

To EURIM Members and Observers

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EURIM Newsletter and Notices - May 2004

1) Visions for 2010: Points for your Manifesto and Review of Priorities

Setting the ICT agendas for the next election

On 5th April, at the reception to announce the DTI responses to the final report of the Broadband Stakeholder Group, Stephen Timms called for inputs to help set the UK “vision” for broadband in 2010 and referred to the 100,000 homes in Japan that already have 100 megs. The opposition parties have made similar requests. Most of the political think tanks now have exercises in this area but few are, as yet, based on the practical research, let alone experience, that EURIM’s industry members have accumulated, including on the delivery of products and services in other parts of the world under different regulatory regimes. There is, therefore, a real opportunity to “make a difference”.

The areas where policy inputs are being sought in time to influence the party manifesto debates during the run-up to the party conference season can be summarised as:

- How to deliver attractive (both service and content) instant response, inter-active video by 2010 (the convergence of analogue switch-off, broadband roll-out, BBC charter renewal etc.).
- How to make the Internet at least as safe for you and your children as the High Street or playground (products, services, law enforcement etc.).
- How to use the technology to move public sector spend from back office administration into delivering better services to those who most need them (i.e. those least likely to use a conventional screen and keyboard).

Those in industry may have different priorities, for example with regard to intellectual property rights, personal identity, workforce skills, global competitiveness. But these have yet to be encapsulated in ways that capture the imagination of voters and the need is for longer-term agenda setting.

On 5th May, the EURIM Content and Issues Panel, chaired by Ian Stewart MP, meets to review the priorities as seen by EURIM members. By late May we aim to have provided those working on the party manifestos with inputs on policies which could help address the concerns and frustrations of that 50% of the electorate who are already on line. In parallel, we will be planning our own programme, reflecting the shared priorities of our parliamentary and corporate members in those areas where it is appropriate for an all-party group to assist.

That programme is expected to focus on the practical issues of turning dreams into reality and of developing realistic approaches to address the nightmare scenarios that are concerning many of our members and observers. It will, however, need to be focussed on those areas where we can “make a difference” - given the resources you are happy to contribute.

Please let me have your inputs as soon as practical.

2) **Envisioning the Future of Communications Policy and Regulation**

Roundtables with POST and Ofcom

On the afternoon of 6th May we have a round-table with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology to help with inputs to the update of their brief on *Public Policy and Converging Digital Communications* to assist the DCMS Select Committee with its enquiry into the renewal of the BBC Royal Charter. We also plan a round table with Ofcom to help ensure that all those likely to be affected by the results of their current consultations, especially the strategic review of the telecommunications sector, do indeed participate effectively. (Phase 1 consultation document at www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/current/telecoms_review/; responses due by 22nd June.)

Cross-cutting and Converged networking reception

There is an increasing number of events considering the forward programmes of Ofcom, DTI, DCMS, Home Office, DfES and others involved in communications policy and regulation. It is, though, still rare to see the Internet and Broadcast communities at the same event, let alone those concerned with promoting e-commerce or innovative content talking with (rather than at) those concerned with crime reduction or intellectual property protection.

On 24th May, after the PITCOM meeting, we aim to bring together some of the key players to discuss, informally, how to build bridges and implement the recommendations made by Sarah Terry to the EURIM board (see April newsletter).

3) **Making the Internet safe for You and Your Children**

Providing Skills for Justice

The draft recommendations regarding the skills necessary for E-Crime prevention and instigation were reviewed on 26th April and appear to have widespread support. Subject to minor editing these will be published after a press launch on 18th May at 14.00.

Comment on the draft indicates that the reality may be even worse than the bleak summary of less than 400 police officers and civilians available to handle the computer evidence that is now a common feature of mainstream crime. More have been trained but there is insufficient funding to send officers on the more advanced courses. In consequence, many of those in post have only basic technical skills. The failure to make available the necessary training budgets calls in question the practicality of commitments with regard to anti-terrorism and child protection, let alone to address the mounting cost of computer assisted crime to the UK economy (and taxpayers) as a whole.

The next phase of the E-Crime programme is therefore focussed on the need for well targeted political action to secure the rapid and effective implementation of agreed recommendations, as opposed to “awareness” campaigns which, while necessary, could provoke a consumer backlash unless *preceded* by action to ensure that the resources are in place to respond to the increased flow of incident reports and requests for assistance that will result.

Protecting ourselves and securing action when it goes wrong

Given the lack of law enforcement resources to address the issues in this area, the importance of industry action and self-help cannot be over-emphasised. On 24th May, ERA has organised a seminar on self-help, including civil redress, hosted at IBM South Bank. Other topics include addressing computer fraud, the use of computer forensics and best practice for businesses large and small to secure information delivery. A speaker from the DTI will cover the activity within Government to promote trust and confidence and full event details can be found at www.e-ra.org.uk/e-crime_seminar.htm

We expect to use that event to launch publicly: *What your Business Really Needs to Know*. While this was drafted for small and medium sized companies, it has been used to help “educate” the boards of large multi-nationals on the need to better focus investment in security policies, not just technologies. The latest draft can be found at www.iee.org/Policy/Areas/it/security/NHTCU_version.pdf. Word and pdf texts are available for members to mount on their own websites or in their own publications, with their own logos.

