

To EURIM Members and Observers  
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THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



## EURIM Newsletter August/September 2006

### 1) Changing the Agenda

#### *An Autumn of opportunity*

At the EURIM Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July the Rt Hon Alun Michael agreed to chair the E-Crime Group and help move the issues up the political agenda.

Immediately after the Council meeting, Margaret Moran and I met Pat McFadden, the e-Government Minister, to discuss how EURIM could best help the reviews and consultations currently under way or planned as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Dave Wright and I have since had meetings with the E-Government Unit, Treasury and Home Office to agree priorities for the next couple of months. Subject to progress and support from our members, these will form the basis for ambitious proposals to the next EURIM Council in October, and also for a major recruitment exercise to generate the funding and resources needed to make good use of the opportunities on offer.

We have made a submission to the Internet Governance Forum in Athens, and plan to help the House of Lords Enquiry on Personal Internet Safety. We are also working with the US Internet Caucus on the agenda of their next annual conference in Washington on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

### 2) A Truly Comprehensive Spending Review

***Releasing the resources to meet the challenges ahead: the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review***  
[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending\\_review/spend\\_csr07/spend\\_csr07\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/spend_csr07_index.cfm)

The full magnitude of the reviews underway is only now becoming apparent, Policy papers and studies released on 19<sup>th</sup> July or referred to in subsequent announcements gave the context for these.

Following meetings with Cabinet Office and Treasury, we have posted a number of case studies to the EURIM website: See <http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/transform/cssummaries.php> for those about shared services and <http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/pi.php#casestudies> for those on data sharing. Draft studies have also been made available to help officials working to September deadlines for their parts of the review process. These show clearly that most successful projects started small and then grew organically. It is therefore reassuring to hear Ministers now talking regularly of incremental change and of avoiding big bang exercises. Another, more difficult message, is that it appears to be easier to deliver efficiency gains than citizen centric services. More case studies of the latter, or which combine both, are therefore needed urgently so that the lessons can be learned. Dave Wright ([davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com)) and Daniel Mount ([mountd@parliament.uk](mailto:mountd@parliament.uk)) are chasing those on offer over August and September. Dave is also organising a meeting in September with Sir David Varney to discuss how we can best help his review.

The Cabinet Office/HM Treasury Review of the Third Sector as a delivery partner: [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public\\_spending\\_and\\_services/third\\_sector/pss\\_thirdsector\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_and_services/third_sector/pss_thirdsector_index.cfm) is being progressed at regional meetings until the end of September, and at least one event is expected to which industry partners will be invited. This review is particularly important given the clear government priority for involving charities and social enterprises in ensuring socially inclusive delivery to those in most need of service improvement. This is another area where case studies of

practical co-operation between commercial, public enterprise and voluntary organisations would be most welcome.

### **3) Is Your Regulation Really Necessary?**

#### ***Compliance overheads cost jobs and taxes***

A recent supplier survey indicated that some organisations are now spending 80% of their IT budgets on systems to meet complex and often conflicting regulatory or compliance requirements rather than business or customer needs. Sarbanes-Oxley has been blamed for driving US quoted companies off-shore or into the arms of private equity investors. Some UK and EU organisations are now said to be considering similar moves to locations such as Switzerland, Singapore or Abu Dhabi, where regulatory requirements are more in line with good business practice. We are therefore seeking to identify whether there is the necessary critical mass of concern and interests among our members to mount an effective exercise to bring about the necessary changes in approach, rather than merely whinge.

One approach is to begin by bringing together industry, law enforcement and regulators to look at codes of practice with regard to co-operation in investigations of malpractice in the context of the current consultations on Investigatory Powers (see below) and the House of Lords enquiry into "Personal Internet Safety". The need for such codes was identified during the 5<sup>th</sup> July consultation meeting with Home Office on RIPA and their production is expected to illustrate how current practices can be wasteful and even counterproductive when it comes to trying to co-operate actively against impersonation, fraud and terrorism, enhance customer confidence and protect children against those predators who seek to contact them on-line. The need to protect information files against abuse also links to the need to find practical ways of reconciling requirements for data retention (from hours to decades according to the context) with the need to delete unnecessary material as part of data protection and good security practice.

Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would be interested in helping drive or contribute to work in this area or have suggestions as to others already active in this space.

In the meantime, the Cabinet Office consultation on the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/consultation/index.asp> (responses due by 16th October) gives a good focus for short-term discussion.

