

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 Newsletter October 2005

1) Delivering the i2010 Agenda

Who is driving, on what, to achieve what?

The i2010 objectives are impressive but turning these into reality requires action plans and commitments to deliver. Meanwhile industrial R&D is following call centres and manufacturing to India and Asia. Speeches at the Labour Party conference showed clearly that UK ministers recognise the need for action but there are significant disagreements, including within industry, as to what that should be: for example “light touch regulation” has many interpretations. Those with operations that can be located anywhere in the world can choose to run down UK recruitment and transfer operations off-shore rather than fight to secure the changes that would cause them to stay. Few work to amend the policies that are driving them away (usually faulty implementation rather than intention). Those that do, tend to focus on those politicians who are already well-informed and supportive, rather than those who need to be won over.

In the August/September newsletter I referred to the joint request from the new chair of EURIM, Margaret Moran MP and the vice chairman, Ian Taylor MBE MP, for the EURIM council to agree proposals for meetings with Chief Executives, Select Committee Chairmen, Officers of the relevant all-party groups plus, of course, Ministers and their officials, to discuss priorities. Symantec have already responded by offering a dinner on 2nd November, when John Thompson their CEO (also on the US National Infrastructure Advisory Committee) will introduce discussion of the different approaches in the US and UK to Internet Safety, the practical consequences and the possible responses by government and industry. Financial services, content providers and e-commerce operations are engaged in a global war against those who would milk their businesses (fraud, piracy, extortion etc.). Many could place their hubs almost anywhere with a world-class communications infrastructure. How should the UK retain them, and get more, by providing a safer, as well as more efficient and cost-effective, environment to locate a global e-business operation? Parliamentary members wishing invitations for 2nd November should e-mail eurim@eurim.org.

The other request was for memorable briefings on topics currently before Parliament, beginning with the technologies that have to be brought together to deliver reliable and resilient large-scale personal identity systems. On the 29th September the Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group agreed to work on this with a group of suppliers who were already planning such an exercise in the context of the ID Card Bill. The briefing will include examples of similar systems that are already operational.

We are in discussion with other corporate members with a view to organising similar dinners on other topics of current political importance. We are also looking to organise a couple of small high level round-tables. Please let me know if you have issues that are of such concern to your chief executive or main board that they would like to host a dinner or participate in a round table. We are also looking for those willing to help organise “memorable” briefing events (i.e. not just power-point and hand-out).

2) Putting the Knowledge into the Knowledge Economy

Turning the i2010 vision into reality

The DTI i2010 Conference on 6th September brought together around 350 delegates (300 from outside the UK and 40% from outside government). Arun Sarin of Vodafone and Ben Vervaayen of BT both emphasised that EU initiatives, regulatory or otherwise, should be viewed in global context. The Korean economics minister showcased products and services already commonplace in the Far East and split delegates between those who insist that Korea is on a different planet and those who felt we had to play leap-frog. The discussion stream on the “Information Space” focussed on the need for light touch regulation, for innovative approaches to spectrum management and to address security. That on “Innovation and Investment” was told that the European ICT industry spends rather more on R&D outside Europe than within and that public spend should be targeted to foster innovation clusters such as those round MIT and Stanford. The key shortages were not of computer skills but of management scientists (operations research, organisational behaviour, ergonomics etc.) to specify and test products and services that meet user needs. The stream on social inclusion also raised the need to develop technology to meet user needs and to deliver education and training that is relevant.

The enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

The first consultation period for the proposed directive on criminal sanctions for the protection of Intellectual Property Rights ended on 26th September. The next stage is expected to include a “lively” debate and EURIM is organising a workshop on 3rd November to discuss the implementation of the current IPR enforcement directive as well as the proposed additions. Given the gathering pace of debate over Patent and Copyright as a whole, including IPR in publicly funded research and proposals for digital and scientific “commons”, the EURIM Council on 18th October is expected to be asked to consider a proposal to use the event on November 3rd to test the level of support for a wider exercise, perhaps in co-operation with others. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you are interested.

3) Reducing On-Line Vulnerability

Who could/should do what to protect whom from what?

