

To EURIM Members and Observers
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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter and Notices – July/August 2004

(Note: The next newsletter will be for September – sent out in late August)

1) Visions for 2010

ICT priorities for the election manifestos

The sub-group on “*Points for your Manifesto*” has been tasked to work with members from the main parties to produce summaries, tailored to their respective priorities, before the summer recess.

The topics identified to date are:

- **Local access to world-class communications and content**, price, response, reliability, quality: to ensure future jobs and prosperity in communities fully linked to the global knowledge economy.
- **Making the Internet safe for your family, your business and you**: skills, security, resilience and law enforcement priorities, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks.
- **UK Competitiveness in a Global Economy**: working towards the delivery of the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda for the European Union as a whole, but especially in the UK.
- **Delivering joined up, modernised government**: including trusted frameworks for effective personal identity and data sharing to enable targeted improvements/savings to be realised.
- **Creating and maintaining a world-class UK skills/knowledge base**: engaging the majority of adults in ongoing lifelong learning, not just sending half of all adolescents to college/university.
- **The emergence of the “third” sector**: supporting innovative ways of delivering community services which now appear to be evolving faster than the ICT-based systems to support them.

After the party conference season the group will be expected to provide ongoing support, on an all party basis and may also wish to produce a “cross party” ICT industry manifesto. In the meantime, however, the focus is on ensuring that relevant policies have the priority within the parties that is necessary to secure commitments to act, not just to debate and consult.

2) Local Access To World Class Communications and Content

Changing the investment climate for Broadband

The EURIM Communications group is now focused on the actions needed to improve the UK climate for investment in innovative products and services, content as well as access and infrastructure. Two year’s ago we had well advanced plans in this area but concluded that the time was not ripe. Now we can see interest recovering but not yet on the scale necessary to enable the UK to catch up. Success will entail looking at the issues from the perspective of investors large and small, not just those seeking to persuade them to risk your pension funds and insurance premiums, let alone their own or their employer’s money. We therefore aim to recruit participants with a serious interest in improving their own investor relations as well as those of their current and target customers and suppliers.

3) Making the Internet Safe for Your Family, Your Business and You

The changing political scene and progress to date

The EURIM summary of *Current Internet Regulation Issues* produced in co-operation with IWF, ISPA, and OFCOM after the meeting with the sponsors of the Early Day Motion has been sent to parliamentary members and is on www.eurim.org . It raises a number of questions and the pressure for

answers is now building. Ensuring effective and practical action, in co-operation with the other relevant groups, is one of the current priorities for the EURIM-IPPR E-crime study.

On 30th June the All Party Internet Group (www.apig.org.uk) reported that the Computer Misuse Act (CMA) had stood the test of time much better than much other legislation and needed only minor revision, mainly with regard to penalties and Denial of Service. They identified, however, a number of other areas where action was needed:

- attention to skills (cross reference to the EURIM-IPPR paper *Skills for Justice*);
- fraud (implementing the outstanding recommendations of the Law Commission);
- a permissive policy for private prosecutions, given the shortage of law enforcement resources;
- action to improve information regarding E-Crime. (The EURIM-IPPR discussion paper on reporting issues suggested using the British Crime Survey as being the best way forward.)

The first three papers from the EURIM-IPPR E-Crime strategy stressed the need for education and awareness activities at all levels and on 1st June, Ofcom published its strategy and priorities for the promotion of media literacy; the closing date for responses is 10th August 2004. For more information see: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/current/strategymedialit/?a=87101>

The Ofcom criteria for promoting effective co- and self- regulation and establishing co-regulatory bodies can be summarised as:

- Beneficial to consumers;
- Clear division of responsibility between co-regulatory body and Ofcom;
- Accessible to members of the public;
- Independence from interference by interested parties;
- Adequate funding and staff;
- Achieve and maintain near universal participation;
- Effective and credible sanctions;
- Auditing and review by Ofcom (including key performance indicators);
- Transparency and accountability;
- Consistent, proportionate and targeted regulation;
- Appropriate appeals mechanism;
- Ability to diverge from the above criteria where appropriate.

