

To EURIM Members and Observers

From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General
15 Chestnut Road, London SE27 9EZ
Tel: 020 8761 5926; Fax: 020 8670 4345
E-mail: virgo.philip@eurim.org



EURIM Newsletter and Notices - February 2004

1) EURIM Objectives for 2004

The business plans approved by the EURIM Council on 27th January fall into three broad areas:

Setting the agenda on important and urgent issues where EURIM is in a unique position to lead:

- E-Crime - planning under way for a follow through to the reports due for launch this month.
- Personal Identity - scoping meeting on 11th February.
- Review of Data Sharing and Protection - planning round table on 18th February.

Ensuring constructive cross-sector/boundary discussion where debate is confused and there is a need for round-table discussions to help structure balanced consultation but others are then expected to take over:

- Intellectual Property Rights - where the need is to brief parliamentarians on what is at stake for whom.
- Social Inclusion - where the need is to move from a tangle of initiatives to mainstream action.
- Communications Regulation - where regulation may have converged but the lobbies have not.

Monitoring and political support where others are expected to lead but may call on EURIM to provide the umbrella for their political activities:

- E-Commerce regulation - where we expect to work with the E-Regulatory Alliance.
- E-Skills and Learning Networks - where we expect to work with a consortium of members.

The areas on which Council postponed decisions were:

- UK/EU Competitiveness, pending the report of the Trade and Industry Select Committee.
- Modernising Government Strategy, pending the report of the Efficiency Review.

Council agreed a new press strategy to exploit the many opportunities on offer to publicise members' views in ways that also progress constructive debate. This will be piloted with the E-Crime launches this month. The marketing material and website are also being overhauled.

2) UK/EU Competitiveness

Progress towards the Knowledge Driven Economy

The first three witnesses (IMIS, Qinetiq and Intellect) to give oral evidence to the Trade and Industry Select Committee on the 20th January were all EURIM members and the IMIS evidence drew extensively on EURIM material. This topic is high priority for most Corporate members but key actions are outside the remit of DTI and none of the UK political think tanks has this at the heart of its agenda. Should we be planning a major exercise after the Select Committee has reported? If so, with whom should we be planning to co-operate - or do we need to take a lead?

Bringing "Liquid Broadband" to Britain

The March issue of the PITCOM Journal is growing with advertorials around articles by Parliamentary members on the campaigns to bring broadband to their constituencies. There appears to be mounting support for a campaign to bring "liquid broadband" (i.e. infrastructures similar to those now operational around much of the Pacific Rim, capable of being seamlessly upgraded from 2 meg connections to the home or workshop through to 20 megs and more) to the whole of the United Kingdom. Subject to support and sponsorship from the industry players most concerned to see action, we therefore plan a series of political dinners to help ensure that there is an effective follow through to the work of the Broadband Stakeholder Group and that it has more "robust" terms of reference.

Skills and Learning Networks

The EURIM response to the DfES consultation paper "Towards a Unified E-Learning Strategy" stressed the need to address consultation overload by routing the collection of employer inputs to the Sector Skills Councils. E-Learning was one component, but not the only one, of the lifelong learning networks needed to rebuild and maintain a globally competitive workforce. Others include the tax position of training, a replacement for individual learning accounts (with employer-driven quality control) and building on the Learn Direct and UK-Online Centres to provide local, supported, access to world-class content with all the bandwidth necessary. There is also "a need for DfES strategy to focus on enabling its agencies and the schools, colleges and universities they fund, through a bewildering variety of channels, to be intelligent customers in a global market, rather than seeking to centrally plan and co-ordinate products and services designed for English and Welsh markets". The full text is now on our website at www.eurim.org/briefings/dfesllsponse.htm

Please let me know if you would like to join the consortium of members planning to ensure follow through on the results of the consultation.

