

To EURIM Members and Observers

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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter and Notices - April 2004

1) Points for your Manifesto and Review of Priorities

Summarising members' views for input to the party manifesto teams

The next general election is likely to be the first in which policies towards ICT and its use feature in the main party manifestos. But the main divisions are not those between left and right. They are those between different commercial and consumer interest groups over issues such as how best to address the regulation of content accessed over the Internet, to secure affordable local access to world-class communications or to implement the modernisation of government. Most of those responsible for reconciling the conflicting pressures and producing credible policies that are attractive to the electorate at large, as well as to their own party, are EURIM members and Council has approved an exercise to help ensure that their resultant proposals are well informed.

By the end of May we aim to have summarised the material produced to date, plus that received in response to this newsletter, into a prioritised list of ideas available for evaluation in those areas where policy proposals are most needed. The task will then be to ensure that the policy teams and those seeking to influence them have the necessary inputs, including industry contacts to help flesh out those which look attractive, in time for their party conferences. The third stage of the process will be to help our departmental observers with the inputs they will need for their implementation plans to handle those that have been adopted.

EURIM is an all-party group so we will be producing the same material for all parties. How it is used will be up to them, but we will be expected to turn industry jargon into voter friendly English before passing the material to the policy teams.

This is a major opportunity for members to help set the political agenda for the next few years and we very much hope that you will e-mail eurim@eurim.org (copy to me at the address above) with your views on the priorities for action, as well as suggestions as to the specific actions you would like to see. It would be most helpful to receive these before the end of April so that the results can be collated for input to the inaugural meeting of the EURIM Content and Issues Panel on 5th May. That meeting, chaired by Ian Stewart MP, will review EURIM's own priorities for the year ahead, including this exercise.

2) Harmful Content on the Internet

Making a reality of co-operation

On 24th March, Brian White MP chaired a meeting with the Internet Watch Foundation, the All Party Internet Group, Martin Salter MP and Tim Loughton MP (the proposers of the Early Day Motions calling for action to tackle harmful Internet content) and others. The subsequent discussion revealed a need to improve understanding of what is already being done by responsible suppliers and of the obstacles to improved co-operation that need to be addressed. A status report on the activities already under way is being drafted as part of the follow up to that meeting.

One of the most significant obstacles is lack of resource. Barely 250 police officers, plus a similarly small pool of civilian staff and approved contractors, have the skills to handle digital evidence relevant to the war against terror let alone all the other investigations (murder, paedophilia, fraud, extortion

etc.) where the computers, mobile phones or personal organisers of the victims and suspects, or the servers of their communications service providers, may contain relevant information.

3) Tackling the E-Crime skills crisis

Providing Skills for Justice

On 22nd March, the EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study team met with those planning “Skills for Justice”, the new Sector Skills Council for the Criminal Justice System, It was agreed to recommend that its remit be extended to cover the forensic skills of the 8,000 or so private sector electronic security staff as well as those of the many departments and agencies with investigatory powers, in co-operation with E-Skills, the skills council for information systems.

However, specifying competencies is only a start. These have to be developed and assessed. On the afternoon of 26th April, the EURIM-IPPR E-Crime study team will review a draft report (being produced by David Harrington, CMA/ICAF) on the skills and training issues at all levels: from mass-market self-protection for children and their parents, through large-scale technician level training for support staff to specialist forensics skills, building on the ground already covered in “Protecting the Vulnerable” (released on 13th February). We aim also to use the launch of the report to provide a platform for corporate members to say what they are already doing to help address the issues.

4) Personal Identity and Secure Data Storage and Sharing

Consent or compulsion, citizen or subject?

On 29th April the EURIM Personal Identity team, chaired by Jim Lound (Experian), will discuss a paper summarising the current state of debate and proposing a common conceptual framework for assessing the many personal identity initiatives currently under way. The basic premise is that individuals own their own identity and that systems should be driven by their informed consent, save when this is over-ridden by regulated statutory authority. Subject to discussion this paper will then be reviewed for all party support and publicly launched and promoted as a contribution to debate, with supporting statements from the contributors. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org to be added to the circulation list for this group.

Promoting good practice in sharing data securely with those who should know

The overlap between those concerned with Personal Identity and with Data Sharing and Protection is such that we are looking at the issues in tandem. John Baker (CIPFA) will chair the group looking at the need to publicise positive guidance on good practice in secure data sharing. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you have relevant experience or examples.