For more information see:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/past/coreg/promoting_effective_coregulation/

The growing number of potential activists in this area, as well as mounting press cover, helps explain the rapidly rising political interest. Online Community Faceparty (www.faceparty.com/about.asp) claims 2,770,340 members and has joined the Internet Watch Foundation as a funding member. The Children's Charities' Coalition for Internet Safety (CHIS), an alliance of all the major players, reports a print run of 229,000 copies and readership of around 450,000 (www.familiesonline.co.uk/home/).

This interest is has led to changing priorities on the part of major suppliers seeking to respond to changing customer demands (witness recent and planned announcements) and gives the opportunity to also secure change in the resources and priorities of law enforcement. The current forward plan for the EURIM-IPPR E-Crime Group is to complete the third round of workshops and discussion papers before organising a one-day event (late autumn 2004 or early spring 2005) to publicise the recommendations and provide an opportunity for government, opposition and industry to respond.

Many of the actions, however, will require international co-operation. We have therefore agreed to work with the Oxford Internet Institute and the University of Auckland on an international conference on Cybersafety, during the UK Presidencies of both the European Union and the G8, to promote the need for government industry co-operation world-wide, so as to better tackle the issues across cultural as well as jurisdictional boundaries.

We are therefore seeking additional sponsors for the EURIM-IPPR study to support the work necessary to make full use of the opportunities on offer.

4) UK Competitiveness in the Global Knowledge Economy

Moving from talk to action on the Lisbon Agenda

This group has been asked to draft a proposal to use the opportunity of the UK Presidency to help make serious progress on delivery of the Lisbon Agenda. The priorities identified by the planning meeting on 22nd June were the Investment and Regulatory climates, Intellectual Property Rights and Labour Market Flexibility. The proposal also needs to address the role and contribution of EURIM vis a vis those needed from the Information Age Partnership, Intellect and others.

The investment climate, including the effects of regulation on investment, is now the focus of the communications group. At a meeting with Amicus on 17th June we identified good potential for working with Trades Unions on labour market flexibility, in the context of programmes to update workforce skills, provided we address the full Lisbon Agenda, not just the first half. On 9th July the group had a review with Malcolm Harbour MEP and discussed the potential for co-operation with the European Internet Forum (EIF) with regard to Intellectual Property Rights, where EIF has produced a draft paper (due for release in September) summarising the current status of debate, positions of the players and what is at stake for whom.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the Computer Implemented Inventions (CII) Directive

The EURIM group looking at IPR has produced a draft status report for parliamentarians summarising the main frameworks (Copyright and Patent), to whom they are important and why. The group has been asked to compare this with work of the EIF before recommending further work, if any. The EURIM Knowledge Economy Group has agreed to try to produce a paper on the positions and issues at stake with regard to the CII directive, with examples of what the various parties believe should or should not be eligible for patent protection. This paper is intended to be complementary to the work of the EIF and to be used in support of a joint briefing for MEPs in mid-October, when the debate on the CII Directive is expected to be most active.

5) Enabling Joined up Government: Personal Identity and Data Sharing

Putting debate on the Draft Identity Cards Bill into context

The workshop on 17th June with the Home Office Bill team on the consultation and scrutiny processes for the Identity Cards Bill (www.identitycards@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) was well attended, lively and informative. Some of the participants had already responded to the Select Committee and almost all were planning submissions before the Home Office deadline of 20th July.

The current timetable is for the draft bill to be revised over the summer in the light of feedback during the consultations for presentation to ministers and inclusion in the Queen's Speech in November. This would allow for Royal Assent just before Easter 2005. EURIM may organise a further off-the-record workshop with the Bill team leaders in September or October to assist with the drafting stage of the Bill, if parties consider that this would be helpful in addressing areas of difficulty.

The Home Affairs Select committee is inviting responses on both policy and practical issues while the purpose of the Home Office consultation is to help the Government devise legislation that will enable the identity cards scheme to be introduced in the most effective way - Section 4.1 gives a summary of 10 specific points for consultation. The draft Bill is intended as enabling legislation; it does not specify in detail what an Identity Card should look like, nor the system for issuing a card, but does provide a framework for secondary legislation to define legal requirements later - including the application process and the format of the Identity Card. It also sets out the procedure for introducing compulsion.