Intellectual Property Rights

With the launch of "Creative Commons UK" and the plans of the main UK academic funding agencies for a "Common Information Environment", the UK debate on Intellectual Property Rights is beginning to gather pace but those seeking to organise constructive debate are having great difficulty in bringing the various players together. The current plan is for a limited exercise to brief Parliamentarians on the issues and their importance, in co-operation with the Patent Office Intellectual Property Advisory Committee, the All-Party Intellectual Property Protection Committee and others active in this area.

Making sense of E-Commerce Regulation

The new E-Regulatory Alliance appears to be gathering support for a framework to bring together the many lawyers and trade associations seeking to provide advice and guidance to their clients and members on the growing tangle of legislation affecting E-Business.

3) Modernising Government

Changing the Nature of the Relationships between Government and Suppliers

Apart from inputs to the Select Committee on Public Administration no work is planned in this area until after the report of the Efficiency Review although we have been asked to help chair a two day event on issues in this area, in Brussels, on the 17th and 18th May. We may also have a dinner in Dublin on 21st April, sponsored by one of our members, to discuss some of the issues around Open Source in a European context.

Making Sense of the Many National and Local Social Inclusion Agendas and Programmes

CIPFA hosted a round table on 28th January to review an attempt to map the large number of social inclusion projects currently under way and the objectives of those involved. Most appear to treat inclusion as a "desirable add-on" to another programme rather than as a mainstream objective. It was also clear that many of those working on current proposals are aware of neither the lessons learned nor the range of inclusion technologies already available. It was agreed that the first stage of any work in this area is to produce a "map" of issues, players, objectives etc.

Medical Records

The main contracts for the National Programme for IT will soon have been let, with EURIM members involved in most, if not all, of the successful consortia. Health Secretary John Reid has said that the systems will equip the NHS to 'revolutionise the way that information is managed by the NHS'. The programme will now shift its focus to ensuring delivery of high-quality services to a challenging timetable. Please contact Dave Wright (davywright2@ntlworld.com) if you would like to help organise activities to improve mutual understanding and goodwill between the many groups of players whose active co-operation and support will be needed to ensure the delivery of patient benefit.

The Review of Guidance on Data Sharing and Protection

There was a strong response to the call for interest in the January newsletter. This has emerged as one of those problem areas where the main players would welcome an off-the-record round table, hosted by a neutral organisation, to scope the issues and find constructive ways forward. We have organised a planning meeting on 18th February and have had provisional discussions with potential sponsors and partners so that we can organise a major exercise if needed. There are a number of agendas in this area, not all of them well informed or constructive, but there is little doubt as to the need for much better guidance with regard to handling the interplay between data protection and other relevant legislation, whether or not any legal changes may prove to be needed.

4) E-Crime and Partnership Policing

Strengthening the Thin Blue Line: Cyber-Specials rather than Cyber-Vigilantes

The issues of E-Crime have moved from being of concern only to security buffs to regular front page news. The 15th January meeting to review progress and a workshop on inputs to the Policy Reform consultation the same day both discussed ways of securing action before confidence in the Internet as a mass-market medium was further damaged. We decided to focus publicly on solutions while briefing privately on the true scale and nature of the problems and the growing urgency of the recommendations. A revised business plan is being sent to all registered participants with a public launch set (provisionally) for 27th April (at Infosec). In the meantime we have much to do to publicise the results of the work to date. The public launch for the work on protecting the vulnerable is planned for Friday 13th February.

One of the most urgent needs is to greatly increase the expertise available to law enforcement. Computer forensic and security skills need to have priority in the plans for the Criminal Justice Sector Skills Council (launch due on 1st April). The EURIM response to the police reform white paper focuses on the need to remove the current obstacles to warranting ICT staff, many of whom may not be physically fit or regularly available, "for the office of constable" and for the creation of quality controlled registers of those available to provide assistance as volunteers or as part-time professionals. See www.eurim.org/briefings/resptohoconsr2.htm for the full text.