Unravelling the realities of data retention

The ongoing debate between law enforcement and industry on the retention of data to help possible future investigations is deeply frustrating to all sides. Mutual misunderstanding is compounded by conflicting claims as to what is practical, let alone the cost. Few claims are based on practical experience with the maintenance and archiving of large files. Even fewer are based on experience with actually retrieving data once it has been archived. Yet there is a wealth of experience in this area, including that expensively re-learned during Y2K when knowledge-based industries, such as pharmaceuticals and aerospace, had to recycle or abandon decades of computer based research files, let alone product, service and maintenance records. Unfortunately most of that experience has never been collated and written up.

A number of members wish access to good quality research on the costs and practicalities of large scale, secure, reliable, long term data retention. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you would be interested in supporting or joining a consortium to organise and fund the work necessary, probably through one or more of the main university research centres with relevant experience and expertise.

5) Review of EURIM Communications Regulation Activities

Sarah Terry is reviewing EURIM's role, objectives and strategy with regard to communications regulation, including relations with other groups in the same space, whether parliamentary, industry or commercial. She is meeting those active in the group over the past year to obtain their views on priorities, channels, partners and where EURIM adds most value before she joins Nortel on 13th April.

In the action plan approved by Council last week she suggested our work with Ofcom be focussed on their Telecoms Strategic Review and the Spectrum Review. The Ofcom Public Service broadcasting Review and the BBC Charter Renewal would be left to one side, because members were active via other channels, although the round table with Ed Richards last year had been valuable for all concerned and a similar event at the end of the next consultation phase should be considered.

The proposed EURIM action plan includes a recommendation that we continue to work with and through the Broadband Stakeholder Group, with a focus on adding value in those areas where there is agreement among EURIM members - such as business rates relief, capital allowances and the aggregation of public sector infrastructure funding to encourage investment.

On Internet content issues, it is suggested we work more closely with the All Party Internet Group, ISPA and others on the ongoing debates over responsibility for action and focus the EURIM contribution via the E-Crime group.

The Convergence of several different types of technology has been gathering pace for a number of years and is now on the brink of mainstream acceptance in two areas on which it is suggested that EURIM could promote debate and inform Parliamentarians:

- *Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)*: which has the potential to transform Telco business models. The Internet Telephony Services Providers Association (ITSPA) are calling on Ofcom to do more to support the fledging Internet telephony sector, including via its current consultation on numbering arrangements for Voice over Broadband services.
- *Broadcast content over broadband*: although widely deployed broadband capable of offering consumers broadcast channels, films, games etc is still a little way off (save around the Pacific Rim), services are steadily expanding (including for access to broadcast materials anywhere in the world) and a self-regulatory body for Video on Demand, VODA, has been set up by operators with agreement of the DCMS.

EURIM also needs to consider its role with regard to:

The fragmentation of lobbying: Single-issue groups can be very effective at changing the climate and delivering results, especially when combined with a strategic media campaign. However, the fragmentation of lobbying can complicate consultation for the regulator or Government. The EURIM round table approach has demonstrated value in structuring consultations and identifying areas of agreement, so that time and effort can be focussed on better resolving the areas of difficulty. As an independent and neutral body, should EURIM target single-issue groups as associate members to help combat the negative side effects of such fragmentation?

The accountability of Ofcom as a statutory corporation independent of Government: Although it does not report directly to Parliament, Ofcom has links with the Department of Trade and Industry (who take the lead) and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and is potentially accountable to Parliament through several Parliamentary Committees and the National Audit Office. Concern has been expressed that as no one department or committee has been given oversight of Ofcom, true accountability may fall between the cracks. This situation is not expected to be clarified until after the next General Election.

Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org (for forwarding to Sarah) with your views on EURIM's role and priorities with regard to communications regulation, including those issues that are outside the current remit of Ofcom.

6) Delivering the Modernisation of Government

This March has seen the first budget which is critically dependent on the ability of the ICT industry to deliver on its promises. A number of EURIM's members and observers have key roles in planning, delivering and monitoring. Mike Allen (Oakleigh), who chaired the production of EURIM Briefing 30 on UK public sector consultation processes, has agreed to look at how EURIM can best help ensure the success of the changes planned in the light of Sir Peter Gershon's Efficiency Review.

7) The Governance of EURIM: AGM Changes

Malcolm Harbour MEP and the Earl of Erroll join Board, Mike Allen and John Baker join Council

After the changes at the AGM, the Directors of EURIM are: Lord Renwick (President), Brian White MP (Chair), The Earl of Erroll, Malcolm Harbour MEP, John McWilliam MP, Lord McNally, Margaret Moran MP, Lord Randall of St Budeaux and Ian Taylor MBE MP

The other Parliamentary members of Council are: Richard Allan MP, Giles Chichester MEP, Chris Chope MP, Lord Crickhowell, Roger Gale MP, Tony McWalter MP, Andrew Miller MP, Bill Olnor MP, Ian Stewart MP, Robert Walter MP, Derek Wyatt MP.