You are also reminded that the deadline for the Commission Review of Electronic Communications [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecom/tomorrow/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecom/tomorrow/index_en.htm) is 27<sup>th</sup> October. There is a parallel consultation on Radio Frequency identification: <http://www.rfidconsultation.eu/>

### **4) Promoting Confidence in the On-Line World**

#### ***Raising the political profile of e-crime and Internet safety***

Growing publicity for identity theft and benefit fraud has led to a rash of proposals for new initiatives. But we already have too many under-funded and fragmented operations. The immediate need is to link up and build on what already works and remove the obstacles to improved co-operation in protecting those at most risk. Alun Michael has requested a revised business plan to involve those responsible for corporate social responsibility in the main e-commerce and on-line transaction players. We also need to promote a bringing together of the best of the current muddle of initiatives - so that these present a coherent picture to potential sponsors, including Ministers, as well as to potential victims.

#### ***Removing the barriers to more effective child protection***

A report of the briefing for MPs on 20<sup>th</sup> July by Jim Gamble, head of the Child Exploitation and On Line Protection Centre, is being agreed. The main points include how industry support has greatly improved the Centre's effectiveness, the high correlation between on-line activity and physical abuse and the sophistication of the attempts by pederast networks to paralyse action against them. Several EURIM members have since volunteered assistance with channels to help get the CEOP material and messages to schools and youth groups.

### ***Rationalising the confusion of initiatives***

One of the first steps in the rationalisation process will be a meeting, hosted at New Scotland Yard, on the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> October to bring together those running or planning crime prevention awareness and support initiatives, and their current and target supporters and sponsors, so that they can plan co-operation, including shared materials and portals. In preparation for that meeting we will be updating the list of players on the EURIM website and extending this to cover relevant awareness, reporting and support initiatives. E-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) for details.

The recent debate on the RIPA Statutory instruments also illustrated the need for a rationalisation of the investigation operations of the departments and agencies of central government and for greater co-operation with those investigating frauds against financial and communications services. The latter regularly find evidence of systematic tax and benefit fraud when investigating those engaged in manufacturing and manipulating identities to defraud both public and private sector organisations.

There are currently three parallel Home Office consultations on Investigatory Powers:

- New Powers against Organised and Financial Crime <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2006-new-powers-org-crime/cons-new-powers-paper?version=1> deadline 17<sup>th</sup> October;
- The Revised Statutory Code for Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2006-ripa-part1/> deadline 30<sup>th</sup> August;
- The Draft Code of Practice for the Investigation of Protected Electronic Information <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2006-ripa-part3/> deadline 30<sup>th</sup> August;

plus the Department of Constitutional Affairs consultation on Penalties for wilful misuse of personal data [http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/misuse\\_data/consultation0906.pdf](http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/misuse_data/consultation0906.pdf) : deadline 30<sup>th</sup> October.

A number of organisations are already organising responses to the RIPA consultations, and a EURIM sub-group is drafting complementary codes of practice for how industry should respond to requests made under Part 3. Home Office have offered a consultation meeting on the new SOCA powers. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like details when arranged.

The time has, however, almost certainly come to look also at the issues of investigatory rationalisation in the context of the need to cut public sector fraud and waste and ensure that resources are focussed on those in need, not to support criminal activity. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would be interested in participating in such an exercise.

### ***Using platforms to call for improved co-operation, not new governance***

After the meeting with Nominet in June, EURIM agreed to submit a discussion paper for the Security stream of the Internet Governance Forum (30<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November). It calls for more worldwide co-operation between law enforcement and industry and better recognition and reward for good practice in protecting customers and deterring miscreants, as opposed to more governance initiatives and is on the website at [http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/eurim\\_IGF06paper.pdf](http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/eurim_IGF06paper.pdf)

The E-crime group has been circulated with the draft EURIM submission to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee enquiry into Personal Internet Safety: [www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/lords\\_s\\_t\\_select/internet.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_s_t_select/internet.cfm). The deadline for written evidence is 23<sup>rd</sup> October, but we have promised to make an early submission and a workshop to discuss it has now been arranged for 14<sup>th</sup> September (3.00-5.00pm). Please email [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like a copy of the paper (comments requested by 12<sup>th</sup> September) and/or to attend the meeting.

## **5) Promoting Confidence in On-Line Government**

### ***Who trusts whom in the on-line world?***

Consumer market research in the United States and Canada from early 2005 indicated that around 80% of consumers trusted their banks to look after their personal data compared to the 60% or so who trusted their health care provider and only 40% their government. Only about 25% trusted on-line

retailers. More recent UK research was quoted at a meeting of the EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group on 10<sup>th</sup> August which indicated much lower levels of trust: with 37% trusting banks, 17% trusting insurance companies and only 15% trusting government. These findings, if accurate, are a major cause for concern on the part of those wishing to promote the on-line world, but are even more serious for those wishing to promote on-line government.

One obvious conclusion is that major exercises are needed to produce application specific codes of conduct and protocols for on-line security and information sharing that command public credibility. This is likely to be the next major project of the Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group, including work in support of MISC 31, the Cabinet Sub-Committee tasked with policy in this area. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you are interested in participating in such work, whether via EURIM or via application specific consortia of users, suppliers and relevant professional bodies and trade associations.

