

To EURIM Members and Observers

From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General
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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter and Notices – July 2003

1) Competitiveness

Ensuring a globally competitive communications infrastructure

At the first Parliamentary Dinner of the Broadband Stakeholder Group, on 12th June, it was suggested that more needed to be done to involve MPs in the various campaigns to secure access, both business and domestic, to world-class communications for those living and working in their constituencies. Brian White MP suggested that EURIM could assist and Chris Mole MP agreed to be one of the political monitors for work in this area. Please let me know if you would like to be active at the political level in helping expedite Broadband roll-out. Subject to the responses we will then discuss with the BSG what form that assistance might take.

On 25th June, in Berlin, we discussed the potential for co-operation with D21 (www.initiated21.de), the prime focus for ICT Government - Industry relations in Germany. D21 has over a hundred major users and suppliers in membership and an advisory board chaired by the German Chancellor (Gerhard Schroder). The chairman of the managing board is the CEO of IBM Germany, Erwin Staudt. The current D21 task forces, each with two leaders, the relevant Minister and the Chief Executive of a member company, are:

- Future of Internet Society: “seals of quality” for Internet services, awareness, broadband
- Government leadership as a user: joining up, public private partnership, e-democracy, health
- Education and qualification: creating an IT skilled workforce, teaching the teachers, materials
- Women and IT - careers activities, flexible working, family programmes
- Security and Trust in the Internet - data security, consumer protection and security/trust structures.

I will be producing short reports on lessons for the UK, on areas for partnership and on the potential role of EURIM - given the very different structures for government-industry and parliament-industry relations in the UK and Germany. The current intention is to produce a proposal for a step-by-step exercise to test the practical mechanics of co-operation. Meanwhile please let me know if you would like to be involved in progressing Anglo-German co-operation at the highest level. Your responses will help determine how we carry this forward.

2) Modernising Government

Taking stock of progress to date and improving supplier-customer understanding

On 1st July the Modernising Government group will review the current situation and discuss forward priorities. Much has been achieved over recent years and the work of the Office of the E-Envoy, the Office of Public Services Reform and the Office of Government Commerce has led to major changes in the way that central government departments approach the use of ICT to help meet their service objectives. The scale and nature of that change does not appear to have been appreciated by some of those selling to government and EURIM has been asked to help improve communication. Communication is a multi-dimensional process and the lessons that can, and should, be derived from the Gateway Reviews need to be passed up, as well as down and between public and private sectors.

Open Source in Government:

Lessons from across Europe

Open Source is not a panacea and the meeting in Berlin on 26th June, preceded by a reception and dinner in the Reichstag on the 25th, was an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others and gain an insight into the driving forces within the Open Source community. Open Source does not necessarily equate with “free”: whether “free” is interpreted to mean uncharged or even freely available. Moreover the Open Source community is not homogeneous. Groups of players can have very different motivations and business models, from the academic to the commercial. These are reflected in the licensing and charging structures they advocate or oppose.

Three pieces of German “work in progress”, driven by the German Ministry of the Interior, were particularly relevant for the EURIM Open Source group:

- a transition guide, building on the lessons from the 400 public sector projects under way or complete.
- a guide to the various types of open source license and their implications.
- a license for public sector development which takes account of German and European law.

The PITCOM meeting in London on 30th June covered some, but by no means all, of the same ground and on 7th July the EURIM Open Source group will be meeting to review its draft paper and forward plans.

Medical Records and Systems:

Achieving cultural change in the application of ICT to improve patient care

The editorial event planned for 26th June proved impractical and the group is now seeking to organise an event on the 10th or 16th September in the House of Lords focussed on the potential effects of the restructuring of health service ICT on improving patient care.

3) E-Crime

Building practical co-operation: the EURIM - IPPR study

There are now over 120 individuals from over 30 organisations participating in Phase 1 of the EURIM - IPPR study. This phase comprises a series of small workshops to collate e-mailed inputs, including those generated by press cover. Computer Weekly and the Guardian both covered the suggestion that “specialist constables”, with industry strength technical skills, operating within law enforcement frameworks might form part of the approach to partnership cyber-policing in a democratically accountable society. This suggestion generated lively discussion, including three applications to become “specials”. Two were from individuals in senior security positions within major organisations. They would be an asset to any Computer Crime Unit and are being asked to help us with our inquiries. The third illustrated why the subject needs to be approached with care.

We are on schedule to have the first report ready for presentation to the Minister on the afternoon of 14th July. This will cover the issues that need to be addressed, the questions that need to be asked, the audiences who should be consulted and the possible means of ensuring balanced and informed consultation. The section on consultation will build on the experiences of the growing number of government departments and agencies who are adopting the recommendations in EURIM Briefing 30, “Making a Reality of Consultation” and on our own subsequent experiences, including with the Communications Bill.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers:

Putting the regulation into RIPA and retention

Most of those who attended the meetings in May subsequently made submissions to the Home Office. The EURIM response to the consultation was a restatement of the concerns expressed in our evidence to the APIG inquiry in January and focussed on the need to ensure the effective regulation of all investigatory powers, not just those of the mainstream law enforcement agencies. We also emphasised the need to rationalise the number of contact points, including for those with legacy powers, to reduce the growing risk posed by unwarranted access to information files, public as well as private, to aid identity theft, fraud and other abuse.