Personal Identity: Structuring Debate on the Way Forward

The PITCOM meeting on Personal Identity on 26th January was well attended and will be reported in Government Computing and on www.kablenet.com/pitcom. Bernard Herdan described the plans of the UK Passport Service over the next few years, Geoff Llewellyn described the plans to test biometrics for UKPS with a variety of samples (structured and random) and Stuart Brocklehurst described experiences in other parts of world (such as the US Armed forces card with over 5 million holders). It quickly became apparent that the issues are organisational and legal, with the main problem of multi-function cards and interoperability plans being to marry the different objectives of those concerned. Jim Lound then put the issues into the practical context of the hundreds of millions of on-line checks handled by the credit reference agencies each year, with the need also to validate the person making the check, to reconcile conflicting information from different sources on the same (apparently) individual and balance risk against the cost of improved (but never absolute) certainty before the customer gets annoyed and the transaction is lost. We look set for a good meeting on 11th February to set the agenda for the EURIM forward programme in this key policy area for both Government and the private sector.

5) Communications Regulation

Ofcom Annual Plan (visit www.ofcom.org.uk for copies)

Ofcom has set out its overall approach to regulation, its priorities for 2004/05, and how it expects to be audited, measured and evaluated in its Annual Plan, to run from April 2004. The main market challenges are identified as:

- **Helping to drive forward digital switchover and broadband roll-out and competition:** Ofcom will place a high priority in 2004/5 on helping the industry to make rapid progress in these areas.
- **Promoting competition.** In parallel with the strategic reviews, Ofcom will continue to focus on improving the effectiveness of competition in some key parts of the sector, from wholesale broadband access to the television programme supply market.
- **Safeguarding the interests of citizen-consumers:** Ofcom plans to introduce a new approach to content and standards regulation, fit for the digital age.

The closing date for responses is **11th March 2004**. If you would like to participate in a workshop to discuss responses to the plan please contact Dave Wright (davywright2@ntlworld.com).

We also need to discuss how EURIM can best help its growing number of observers within Ofcom to achieve their objectives, including the prioritisation of topics for pre-consultation round tables, so that we can help Ofcom maintain its consultation standards (section 9.2) and ensure that its “discussions with stakeholders before issuing a major consultation ...” are fully effective. We do not wish to duplicate the work of others, but the lack of forums where the various interest groups come together remains a problem. For all of the talk of convergence, few of the main ICT suppliers, Internet Service Providers or digital content providers attended the Oxford Media Convention in January. There may also be a need to discuss the issues of political and parliamentary accountability with regard to the balance of responsibility between Ofcom, DTI, DCMS, Treasury et al for achieving policy objectives, such as improving the investment climate for broadband roll-out.

ITV Licence Consultation

On 26th January, Ofcom announced a consultation on a new approach to the review of licence terms for Channel 3 (ITV) broadcasters. The regulator is proposing to align the licence review periods for all 16 Channel 3 licences so that all reviews can begin from 31st December 2004. The full consultation document can be accessed at http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/current/channel3_licences/

The proposals recognise the need to plan for digital switchover, to maintain public service broadcasting obligations and to plan a timetable for the Channel 3 licence reviews to allow Ofcom to take full account of its PSB Review. Responses are invited by **1 March 2004**.

Hutton and the Ofcom PSB and Charter Reviews

The DCMS has confirmed that in addition to Ofcom’s PSB review, the Hutton report will feed into the corporation's charter review process. Other questions include how the BBC will be governed, regulated and funded as a major player in global markets, not “just” the largest PSB serving England, Scotland and Wales. The plan to ‘top-slice’ 1/10th of the £2.6bn the BBC receives from licence fee payers - a central issue when the government renegotiates the BBC’s Royal Charter - has also raised concerns on the part of some EURIM members.