## **6) Competing for the Jobs of the Future**

### ***How the UK must attract and retain knowledge based businesses***

The draft EURIM Knowledge Economy paper: "A Flourishing Innovation Economy - How the UK must Attract and Retain Knowledge Based Businesses" has now been circulated to all members for comment prior to publication in September. It summarises the importance of knowledge-based businesses to the UK economy, and the critical need to attract and retain these businesses, without which the UK faces inevitable and catastrophic economic decline. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like a copy of the draft or visit <http://www.eurim.org.uk/members/ukcomp/KEdraft.doc>. (Note that this is in the password protected part of our website, so if you are a member or registered observer and cannot remember your login details please contact [admin@eurim.org](mailto:admin@eurim.org))

## **7) Discussions on the Global Stage**

The 2007 Conference of the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee will be held in Washington on 31st January, probably with a dinner/reception the night before. This year EURIM has agreed to organise the UK participation as part of a parliamentary visit akin to those organised by the All-Party Internet Group in previous years. We are now in discussion on topics and will shortly be approaching potential participants and sponsors.

Last year the main topics were Intellectual Property Rights, Broadband and Safety. Net Neutrality has been a hot topic for the Caucus since then and they have done much work on RFID and its implications. IPR might again be a good topic, assuming that the Gower report is published to time, especially if we include the UK and European debates over software and business methods patents and issues around the life of copyright protection for software. Net Neutrality is going to become an even hotter topic in the face of changing Internet/Communications/Broadcast business/regulatory models as convergence becomes a reality. Internet safety and security, including making a reality of global co-operation to prevent the feared consumer backlash as well as to improve protection and prevent/deter malpractice, is another obvious topic.

Please e-mail me care of [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you are interested in participating or in assisting with the briefing and visits programme as a supporter or sponsor. The intention is that the visit should be self-funding, covered by separate sponsorship from those interested in promoting good Anglo-American understanding and active co-operation on Internet and Information Society issues, albeit mixed with lively discussion on areas where neither they nor we have consensus.

## EURIM Timetable – September 2006

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](mailto: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.

### September

*Date:* Thursday **14** September 2006  
*Time:* 15.00 – 17.00  
*Venue:* Attlee Suite, Portcullis House  
*Organiser:* EURIM E-Crime Group  
*Description:* Discussion of EURIM response to House of Lord Science and Technology Committee Enquiry into Personal Internet Safety  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers and guests

*Date:* Late September 2006 – **DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**  
*Time:* t.b.c  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group  
*Description:* Discussion with Sir David Varney, senior advisor on the Transformational Government Strategy, as he undertakes his review of public service delivery channels.  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers and guests

*Date:* Tuesday **26** September 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* Real Time Club  
*Description:* Getting Value from IT: Paul Stevens GSK: Paul was the speaker at the Manchester E-Government conference who described how GSK achieved 75% savings on current ICT spend by switching off those systems that did not give business benefit  
*Attendance:* Contact [Carmen.Harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:Carmen.Harvey@btopenworld.com) for details

### October

*Date:* Tuesday **3** October 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* Bournemouth  
*Organiser:* Conservative Technology Forum  
*Description:* Big Sister is Watching: Privacy & ID cards, technologies & issues. Discussion introduced by speakers from suppliers & lobby groups with a response from the opposition front bench  
*Attendance:* Conference delegates & others with conference passes

*Date:* Wednesday **4** October 2006  
*Time:* 16.00 – 18.00  
*Venue:* New Scotland Yard  
*Organiser:* EURIM E-Crime Group and Internet Crime Forum  
*Description:* Joint workshop and inaugural meeting of the ICF E-crime Prevention Sub-Group to review the current situation in relation to existing and planned regional and national e-crime prevention initiatives.  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers and invited guests

*Date:* Wednesday **11** October 2006 - Thursday **12** October 2006  
*Time:* Evening Reception & Dinner followed by all day conference  
*Venue:* TBC  
*Organiser:* Joint event involving APIG, PITCOM, All Party Telecoms & Mobile Groups, EURIM & ITSPA & others to be confirmed  
*Description:* The first attempt to bring together the various political groups in the "convergence" space. Title to be confirmed. Topics include: Internet Governance & Safety, Communications Convergence & UK Competitiveness  
*Attendance:* Parliamentarians, policy advisors & industry lobbyists

*Date:* Tuesday **17** October 2006  
*Time:* 16.00  
*Venue:* Room N, Portcullis House  
*Organiser:* EURIM  
*Description:* Board & Council meetings  
*Attendance:* Directors, Council members & invited guests only

*Date:* Monday **23** October 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 19.30  
*Venue:* House of Commons  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* Value for Money in ICT Projects  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)