

To EURIM Members and Observers  
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THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



## **EURIM Newsletter and Notices – September 2003**

*Because of virus related problems a number of our members and observers may not receive their electronic newsletter from us this month. We are therefore, just this once, extending the circulation list for the hard-copy version to all Council members, group leaders and principal contacts. If you do not normally receive this mailing by post but would like to be added to the permanent list, please email [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) or send a fax to the admin office at 01984 618383. The newsletter can be copied to others in your organisation and it is also available on our website at [www.eurim.org](http://www.eurim.org).*

### **1) Competitiveness**

#### *Ensuring UK competitiveness in the global knowledge economy*

Recent press coverage on the increasing scale of outsourcing to India and the Far East has led a number of groups, including the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, to announce that they will be looking at the implications of growing global competition for service jobs. The issues range well beyond immediate concerns over the loss of call-centre, back office and support jobs, serious though these are. Fragmented and under-resourced exercises into the “Knowledge Economy” will, however, do little to help secure action on the scale and nature likely to be necessary. The need is to achieve critical mass, including the commitment of major players (in publishing, media, R&D, pharmaceuticals and aerospace as well as ICT) to achieving practical results within realistic timescales. We are therefore seeking to identify who is planning to do what, supported by whom, so we can produce recommendations to the EURIM Council (next meeting 14th October) on providing support for partnerships likely to produce results. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you are already involved with exercises in this area or are interested in helping organise or support such activity.

### **2) Modernising Government**

#### *Review of progress, current issues and forward plans*

On the afternoon of 16th September the Modernising Government group will meet to discuss forward plans, including co-operation with Intellect, SOCITM, CIPFA and others to improve understanding of the scale and nature of the changes under way or in prospect with regard to the delivery and integration of services.

## **Open Source in Government:**

### *Clarifying the issues around the use of Open Source software in the public sector*

The paper reviewed by the group on 7th July is undergoing another round of editing. The intellectual property rights, licensing terms and business models on offer for the provision of software, maintenance and support have changed significantly since before Y2K and are continuing to evolve in the light of market conditions. In consequence, much of the traditional debate between “open source” and “proprietary” is no longer relevant. This group appears to have had a valuable role in helping the understanding and positions of the participants to “evolve”. After the next editorial review it is planned to expose the draft to a wider audience.

## **Medical Records and Systems:**

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

The meeting planned for 10th September has had to be postponed because of diary problems on the part of the Director General of the NHS National Programme and the Minister for NHS IT. The purpose of the event was to share views with senior clinicians and healthcare professionals with a view to actively engaging professional and patient groups in addressing some of obstacles (e.g. concerns over data sharing) to the more effective application of IT to improve patient care. That process began with a meeting with the editors of Doctor, Hospital Doctor and Practice Nurse magazines on 24th July. The strategy is currently being reviewed. Those interested in participation should contact [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org)

## **3) E-Crime**

### *Ministerial response and forward plans*

On 14th July, Caroline Flint MP, the Minister with responsibility for E-Crime, welcomed the EURIM - IPPR discussion paper and plans. She referred particularly to the work on reporting and on the issues as they affect small firms but also looked forward to considering all the recommendations. She then put the programme into the context of the other work being done by the Home Office to develop a cross government e-crime strategy for publication in Spring 2004 and also announced a review of the Computer Misuse Act. It dated “from a time when networked computers were designed to keep people out. Now we live in a time when networked computers are designed to let people in”. The Section 3 offence would be changed to clarify that denial of service attacks are covered. Consideration would be given to changes to the penalty levels for unauthorised access and to address the recommendations of the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention and the European Union Framework Decision. She noted the work of the Internet Crime Forum legal sub-group on the CMA (see [www.internetcimeforum.org.uk/cma-icf.pdf](http://www.internetcimeforum.org.uk/cma-icf.pdf) ) and said she would welcome “any further comments as to problems experienced with the Act or perceived weaknesses.”

We now have a programme of workshops in September to produce detailed inputs to the Home Office strategy, in parallel with revising the discussion paper for publication in time to influence the 2004 Legislative Programme and the Autumn spending review. The workshops are on Roles and Responsibilities (including for the governance of co-operation), Designing Out opportunities and risks (given new impetus by recent Internet problems), Reporting (including frameworks for sharing), Skills (including specification and accreditation), Legal Issues (including responses to the Ministers’ request for inputs on the CMA review), Small Firms (including the provision of

advice and guidance) and Personal Identity (see below). In each case a discussion paper will be sent out at least a week in advance to all those registered. Those unable to attend will be asked to contribute by e-mail.

Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) to request copies of the EURIM-IPPR discussion paper, the ministers' notes, the report of the meeting (unlike most EURIM meetings this was on-the-record so the full minutes are available), or to register for the study or any of the sub-groups.

#### *Personal Identity - making practical progress*

This was moved from Modernising Government to E-Crime because of the need for action to address the rapid growth of identity cloning, to provide effective remedial action for victims and to avoid consequent loss of confidence in Internet as a medium for consumer transactions and dealings with government. The scale of recent publicity, with harrowing case studies quoted in most of the media over the course of August, has given this subject a public exposure that was not apparent during the previous debate over entitlement cards. Meanwhile the Office of the E-Envoy is seeking to structure a more constructive debate on privacy issues to enable practical progress with regard to the authentication of citizens and business when dealing with government. The meeting to discuss the terms of reference for this group is on the afternoon of 18th September, 14.00 - 16.00, Committee Room 7, House of Commons and will begin by reviewing the current situation with regard to initiatives in banking and finance as well as government.

#### **4) Fair Dealing**

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

The problems over the implementation of the Copyright Directive and controversy over the proposal for an "Enforcement Directive" to overcome growing problems with obtaining redress or convictions under existing law, mean that this is rapidly becoming an area of debate. We plan a joint meeting with the All Party Intellectual Property Protection group on 15th October in the context of the EURIM - IPPR E-Crime study and this may provide a point of leverage for wider co-operation on some of the issues. There is, however, a need for wider debate in the context of a global knowledge economy - where wealth will increasingly depend on the creation and exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights and social inclusion will depend on affordable access. The recent paper by the Royal Society, "Keeping science open: the effects of intellectual property policy rights on the conduct of science" [www.royalsoc.ac.uk/files/statfiles/document-221.pdf](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/files/statfiles/document-221.pdf) indicates the scale and nature of some of the challenges. E-mail [admin@eurim.org](mailto:admin@eurim.org) to register interest or request a draft discussion paper on the issues.

#### **5) Skills**

##### *Building a world-class UK workforce*

The DfES reviews on learning networks and on skills for the information age are gathering pace and two important consultation papers were issued in July: "21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential", [www.dfes.gov.uk/skillsstrategy/docs/fulldoc.pdf](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/skillsstrategy/docs/fulldoc.pdf) and "Towards a Unified e-Learning Strategy", [www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations2/16/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations2/16/). SEMTA is hosting a round-table on the morning of 16th September to discuss members' plans to respond and to produce recommendations for the EURIM Council on 14th October on the role that EURIM might play

in this area, particularly with the need to ensure greatly improved inputs with regard to the needs of the customers (whether employers, parents or students of all ages) into areas of debate which have long been dominated by suppliers and their employees.

## **6) Communications Regulation**

### *Communications Act*

The new UK and EU regulatory framework to promote the interests of the consumer in the electronics communications sector came into force on schedule on 25th July although the transition from the current regulators to Ofcom will not be complete until the start of the New Year.

### *Ofcom consultations – review of Public Service Broadcasting*

Ofcom intends to consult widely when formulating its policies. As part of this process, EURIM has organised a workshop with Ed Richards (responsible for Ofcom's strategy process) to help with consultations for Ofcom's forthcoming review of PSB. The workshop will be held on 16th October in the Grimond Room, Portcullis House, Westminster, 1000-1200 hours. Please contact Dave Wright [davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com), copy to [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you plan to attend.

### *Dispute procedure schemes*

On 2 July, EURIM hosted a workshop to discuss implementation of disputes resolution under the Communications Act 2003, bringing together Oftel and organisations seeking accreditation to provide dispute resolution schemes. Oftel published guidelines on 4 August for reviews of dispute procedure schemes under the Act, which requires Ofcom to ensure that public communications providers provide access to dispute procedure schemes to their domestic and small business customers. The guidelines can be found at:

[http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu\\_directives/2003/disputeprocedure0803.htm](http://www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/eu_directives/2003/disputeprocedure0803.htm)

The deadline for communications providers to submit applications for approval (by a panel) of their dispute procedure schemes is 30 September 2003. A recommendation of the panel will then be put to the Secretary of State for consultation, as required under the Communications Act. Please contact Dave Wright [davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com) if you wish to work through EURIM to provide input to this process.