4) Personal Identity and Secure Data Storage and Sharing

Citizen or subject?- How far do we control our own identities?

On 29th April, the EURIM Personal Identity group reviewed the draft status report. This is now being revised for publication in the light of the Bill, to help structure forward debate. A round table is being planned with the ID Card Bill team to discuss how we can best help the pre-legislative scrutiny process, given the evidence of public support for the principles but lack of confidence about delivery. The need to address penalties for the falsification or misuse of identity information, including that on government and other files, is one of the areas where early progress, well in advance of some of the timescales currently envisaged, would be welcomed by many members.

Good practice on secure data sharing and inputs to the DCA (and other) reviews

On the morning of 6th May, we will review progress by the subgroup led by John Baker (CIPFA) in identifying good practice guidelines for secure data sharing. That meeting will also be used to discuss how best to help the review being undertaken by the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

Secure and reliable data retention

It is apparent that there are major divides between those who want everything retained “in case”, those wanting lowest cost retention to meet any legal requirements, (regardless of whether it can be accessed in usable form), and those who really do want well-structured and accessible data archives. The three groups inhabit different planets. There is a clear need for reliable data to help ensure that the prospect of worthless initiatives is replaced by those of practical value. Whether the necessary work can be organised and funded is another matter. A number of members have expressed serious interest and Geoff Petherick (geoffpetherick@cngdev.com) and David Rippon (d.rippon@ulcc.ac.uk) are looking at the viability of bringing the disparate communities together to produce worthwhile results.

5) Delivering the Modernisation of Government

One of the main features of the Gershon agenda is the need greatly to improve co-operation between suppliers and between departments, as well as across the public-private divide. We are in discussion with a number of corporate and associate members on possible programmes to help achieve this without unnecessary duplication of effort. Many of the groups concerned meet in the course of May. We expect to be able to make some announcements before the end of the month and to go firm on overall priorities, objectives and partners for the year ahead before the end of June. Before then we also expect that the group looking at issues of social inclusion will have produced its status report summarising the current players and issues.

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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Timetable - May 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 April.**
- *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.)*

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.

6th 10.00 - 12.00 **Data sharing/protection review of progress in identifying good practice guidelines and assembling a briefing for Parliamentary members on the issues that will need to be addressed by the DCA and others. Please contact davywright2@ntlworld.com for room details if you plan to attend.**

6th 14.00 - 16.00 **Public Policy and Converging Digital Communications: round table to assist update of POST briefing (www.parliament.uk/post/pn170.pdf) and material to assist the DCMS Select Committee and its enquiry into the renewal of the BBC Royal Charter. Please contact Theresa at SQUIRETJ@parliament.uk if you are able to assist or to attend on the day.**

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

18th 14.00 - 15.00 **Supplying the Skills for Justice: press launch of 3rd EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Discussion Paper, venue to be confirmed, please e-mail eurim@eurim.org to participate.**

24th 09.45 - 16.30 **ERA Seminar on Computer Crime and Security - Finding Criminal and Civil Redress for Businesses - IBM London 24th May 2004, £145 plus VAT for EURIM members £245 plus VAT for others. Chaired by the Earl of Erroll with a number of speakers from the EURIM E-Crime group. Full event details and booking information are available on the ERA web site at www.e-ra.org.uk/e-crime_seminar.htm or contact events@e-ra.org.uk**

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 20.00 - 22.00 EURIM Communications Policy and Regulation Group Reception, MacMillan Room, Portcullis House. The objective of this event is to facilitate political co-operation between those who share technologies and customers but not yet market visions: contact davywright2@ntlworld.com for details.

25th a.m. *Ofcom Review of Public Service Broadcasting with Ed Richards,, Senior Partner Strategy and Market Developments, Westminster Media Forum, Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, London SW1: please contact Peter van Gelder pvg@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk for details.*

25th 18.00 - 22.00 *Is IT Security necessary? Carl Ricketts, Chief Technology Officer, Standard Chartered Bank will open a Real Time Club after dinner discussion on the social impact of the latest round of attacks and the effectiveness of the security structures in place today. National Liberal Club £75 including drinks, dinner and VAT: please contact carmen.harvey@e-skills.com for details.*

JUNE

22nd – 23rd *Government Computing Conference and Exhibition*

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

JULY

1st p.m. *ICT in schools, with Stephen Twigg MP, Minister for Schools. Westminster eForum, Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower SW1: for details please contact Peter van Gelder pvg@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk*

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.