During the Oxford Internet Institute conference on Internet Safety (8th-10th October) it was said that awareness without education is placing Internet users of all ages at unnecessary risk, confused by impractical guidance as semi-incompatible products and services (purchased, invited or otherwise) fight each other for control of their PCs. The failure of the Internet Engineering Task Force to address the issues was claimed to be more to do with commercial interests than technology. Few of the regulatory and government initiatives around the world were thought likely to improve the situation, while some actively discouraged good practice in consumer protection. It was, however, unrealistic to expect politicians not to interfere. The Internet, would therefore adapt to handle national legal and regulatory requirements as part of its process of continuous re-engineering. Singapore was already positioning itself as a hub for “regulatory arbitrage”. Whether or not one agreed with all that was said, there was much food for thought, including credible evidence that called into question most common visions of what the Internet really is, let alone how it is evolving over time or how governments could/should interfere. A summary of the conference is at www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/050907_OIIConferenceReview.doc and most of the papers are now at www.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/cybersafety/?view=papers A formal report is due for publication later this month.

Raising the political stakes

On 15th September the plenary meeting of the EURIM E-Crime group to review progress agreed the need for an additional paper on “Reducing On-Line Vulnerabilities” putting the issues raised at the OII conference into the overall context of e-crime prevention and reduction at all levels. The objectives of the paper will be to raise awareness of the need for:

- serious budgets to be allocated not only to awareness programmes, such as Get Safe On-Line (due for launch shortly) but also for the education, training and support programmes that are necessary to turn awareness into confident and secure use;

- co-ordinated action to identify and remove (or at least reduce the impact of) some of the many systemic vulnerabilities (operating system, browser, network, application etc.) that place users at unnecessary risk.

The meeting also discussed the action programme necessary to ensure political priority and support for the national strategy that is due to be announced shortly. Parliamentarians are one of the groups whose systems are at particular risk and the working group is seeking to organise programmes (perhaps through groups such as Computing for Labour and the Conservative Technology Forum) to help MPs with the security of their constituency and domestic systems. Such programmes will give natural opportunities for one-on-one briefings on the need for more effective action to help others at similar risk. Those interested in receiving such support or in helping such programmes, should e-mail eurim@eurim.org.

Practical pilots

On 16th September a sub-group agreed to explore police-industry crime prevention pilots building on existing initiatives involving Thames Valley and West Midland Police and, in parallel, to organise a workshop on practical co-operation with regard to multi-million pound international investigations in areas (such as high-value fraud and large-scale piracy) that cause serious economic damage but do not fit the current policing priorities of most forces.

Child safety education not “just” awareness

Another sub-group is looking at the current state of play regarding child safety education (as opposed to “mere” awareness) programmes and how industry can help. Discussion at the OII confirmed that culture gaps can all too easily compound organisational disfunctionalities leading to well-intentioned but counter-productive initiatives. Plans are being developed for a workshop (in co-operation with others) to bring together electronic security, child safety and education professionals to improve mutual understanding.

Is the UK/EU interpretation of “mere conduit” blocking US ISP-led customer protection?

The meeting on 15th September agreed that there was no need to progress the delayed paper on legal issues but it has subsequently been said that one of the obstacles to improving security is that UK ISPs risk acquiring civil and criminal liability for traffic across their networks if they do other than act as a 'mere conduit' (by EC directive 2000/31/EC implemented as the Electronic Commerce (EC Directive) Regulations 2002). This was said to contrast with the US situation where ISPs appear to benefit from common carrier status without limitation. Does the UK position need to be changed? If so, this could be recommended in the “Reducing On-line Vulnerabilities” paper. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you have views on this subject or are aware of others who are already addressing this issue.

4) Personal Identity and Data Sharing

Who wants Government to connect?

The Personal Identity group meeting on 29th September began with a presentation on the Government Connect programme, due for formal re-launch shortly. Over a hundred local authorities have signed up but it is by no means clear whether savings will be achieved by local authorities finding their own way through the many legal and administrative obstacles to sharing, or whether central government departments will actively participate and turn this into a truly common gateway.

“Consent and choice are an alien concept”

It was difficult for some of the industry participants in the meeting to appreciate that “consent” and “choice” are alien concepts to officials working inside statutory frameworks which mandate or forbid sharing, regardless of what the data subject wishes. For this to change will require not only a culture change but also a major political exercise and much primary legislation. Other key political questions include departmental responsibility for driving the sharing/saving agenda (especially now the 2006 spending review has been put back a year) and for policy on the sharing of addressing/mapping information, given that IPR ownership and licensing issues, both national and international, also need to be taken into account.