The non-Parliamentary members of Council are: Mike Allen (Oakleigh Consulting), John Baker (CIPFA), Ian Bruce (SEMTA), Paul Clayton (AVIVA), Stephen Darvill (LogicaCMG), Chris Godwin (IBM), Anne Heal (BT), Nick Penston (CISCO), John Riley (Computer Weekly), David Roberts (TIF), Mike Rodd (BCS) and Malcolm Taylor (Telewest).

The Council has candidates in mind for co-option to fill most of the places still available but we are always looking for those interested in helping us to agree plans and priorities and monitor progress with delivering results, whether from a parliamentary or industry perspective.

The Editorial Panel, which checks publications for all-party balance is: Brian White MP, Roger Gale MP and Kate Norman (who is also Company Secretary).

The current executives, all part-time, are: Philip Virgo (Secretary General), David Wright (Deputy Secretary General and rapporteur for Communications Regulation, Personal Identity and Data Sharing), Kate Norman (Company Secretary, Administrator and Editor in Chief), Verity Jonas (assistant to Kate), Emma Fryer (Membership Services and rapporteur for Social Inclusion, Skills and Modernising Government), Val Beech (Website). The other rapporteurs are Kay Withers (IPR), Chris Sundt (E-Crime) and David Harrington (E-Crime Skills).

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EURIM Timetable - April 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 March.**
- *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.)*

APRIL

15th a.m. Computer Crime and Security - Finding Criminal and Civil Redress for Businesses, E-Business Regulatory Alliance, IBM Southbank: investigating serious computer fraud, collecting evidence from intermediaries, crimes using email, role of government etc, chaired by the Earl of Erroll, speakers include several members of the EURIM E-Crime group.
events@e-ra.org.uk

21st all-day Westminster Media Forum: Stimulating Broadband Demand, Lewis Media Centre, Millbank, London SW1, timed to feed in to the DTI consultation on Broadband Targets in the light of the UK Broadband Market Report, speakers will include Stephen Timms MP. £220 plus VAT.
pvg@westminstermediaforum.co.uk

21st 14.00- 16.00 Intellectual Property Rights Group round table to discuss briefing material on the various types of right, their importance/relevance to which industries and/or customers and the current state of debate.

22nd a.m. Westminster Media Forum: The view from Europe with Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Education and Culture, with a focus on the current revision of the Television without Frontiers Directive. One Great George Street £125 plus VAT
pvg@westminstermediaforum.co.uk

26th 10.00 - 13.00 Draft EU Regulation on Rome II: E-business Regulatory Alliance consultation meeting to prepare industry response. Details of the relevant papers are available in the Policy Work section on www.e-ra.org.uk or e-mail ebusinessregulatoryalliance@yahoo.co.uk

26th 14.00 - 16.00 E-Crime: the crisis in the supply of skills for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution, review of draft for publication, BCS, 11 Mansfield Street, W1

26th 18.00 - 19.30 PITCOM Data Sharing: Where are we? (PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)

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

29th Personal Identity: Consent, Compulsion and Kaleidoscope - presentation of draft status report for open consultation and feedback

MAY

5th 14.00 - 16.00 Content and Issues Panel inaugural meeting: the objective of the CIP is to align industry and political priorities in the EURIM forward programme. Attendance is by invitation only but all members and observers are asked to submit their topics of concern and priorities, including for activities best handled in partnership or via other channels, by 30th April.

10th - 11th *Government IT Summit: joined up criminal justice, 21st century healthcare, safer systems, lessons from the continent etc. heather.jenkins@euro-techforum.com*

17th 18th Government Xchange Brussels

24th 18.00 - 19.25 *PITCOM: Broadband - the widening gap: discussion introduced by David Harrington (CMA & INTUG), Antony Walker (Broadband Stakeholders Group) and John Pluthero (Energis) (PITCOM members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk)*

24th 19.30 - 22.00 (provisional) Communications Policy Reception or Dinner

25th Westminster Media Forum

JUNE

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

JULY

6th 16.00 – 17.00 EURIM Board and Managing Council (Directors, Officers and Council Members Only)

REMINDERS

PITCOM and EURIM work closely together but are organisationally, legally and financially separate. Those wishing to attend PITCOM meetings should therefore make a point of visiting www.pitcom.org.uk and joining.

We have similar relationships with other All Party Groups (e.g. APIG) and groups like the E-Business Regulatory Alliance and Westminster Media Forum and welcome recommendations from members as to others with whom we should similarly co-operate in sharing the growing consultative workload.