To EURIM Members and Observers
From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General
15 Chestnut Road, London SE27 9EZ
Tel: 020 8761 5926; Fax: 020 8670 4345
E-mail: virgo.philip@eurim.org

THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Timetable - February 2004

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: eurim@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 January**
- *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.)*

FEBRUARY

9th 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM AGM
(PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)

10th p.m. at Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, SW1
**Competition and Consolidation in Commercial Radio, Chaired by Rt Hon Chris Smith MP.
Westminster Media Forum Seminar.**
Please contact Peter van Gelder pvg@westminstereforum.co.uk

11th 10.30 - 12.30 Grimond Room, Portcullis House, Westminster
(NB please check the board as there is a risk of being moved).
E-Crime - Joined-up Personal Identities - private and/or public: from databases through cards to biometrics, from registration through recognition/authentication/authorisation to repudiation, plus service, reliability, security, liability, privacy and ownership.
Presentation meeting for discussion paper on issues and recommendations.

12th 10.30 - 12.30 Room C, 1 Parliament Street, Westminster
E-Crime - Reducing Vulnerabilities: communities, issues and points of leverage - workshop to plan forward programme.

13th 11.30 - 13.00 Room C, 1 Parliament Street, Westminster
E-Crime press briefing to release discussion paper: Protecting the Vulnerable: the need for realistic guidance, support and services for small firms and others unable to protect themselves.

18th 11.00 - 13.00 Room N, Portcullis House, Westminster
Planning meeting on issues surrounding Guidance on the Data Protection Act and data sharing.

25th p.m. Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, SW1
BBC Charter review: keynote speakers: Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State, DCMS and Lord Burns, Independent Advisor to the DCMS on the Charter review: Westminster Media Forum Seminar, please contact Peter van Gelder pvg@westminstereforum.co.uk

25th - 26th

Designing Out Hi-Tech Crime – NHTCU e-crime congress 2004, speakers include: Caroline Flint MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Reducing Organised and International Crime; Detective Chief Superintendent Len Hynds, Head of Unit, National Hi-Tech Crime Unit; Graham Satchwell, Director Corporate Security & Investigations EMEAA, Glaxo Smith Kline; Dame Pauline Neville Jones, Chairman Information Assurance Advisory Council; Scott Charney, Chief Security Strategist, Microsoft; John Chirillo, Author and Security Expert, Workshops on Hacking and Extortion, Human Resources/Identity Theft and Fraud/Web site Spoofing and Social Engineering and Industrial Espionage, For details visit: www.e-crimecongress.org

MARCH

11th a.m. Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, SW1

Corporate Social Responsibility and the Media Keynote speakers: Julia Cleverdon, Chief Executive, Business in the Community and Tony Stoller, Director, External Affairs, Ofcom Westminster Media Forum Seminar.

Please contact Peter van Gelder: pvg@westminstereforum.co.uk

22nd 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM: Outsourcing our future? UK Competitiveness in the face of off-shore outsourcing: from design, through manufacturing to customer service.

(PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)

31st p.m Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, SW1

Ofcom's Inbox Seminar – part2: Keynote speaker: Stephen Carter, Chief Executive, Ofcom: Westminster Media Forum Seminar

Please contact Peter van Gelder: pvg@westminstereforum.co.uk

31st 15.00 - 17.00 EURIM Council (Directors, Council Members, Officers only)

17.00 - 18.00 EURIM AGM (Members only)

18.00 - 19.30 Reception - joint with Computer Weekly 500 Club (by invitation only)

APRIL

21st p.m. provisional Open Government meeting - Dublin (joint with OFE)

26th 18.00 - 19.30

PITCOM: Data sharing in the public sector - where are we?: practical conflicts between government objectives and departmental policies. (PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)

27th provisional Launch of E-Crime Phase 2 programme at Infosec - Olympia

MAY

24th 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM Broadband - The Widening Gaps: haves and have nots, UK/EU and the Pacific Rim. (PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)

24th 19.30 - 22.00 (provisional) Communications Policy Dinner

JUNE

28th 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM Joined up Criminal Justice? A progress report ? (PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)