Securing political support for effective cross-departmental action

Given the all-party support for the EURIM “Points for your Manifesto” call for a national strategy (repeated in the IPPR Digital Manifesto), the time has therefore come to request one or more ministerial meetings to discuss how EURIM could help secure political support for a comprehensive, cross departmental strategy to realise the service improvements and cost savings that should be realisable from secure data sharing as requested by the citizen/voter. It was agreed that the group chairman (Jim Lound of Experian) and rapporteur (Dave Wright) should discuss the possible objectives, format and content of such a meeting with the officials of the appropriate minister(s) and with the EURIM Board. In the meantime the group would progress the production of briefing material for MPs and officials.

What about ID Cards?

The Group met on 6th October to review the planned briefing material for MPs, beginning with an update on current plans for the implementation of ID cards. These have changed significantly over the past year and are still evolving, although not in ways that are likely to require change to the framework legislation). A summary report of the meeting (with attributions removed) will be available to members shortly (but probably not placed on the public area of the website - see below). The meeting also discussed how best to carry forward the technology briefings (i.e. shorn of political issues) being planned with potential suppliers. Some members wish to do private briefings while other wish to act collectively. Given the timescale available it was agreed that both should be progressed.

5) Administrative Points

We have had some embarrassment with members arriving at the venue for meetings that have been moved or postponed. The master registration lists for meetings, used to notify registered participants of any changes as well as for security and catering purposes, are maintained by Kate and Verity (eurim@eurim.org) save when otherwise stated. If you do not receive a confirmation or agenda shortly before a meeting, it probably means that you are not registered. While I try to pass on messages sent to me, this is not a reliable substitute and on the rare occasion when we have a last minute change I can only apologise to those not notified because my relaying has fallen through a crack (whether mine or my ISP).

We will shortly be opening a restructured members’ area to the website. This will include the registration lists for meetings so that you can see who else is booked in, as well as whether you are registered. You will not need to log on separately but will be asked for a password if you seek to access material in the restricted area. (Full details will be e-mailed to current members and registered observers over the next few weeks.)

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Timetable – October 2005

This timetable lists forthcoming meetings arranged by EURIM and events 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.

October

Date: Thursday 6 October 2005 **POSTPONED – new date to be announced**
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Cisco Systems, 12th Floor, Tower 42, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HQ
Organiser: EURIM E-Crime subgroup
Description: Partnership Policing: meeting to discuss industry support for on-line child protection & Internet Safety programmes, beginning with a review of what is currently under way or planned, with what levels of support from whom.
Attendance: Potential participants & sponsors

Date: Thursday 6 October 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Waterloo Room, Westminster Suite, IBM, 76/78 Upper Ground, South Bank, London SE1 9PZ
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity ID Cards Bill Subgroup
Description: Meeting to review and finalise input into EURIM's work prior to the material being finalised for MPs for the new session
Attendance: Group members, observers & guests

Date: Tuesday 11 October 2005
Time: To be confirmed
Venue: Luxembourg
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: Competitiveness Council
Attendance: Ministers & Commission

Date: Tuesday 18 October 2005
Time: 14.30 - 15.30
Venue: Meeting Room O, Portcullis House
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Board & Council Meetings
Attendance: Board, Council and invited guests

Date: Wednesday **19** October 2005
Time: 14.00
Venue: Hilton London Metropole Hotel, conference room: Windsor Suite, 225 Edgware Road, London
Organiser: The Single Market Observatory of the European Economic and Social Committee
Description: Hearing on "Better Lawmaking and Better Implementation of EU Legislation"
Attendance: For a booking form please email paivi.koivuniemi@esc.eu.int

Date: Thursday **20** October 2005
Time: All day
Venue: Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1
Organiser: Westminster eForum
Description: Westminster eForum Keynote Seminar on Industry, CSR and the digital divide: meeting the challenges. Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, Minister of State for Industry and Regions, DTI.
Attendance: More details available from pvg@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Date: Friday **21** October 2005
Time: To be confirmed
Venue: London
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: e-Accessibility Conference: debate on e-Inclusion aspects of i2010
Attendance: Experts, disability & elderly organisations & NGOs