### *Review of BBC Internet Activities*

The need to review the position of the BBC as an Internet Service Provider has been raised regularly by some members over the past year but the only potential consensus appeared to be on the need for a review. There are no plans at present to discuss the review announced last week by the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport. Please e-mail Dave Wright [davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com) if you would like a meeting.

*If you are currently having problems sending emails, please fax your response or query to the EURIM admin office on 01984 618383 and it will then be forwarded to the appropriate person.*

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## EURIM Timetable - September 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 by email to [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org); or 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 August.**

*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.)*

### SEPTEMBER

*2nd 14.30 - 17.00 Internet Crime Forum Skills Sub-Group*

**10th Cultural Change in NHS IT Deployment - MEETING POSTPONED** because of diary problems

**11th 13.30-15.30 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Final approval meeting for 1st report (the draft was presented on 14th July and only minor changes have been suggested to date) Venue to be notified.**

**11th 10.30 - 12.30 EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study - Workshop on Small Firms Issues (guidance, support, reporting) House of Lords Registered participants only**

16th 11.00 - 13.00 E-Skills and Learning Networks. Discussion of responses to White Papers on "21st Century Skills: Realising Our Potential" and "Towards a Unified E-Learning Strategy". Hosted by SEMTA.

16th 14.00 - 16.00 Modernising Government plenary meeting to report on progress and plan next stage of the theme's activities.

**16th 14.30 - 16.15 Is IT Ethical? Presentation of findings of 2002 Ethicomp Survey of Professional Practice, Institute of Directors: the third bi-annual survey by the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility at De Montfort University on behalf of IMIS shows differences by geographic location: [deirdre.pointer@imis.org.uk](mailto:deirdre.pointer@imis.org.uk)**

17th 10.00 - 12.00 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Workshop on Reporting (Objectives, methods and structures). Hosted by EDS. Registered participants only.

**18th 10.00 - 12.00 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Workshop on Legal Issues (UK, EU, International). Portcullis House. Registered participants only.**

18th 14.00 - 16.00 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Scoping meeting on Personal Identity Issues. House of Commons (CR7). Registered participants only.

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](mailto:mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk)\*\*

**25th 10.30 - 12.30 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Workshop on Roles and Responsibilities Hosted by NHTCU Registered participants only.**

**25th 14.00 - 16.00 EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Study - Workshop on Designing Out Opportunities and Risks. Hosted by NHTCU Registered participants only.**

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](mailto: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 and Philip Virgo v. Karl Schneider and Charles Ross: [virgo.philip@eurim.org](mailto:virgo.philip@eurim.org)*

**30th - 1st October AFTER THE FALLOUT: ACHIEVING PAYBACK IN THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY: 34th IIC annual meeting and conference, in association with the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House: Contact: Conference Unit 020 7957 5754**

## 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](mailto:mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk)

**9th October E-business Regulatory Alliance inaugural seminar: "E-business - A Regulatory Nightmare?", topics include On-Line Contracts, Web Site Content, E-Marketing Without The Spam, Balancing Systems Control with Employee Privacy, Firewall Retention & E-Crime, Transferring Data Internationally: contact [geoff.petherick@e-ra.org.uk](mailto:geoff.petherick@e-ra.org.uk) for information on E-RA and the event.**

14th 12.30 – 14.00 - Group Leaders Review, followed by  
14.00 – 16.00 - Board and Council Meeting All at 7 Millbank.  
(Directors, Council Members and Officers only plus theme/group chairs and rapporteurs)

**16th 10.00 - 12.00 Ofcom Review of Public Service Broadcasting: Communications Regulation Group: round table meeting with Ed Richards, Ofcom to discuss the consultation process: Grimond Room, Portcullis House, Westminster. To hold numbers down to enable constructive discussion this meeting is for registered members and observers only. Please contact [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you wish to register or are uncertain whether you are already registered.**

## 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](mailto:mjhughes@cix.compulink.co.uk)*