Progressing debate on the sharing and matching of personal data

The presentation meeting on 7th July for the EURIM draft status report "*Citizen Or Subject: How Far Do We Control Our Own Identities?*", which had already been revised to cover some of the issues addressed in the ID cards bill, did not result in any requests for significant changes and this is now expected to be ready for publication before the summer recess.

The meeting did, however, identify a number of areas for future study, including:

- enabling individuals to request data sharing across current legislative/organisational barriers;
- the governance of statutory data sharing, including to cover all investigatory powers; linkages between the many current data sharing and personal identity initiatives, public and private;
- the means of rationalising the growing number of personal identity related initiatives (public and private) while recognising that different applications may benefit from different approaches;
- enforcement processes and penalties, to increase confidence that personal data is indeed handled in accordance with agreed procedures and that abuses will be deterred, detected and punished;
- the assessment of risk and allocation of responsibilities and liabilities, given changing business requirements, technical processes, volumes and response times.

On the morning of 27th July, the group has a pre-consultation workshop with the team working on the ONS Citizen Information Project: www.statistics.gov.uk/cip/default.asp . The aim is to create a population register to aid public service delivery. One of the issues will be how the register should relate to the various indices of voters, taxpayers, patients and benefit recipients (as well as other personal identity indices and files, both public and private) already in existence or planned.

Also on 27th July, in the afternoon, the group has a workshop with the official who has just taken over the consultation on the “*Co-ordinated On-Line Register of Electors*”. Many of our parliamentary members, as well as those responsible for maintaining and processing the electoral registers on behalf of the main political parties, have strong views on this subject and are reminded that the deadline for responses is 13th August.

The threads will be brought together when the group meets on 29th July to review the draft status report on “*Data Sharing and Matching - the Law in Practice*” in advance of presentation to members and guests on the morning of 8th September.

Delivering the Modernisation of Government

The leaders of the Modernising Government strategy group plan to meet with Intellect and others in September, after members have had an opportunity to digest the Gershon Report, now available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/879E2/efficiency_review120704.pdf . Many groups, both suppliers and users, are expected to be active in this area and they have been tasked to make proposals to use EURIM’s unique position to advantage and avoid duplication of effort. In the meantime the focus will be on removing barriers to the secure and trusted sharing and matching of personal identity and information in the interests of those who have given informed consent and on the governance of sharing and access under statutory powers, when they have not.

6) Creating and Maintaining a World Class UK Skills/Knowledge Base

Identifying who is serious

There has long been agreement on the need for action with regard to UK workforce skills but this is one of those areas where a never-ending cycle of consultation has driven away those who have to deliver results as opposed to recommendations that are never implemented. Most of those representing the views of large ICT employers during the pre Y2K ICT skills crisis were “outsourced” during the run-down of ICT recruitment and training after the dotcom bust. The EURIM group looking at skills has therefore been tasked to identify those still serious about delivering the objectives spelled out in the 21st Century Skills White Paper and working up action plans accordingly. Please let me know if you and your organisation are interested in helping with the political activity necessary to move from consultation to action in implementing past recommendations.

7) The Emergence of the “Third” Sector

Going beyond “you specify and we will quote you”

A number of parliamentary members have raised the importance of finding new models for organising ICT support for community service delivery as the pendulum swings back in favour of mutuals, co-operatives, municipal enterprise and voluntary groups. The role of EURIM in addressing the challenge to traditional ICT approaches to systems development and maintenance, let alone procurement, is unclear. It may be that this is better left to the professions. Please contact me with any views.

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EURIM Timetable - July/August 2004

This timetable lists forthcoming meetings arranged by EURIM and also includes some, arranged by other organisations, which are likely to be of interest to EURIM's Members and Observers.

Unless otherwise indicated EURIM meetings are open to all members and accredited observers. There is no charge for attendance but prior registration is required. If you wish to attend or would like more information please contact the named individual or eurim@eurim.org.

