the issues of the past are over, financial situation is very good (operating surplus and reserves), transition from CENTR Ltd to CENTR vzw/asbl is almost done, CENTR vzw/asbl is well managed, more members are joining CENTR.

I would like to point the following issues out:

- EXCOM is working very efficiently; new EXCOM members brought new ideas and enthusiasm;
- At the Prague meeting two new Members joined CENTR; for the Helsinki meeting we will have one application for Observer's status (OARC);
- The Secretariat is working well, the General Manager is managing the company well; Wim Degezelle is working very hard (good decision to recruit Wim);
- CENTR Technical Workshop has been revitalized; interesting presentations and discussions; more attendees than usual; professional Chairman (Marcos Sanz);
- Process of changing existing election procedures is underway.

EXCOM and Secretariat:

EXCOM is working well with the Secretariat. As expected by the majority of the Members, General Manager continues to have broad autonomy and independence and is responsible for day-to-day management. EXCOM management calls (2 hours each) take place once per month with additional one day meeting in Helsinki. Discussions within EXCOM and Secretariat EXCOM take place @ mailing list. Direct phone consultation between Chairman and General Manager take place every week.

Critical Infrastructure:

After a fruitful discussion on Critical Infrastructure during the Prague GA, there was an action item to create a small working group led by the Secretariat to develop a briefing paper outlining on this topic. Whilst a few members expressed a willingness to participate in the Working Group, this action item has not been undertaken as the Secretariat has been busy on other tasks.

Recent cyber-attacks on Estonian's Internet infrastructure (spam, DDoS; use of large botnets; banks web sides unavailable; problems with e-mails communication within government etc) bring discussion on Critical Infrastructure into different level.

The Commission recognizes the distinction between the Registry function and the Zone File/resolution function, the latter being of significant importance for national service provision during times of crisis, such as DDos attacks. The European Government IIG will be looking at this area in more detail in the near future. I will keep you informed of any developments.

eIANA

eIANA project initiated by CENTR in the summer of 2005 is almost on the finish line. 4 months of development together with ICANN (Kim Davies and Simon Raveh) brought us to a stage where the project can be demonstrated to the community. Some issues are not solved yet (adjustments to core procedures are not finalized, technical checks are not accepted). I am optimistic that the remaining issues will be solved shortly. General expectation is to ensure the responsibility for the entries in zone file back into the ccTLD Registry's hands. SLA draft has been discussed on the mailing list and during CENTR Technical Workshop in Tallinn. It's expected that IANA will adopt our suggestions in their Service Level Agreement ("Service Level Commitment") document.

Chair's report: ICANN Lisbon meeting:

1. Following-on from past experience, the EXCOM had a productive discussion with ICANN Senior staff during an ICANN meeting. The EXCOM (SD, AP and AB) & PvR with Vint Cerf, Paul Twomey and Doug Brent. The main topics of the discussion are as follows: CENTR overview, IANA automatization process – eIANA; IDN implementation in the root and the possibilities (expectations) for “fast track” implementation of Internationalized ccTLDs; DNSSEC implementation and root zone key signing by other “authority”.

2. .gr .bg .ru meeting with Tina Dam + Giovanni + Veni + AB; main topic - IDNs implementation in the root; none of our suggestions from gr/bg/ru side had been accepted by ICANN;

3. AB's meeting with Chris Disspain (ccNSO) - the main topics were Internationalized ccTLDs... expectations from some ccTLDs how and when .IDNs to be implemented; invitation by Chris Disspain for AB to join the ccNSO IDN Working Groups (ccNSO and join GAC-ccNSO); I will keep the CENTR community informed on ccNSO works etc.;

4. AB meet with Wolfgang Kleinwächter – ICANN Studienkreis meeting to be organized in Poland / Warsaw – October 11/12 fixed; input from CENTR Secretariat (presentation of CENTR; distribution of the information... more?) will be very welcomed;

5. AB meeting with Michael Nebel (EU) – main topics: IANA automatization & eIANA progress, IDNs implementation at the root level, how ccTLDs can start registrations (theoretical administrative possibilities) under new top level IDN domain names – FCFS, sunrise etc;

6. AB meeting with European GAC members - general feedback is that CENTR and IIG should provide more feedback to IIG... we should really think about it;

7. AB meeting with Kim Davies (IANA) on eIANA progress and IANA automatization; good progress on eIANA at the moment.

Directions for upcoming months:

- Reduce time spent on organizational issues @ GAs; use mailing lists to distribute financial information and other organizational issues;
- Keep an eye on IGF process; participate in the meetings, contributions etc.;
- Follow or steer discussions on Critical Infrastructure; closer cooperation with IIG and European Commission;
- Cooperation with ccNSO in the areas of interest of the members (IANA automatization; IDNs in the root; DNSSEC in the root);
- Bring more information on new business opportunities to the Members (all the ENUM, pay-per-click etc services) – facilitate exchange of information among Members;
- Broaden membership (Full members); terminate membership of non-paying non-active members;
- Improve reports to the Members;
- Next issue of Domain Wire is under development, content suggestions welcome;