Date: Monday **24** October 2005
Time: 18.00
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Crossing Boundaries: the implications of mobile tracking devices, from vehicle charging, through anti-theft to RFID enabled Passports.
Attendance: PITCOM members only www.pitcom.org.uk

Date: Thursday **27** October 2005
Time: Morning
Venue: Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1
Organiser: Westminster Media Forum
Description: Implementing Media Literacy: a practical look at consumer needs & the challenges of implementing coherent policies across different media. Robin Blake, Media Literacy Manager, Ofcom and Heather Rabbatts, Head of Education, Channel 4 & Chair, Media Literacy Task Force.
Attendance: More details available from pvg@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Date: Thursday **27** October 2005
Time: 13.00 - 18.00
Venue: London, Lancaster House
Organiser: BCS
Description: IT Skills Management & Professionalism in Public Administration: speakers include Ian Watmore, Head of e-Govt, Larry Hirst (General Manager IBM UK), Andre Richler (Enterprise & Industry DG, European Commission)
Attendance: Contact Suzanne Peart speart@hq.bcs.org.uk

Date: Thursday **27** October 2005 - Friday **28** October 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: London
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: EPAN e-Government working Group
Attendance: One official per member state plus Commission & EPIA

Date: Monday **31** October 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: House of Commons
Organiser: EURIM & Intellect
Description: Open Forum with Parliamentarians on the image of the ICT supplier organisations.
Attendance: Intellect e-Government members, EURIM members, parliamentarians, research assistants. Please contact emma.fryer@eurim.org.

November

Date: Wednesday **2** November 2005
Time: 18.00 - 22.00
Venue: London
Organiser: Symantec: (1st response to EURIM request for ICT CEOs to brief MPs on key topics)
Description: John Thompson, CEO of Symantec will brief MPs on Current Internet Threats and Responses to introduce discussion on possible ways forward.
Attendance: Invited MPs and officials

Date: Thursday **3** November 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Westminster
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity Group
Description: Plenary meeting to review progress with briefing material for MPs, Ministerial meeting(s) and guidance on Data Sharing
Attendance: EURIM members, observers & prospective members

Date: Thursday **3** November 2005
Time: 14.30 - 17.00
Venue: Central London
Organiser: EURIM IPR & Knowledge Economy Groups
Description: Workshop with Patent Office on the UK Implementation of the EU Enforcement Directive (2004/48/EC) as it relates to business software & the proposed supplementary Directive to apply criminal sanctions to deliberate IP infringements.
Attendance: Group members, observers & prospective members. Contact emma.fryer@eurim.org

Date: Thursday **10** November 2005 - Friday **11** November 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: Edinburgh
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: Spectrum & Telecommunications
Attendance: 300 government/regulatory officials & strategy/regulatory experts

Date: Monday **14** November 2005 - Wednesday **16** November 2005 **(To be confirmed)**
Time: Two days
Venue: London
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: Not available
Attendance: Not available

Date: Wednesday **16** November 2005
Time: All day
Venue: Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1
Organiser: Westminster eForum
Description: Where next for eGovernment: services & procurement. Ian Watmore, UK Government CIO
Attendance: More details available from pvg@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Date: Monday **21** November 2005
Time: 18.00
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Fraud in Electronic Transactions: especially mobile & communications based fraud
Attendance: PITCOM members only www.pitcom.org.uk

Date: Thursday **24** November 2005 - Friday **25** November 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: Manchester
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: e-Government Ministerial Conference www.egov2005conference.gov.uk
Attendance: EU, EFTA & Candidate Ministers, G7 officials, industry, academia & civil society

Date: Monday **28** November 2005 - Tuesday **29** November 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: London
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: Competitiveness Council
Attendance: Ministers & Commission

Date: Tuesday **29** November 2005 - Wednesday **30** November 2005
Time: Two Days
Venue: London
Organiser: IQPC - Government Exchange
Description: Proven Strategies to Deliver Benefits & Realise Efficiencies in the Public Sector:
session chairmen & speakers include several EURIM participants
Attendance: www.iqpc.co.uk/GB-2448/1

December

Date: Thursday **1** December 2005 - Friday **2** December 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: Brussels
Organiser: UK ICT Presidency Calendar
Description: Telecoms Council
Attendance: Ministers & Commission