For information about meetings arranged by other organisations, please contact the person or website indicated against the entry. Note that for some events, there is an entry fee and pre-registration is essential.

JULY

Date: Tuesday, 27 July, 2004
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Room W4 Westminster Hall
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group
Description: Pre-consultation workshop on Citizen Information Project
Attendance: Members of the working group and invited guests

Date: Tuesday, 27 July 2004
Time: 14.00 - 16.00
Venue: Room O, Portcullis House
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group
Description: Co-ordinated On-Line Register of Electors consultation (deadline 13th August)
Attendance: Members of working group plus guests: political parties, electoral registrars etc.

Date: Thursday, 29 July, 2004
Time: 10.30 - 12.30
Venue: CIPFA, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity and Data sharing group
Description: Peer review of draft report "Data sharing and matching - the law in practice"
Attendance: Members of the working group

SEPTEMBER

Date: Monday, 6 September, 2004
Time: 09.00 - 18.30
Venue: Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1
Organiser: Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
Description: Putting ICT into dispute resolution practice
Attendance: EURIM members and observers can claim special rate of £150
Details at <http://www.arbitrators.org/ICT/index.htm>

Date: Tuesday, 7 September, 2004
Time: 10.00 – 12.00
Venue: Room P, Portcullis House, Westminster
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study: Reducing Vulnerabilities
Description: Workshop on the reduction of supply chain and network vulnerabilities
Attendance: EURIM-E-Crime list plus invitations to Jericho, TIF, CBI

Date: Tuesday, 7 September, 2004 **Provisional**
Time: Afternoon
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study: Skills for Justice
Description: Review of players, progress, action plans on skills (all levels) & professionalism
Attendance: EURIM-E-Crime list plus invitations to Jericho, TIF, CBI

Date: Wednesday, 8 September, 2004
Time: Morning
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing group
Description: Presentation & review of “Data sharing and matching - the law in practice”
Attendance: All EURIM Members and Observers will be invited to attend

Date and time: Thursday, 9 am/pm or Tuesday, 14 pm September, 2004 **Provisional**
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study
Description: Review of overall players, progress, action plans
Attendance: EURIM-E-Crime list plus invitations to Jericho, TIF, CBI

Date and time: Thursday, 9 am/pm or Tuesday, 14 pm September, 2004 **Provisional**
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study: Legal Issues
Description: Review of progress and action plans in light of APIG report
Attendance: EURIM-E-Crime list

Date and time: Thursday, 9 am/pm or Tuesday, 14 pm September, 2004 **Provisional**
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study: Reporting
Description: Review of draft discussion paper for publication
Attendance: EURIM E-Crime list

Date: Tuesday, 14 September, 2004 **Provisional**
Time: Morning
Venue: NHTCU
Organiser: EURIM - IPPR E-Crime: Small Firms
Description: Review of current action plans and recruitment of active participants
Attendance: E-Crime Small Firms list and serious players only

Date: Monday, 20 September, 2004
Time: Lunchtime
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: LibDem Party Conference Fringe Event: Malcolm Bruce MP
Attendance: PITCOM members and Conference Delegates only

Date: Monday, 27 September, 2004
Time: Lunchtime
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Labour Party Conference Fringe Event: Stephen Timms MP
Attendance: Labour Party Conference pass holders only

OCTOBER

Date: Monday, **4** October 2004
Time: Lunchtime
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Conservative Party Conference Fringe Event: Stephen O'Brien MP
Attendance: Conservative Party Conference pass holders only

Date: Wednesday, **6** October 2004
Time: Lunchtime
Organiser: Conservative Technology Forum and Enterprise Forums
Description: Conservative Party Conference event: Michael Fabricant MP
Attendance: Conservative Party Conference pass holders only

Date: **W/c 11** October 2004 **Provisional**
Time: To be discussed
Organiser: EURIM in co-operation with European Internet Forum
Description: The Computer Implemented Inventions Directive
Attendance: MEPs and Commission Officials plus other EURIM and EIF members

Date: Tuesday, **19** October 2004
Time: 16.00 - 17.00
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Board and Council meeting
Attendance: Board and Council members plus named guests only