4) Fair Dealing

How do we secure balanced and constructive debate on Intellectual Property Rights?

A growing number of EURIM members are registering interest and we plan a discussion in the Autumn on the possible role of EURIM in this area. Please e-mail admin@eurim.org if you are interested in helping drive work in this area or in active participation.

5) Skills

Building a world-class UK workforce

The realisation that ICT related jobs are increasingly being exported to other parts of the world has given added priority to this issue. A workshop to review the recommendations from the meeting in January, for possible publication as a EURIM briefing, is being planned for the Autumn. Please e-mail admin@eurim.org if you are interested in helping drive work in this area or in active participation.

6) Communications Regulation

Communications Disputes Resolution

The discussion on 2nd July on the disputes resolution obligations under the Communications Act will open with short contributions from Elizabeth France, as Telecoms Ombudsman, Alan Connarty for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Heather Clayton from Ofcom.

The role of Public Service Broadcasting in a converged age

The workshop to plan co-operation with the Westminster Media Forum and others in advance of the forthcoming consultations by DCMS and Ofcom has been postponed to the Autumn.

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EURIM Timetable - July 2003

If you wish to attend or would like more information on any of the EURIM meetings listed here and no other name is given against the entry please contact Kate Norman. (email: admin@eurim.org; fax: 01984 618383)

- Unless otherwise indicated EURIM meetings are open to all members and accredited observers. There is no charge for attendance but prior registration is required.
- **Meetings in BOLD are new (or have a significantly changed objective) since the timetable circulated at the beginning of June.**
- *Meetings in ITALICS are arranged by a different organisation but likely to be of interest to EURIM members. Please contact the person or website indicated to obtain further information and to register your interest in attending. (Please note that events listed in this category include some for which pre-registration is essential and for which there may be an entry fee.)*

JULY

1st 11.00 – 13.00 Board and Council Meeting (Directors, Council Members and Officers Only)

1st 14.00 - 16.00 Modernising Government Plenary meeting to review progress and plan forward activity, Committee Room 21, House of Commons

2nd 10.30 - 12.30 first review EURIM-IPPR E-Crime report on issues to be addressed: Interview Room W1, off Westminster Hall

2nd 14.00 - 16.00 Communications Disputes Resolution The consultations mechanism and proposals for Disputes Resolution under the Communications Bill (joint meeting of Fair Dealing and Communications Regulation groups), Committee Room 20, House of Commons

7th 10.30 - 12.30 Open Source: hosted by Intellect, 20 Red Lion Street, Review of draft paper

7th 14.00 - 16.00 Second review of EURIM-IPPR E-Crime report on issues to be addressed: Interview Room W1, off Westminster Hall

14th 17.00 - 19.00 Grimond Room, Portcullis House, Launch meeting for first EURIM-IPPR E-Crime report: A Call to Action: the issues to be addressed followed by reception in MacMillan Room (NB details to be confirmed)

21st 10.00 – 13.00 e-centre Law and Policy Group meeting covering: 1) Update on tScheme by a representative of tScheme; and 2) EU Consultation on Rome 1 (Contractual Obligations) - discussion of UK Government's position with Oliver Parker from LCD and Mary Tait from the DTI. EURIM members interested in attending are asked to contact will.roebuck@e-centre.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

10th (provisional) Achieving Cultural Change in NHS IT Deployment, the Moses Room, House of Lords, chaired by the Earl of Erroll, reserve date 16 September.

22nd 12.45 p.m. PITCOM Meeting at LibDem Party Conference, Hotel Metropole, Brighton
Contact Martin Hughes (PITCOM Membership Secretary) mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk

30th 13.15 p.m. PITCOM Meeting at Labour Party Conference, Highcliff Hotel, Bournemouth, Stephen Timms confirmed as speaker. (Note: A Conference pass will be required to gain access to this meeting) *Contact Martin Hughes (PITCOM Membership Secretary) mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk*

30th 18.00 for 19.00 Real Time Club Debate: This house believes that the UK ICT industry has passed from adolescence to senility without passing through maturity: Richard Holway v. Karl Schneider
Contact: virgo.philip@eurim.org

OCTOBER

7th 12.45 p.m. PITCOM Meeting at Conservative Party Conference, Winter Gardens, Blackpool (Note: A Conference pass will be required to gain access to this meeting) *Contact Martin Hughes (PITCOM Membership Secretary) mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk*

14th 12.30 – 14.00 - Group Leaders Review, followed by
14.00 – 16.00 - Board and Council Meeting
(Directors, Council Members and Officers plus theme/group chairs and rapporteurs only)

NOVEMBER

24th 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM: Regime Change - the need to transform attitudes in Central and Local Government *Contact Martin Hughes (PITCOM Membership Secretary) mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk*