

To EURIM Members and Observers  
From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General  
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THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



## EURIM Newsletter November 2006

### 1) Transforming Government at Affordable Cost

#### *Taking our own medicine and obtaining feedback from our target audiences*

On 17<sup>th</sup> October Margaret Moran MP, Dave Wright and I met Stephen Timms MP, as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to discuss how EURIM members could best help with the Comprehensive Spending Review and subsequent budget plans. He welcomed what we had done to date, especially the case studies already delivered, plus those volunteered at the meeting with Sir David Varney last month. Given the timescales, immediate inputs direct to Sir David would be most helpful (please send to [Alex.Holmes@hm-treasury.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.Holmes@hm-treasury.x.gsi.gov.uk), and copy to [davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com)). So too would inputs to the review being conducted by Sir James Crosby on identity management.

Stephen Timms also welcomed the idea of using “select committee” style enquiries to produce and publicise material on cross-cutting issues that are not well addressed elsewhere. After the spending review he expected to be in a position to speak to members on topics that he would particularly like to see covered. In the meantime those being looked at by EURIM (see below) are a good start point. We also discussed deliverables, most of which are now included in our forward action plans, and work on publicising current good practice in data sharing, information security and procurement is now required.

Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> the EURIM Council approved a short programme of “Directors’ Dinners” to discuss EURIM’s forward plans with those in industry whose support we will need in order to deliver. We need to better understand our members’ priorities to ensure that these are fed into the party policy formation processes as well as into our own plans.

#### *Setting the agenda for the planned Government Transformation “Select Committee”*

On 5<sup>th</sup> October the planning team, with volunteers from W S Atkins, Bird & Bird, EDS, Oakleigh and SAS, homed in on three possible topics for “enquiries” in Spring 2007 to draw out good material on issues that are not already being well-addressed elsewhere. These were:

- The mixed economy (public, private and third sector) and what do we want to achieve?
- Culture, people and incentive structures
- What do voters want from transformational government?

Three small sub-groups then set about working up plans in each area for review at the second meeting of the planning group on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It is hoped to have the revised plans ready for review by our Parliamentary members, several of whom have expressed conditional interest, by the end of the month. The group is also in discussion with SOCITM and IDeA with a view to organising one or more “evidence collecting” events to cover areas where those involved in Local Government believe that Central Government can learn most from their experiences, especially with regard to working in co-operation across organisational boundaries.

Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like to help organise this programme, whether as one of our Parliamentary interrogators (suggesting the topics you would like to see covered), a potential advisor or witness, or as an additional member of the planning and organisational team. Please note that the overall aim is to call on current and potential suppliers and delivery partners to find possible

solutions to areas of difficulty, to publicise and build on success and to inform parliamentarians as to what they can reasonably request and expect for the future.

### ***Good practice in procurement***

We have found widespread concern that politicians, policy advisors and officials do not understand current good practice in public sector procurement. Some believe they are following best practice when using processes that others had dropped as counter-productive over a decade ago. Many, both buyers and suppliers, appear unaware of the various ways of combining transparency, probity, flexibility and accountability within UK/EU rules. We therefore plan at least one workshop on the issues, using examples of recent procurements to bring out the lessons. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would like to join the sub-group looking at this area.

## **2) Personal Identity and Data Sharing**

### ***Ending the persecution of good practice***

Ministers have expressed concern that those sharing information at the operational level often feel the need to conceal operational details lest they be told to stop, even when following good data protection practice. Widespread circulation of complex, bureaucratic and potentially misleading guidance, some of it at variance with that on the Information Commissioners website, [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk), is also becoming a barrier to sharing. Responsibility for the provision of good advice in any given application area is, however, often fragmented across departments and agencies whose only meeting place is in Cabinet Committee ...or as observers at a EURIM meeting. We have therefore been asked to see whether we can break the logjam by providing an organisational umbrella for one or more of the consultation exercises necessary to gain formal approval of codes of practice already informally approved by the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you would be interested in supporting this exercise, including with relevant examples, publicity and organisation. The aim is to use the exercise not only to promote good practice but also to increase the pressure for it to be followed in practice.

### ***And beginning the effective prosecution of bad practice***

Unauthorised copying and sale of personal data is the start point for millions, possibly even billions, of pounds of systematic fraud and abuse within the UK, let alone around the world. Hence the strong support of our Corporate and Associate members for rapid implementation of the recommendations in the Information Commissioner's recent report to Parliament: "What Price Privacy? The unlawful trade in confidential personal information". The EURIM submission to the DCA consultation paper on "*Increasing Penalties For Deliberate And Wilful Misuse Of Personal Data*" can be found at [http://www.eurim.org.uk/resources/status\\_reports/EURIMConsultationResponse\\_DCA.pdf](http://www.eurim.org.uk/resources/status_reports/EURIMConsultationResponse_DCA.pdf).

The submission also made the point that those engaged in such abuse may well be active in criminal supply chains that lead to fraud and extortion and support terrorist activity, whether or not they are themselves engaged in other criminal activities. The current penalties are clearly no deterrent to such individuals or their employers. The proposed penalties will only deter if they are backed up by use of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2000 for those supplying information on a commercial basis. Incarceration would also disrupt the activities of those who may also be engaged in more serious, but as yet unproven, criminal activity (e.g. those providing information to aid terrorist targeting).

Legislation is therefore urgently required. We plan to invite those who supported the recent "Get Safe Online" and "National ID Fraud Prevention" events to join us in calling for action in this space as part of their follow up.

## **3) A Flourishing Innovation Economy**

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

The position paper circulated to members over the summer was approved by Council on 17<sup>th</sup> October and presented by Chris Godwin, as chairman of the Group, at a meeting of the Information Age Partnership on 30<sup>th</sup> October. We are now working on a forward action plan, for announcement when

the paper is publicly launched. Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you are interested in helping make things happen, not just “staging debate”.

### ***Is your regulation fit for purpose?***

“*The Politics Of Data Retention*” presentation to Storage Expo at Olympia on 18<sup>th</sup> October (<http://www.storage-expo.com/>) is now available. There was a full house and lively discussion but only technical press coverage, and it is still unclear whether there is the head of steam necessary to secure effective action. The EURIM Council has, however, given approval to a meeting to test the level of likely support, and the National Computing Centre has offered to assist.

### ***Building on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers***

In the meantime, a team led by the incoming UK chairman of the Information Systems Security Association, EURIM’s newest associate member, has produced a draft Code of Conduct (in the form of frequently asked questions) for how industry might handle requests under RIPA. This approach could provide the start point for some far-reaching exercises. If we can bring together corporate governance and information security professionals to produce collective guidance on how to respond to requests from law enforcement and regulators, can we go the next step and start suggesting how to change wider regulatory and governance requirements so as to preclude opportunities for malpractice at the same time as improving competitiveness?

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.

## **4) Tackling e-Crime and Promoting Internet Safety**

### ***Securing action while raising the political profile of e-crime and Internet safety***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, speaking at a conference opened by the Lord Mayor of London on “*Cyber City – Secure Cyberspace Imperative*” the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP outlined his objectives for this group: “I have agreed to chair the e-Crime group of EURIM not because I have technical expertise, but because I believe passionately that we, Parliamentarians, Ministers and the wider public, need to understand the real issues and to work with Business and Industry and the Police, and our European and international partners, to design an environment in which the strengths of the Information Age are enjoyed by all and the e-villains can’t win and can’t exploit the weak and the vulnerable either.”

He expressed “a sense of unease about the current state of play ... and a feeling that an adequate commitment to protecting the public will not be forthcoming if it’s just left to the experts or to Government.” He was concerned at the way we confuse legislation with action and quoted Gibbon “Laws often fail to prevent what they forbid”. Therefore “at every stage it’s sensible to ask yourself whether there is a better way of tackling any “evil” than passing a law against it ...

“Why do both the public sector and the private sector alike put security and enterprise in different silos? How can you win if the issues are not discussed openly and honestly? ... The problem is fear ... the actual loss to business from e-crime may be insignificant compared to spend on electronic security ... But the real disaster for business would arise if the public lost confidence ...

“We need new thinking about laws for the Information Age ...to create eASBOs, e-Crime Reduction Partnerships and an e-Gangmasters Agency rather than imitating 19<sup>th</sup> Century legislation. ... The policing of the Internet requires a new sort of partnership which is not just national but international, bringing together business, which has a vested interest as the largest potential victim, the Internet service providers and many more in the supply chain who want their customers and partners to go on-line, and law enforcement practitioners who can’t do it on their own.

“The general public, the peasants of the Information Age, cannot employ the experts that business can afford. Their local crime prevention officer and PC retailer will often be as confused as they are. Business and the IT industry therefore have a responsibility to design in protection and training so that it’s part of the warp and weave of e-Britain, not an optional extra for those with the resources.”

The full text of Alun's speech is at [www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/061023\\_AMatLMC.pdf](http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/061023_AMatLMC.pdf)

Earlier in the month, on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, a meeting on running/planning e-Crime prevention and Internet Safety programmes in the UK, indicated the potential for building on what is already happening to deliver some of the partnership for which Alun called. The launch of “Get Safe Online” week, with the headline that many more consumers expect to be a victim of e-crime than of car crime, mugging or burglary, then made national news on 9<sup>th</sup> October. On 12<sup>th</sup> October one of the main conclusions from the session on Internet Safety E-crime during the very successful “*Parliament and the Internet*” conference event organised in co-operation with APIG, PITCOM, the All Party Mobile and Communications groups and ITSPA. (report at <http://www.parliamentandinternet.org.uk/>) was the need for action on education and training, without which awareness increased fear and reduced confidence. On 16<sup>th</sup> October the launch of “National ID Fraud Prevention Week” attracted more headlines and further raised the fear level.

On 17<sup>th</sup> October the EURIM Council approved a major exercise to secure agreement on a coherent and realistic UK strategy to halt the current erosion of trust in the Internet as a safe place to work, learn and play, and to ensure that it is implemented. The draft action plan is due for circulation to the e-Crime group next week.

## **5) Net Neutrality v the Intelligent Internet**

### ***From “whaaa...?” to topic of the month***

The EURIM-ERA meeting to look at Internet Governance issues was put back to the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> October after a short order meeting organised by ippr that morning on the same subject. At least two other events on the same topic are known to be planned for different audiences. Several members attended both the EURIM and ippr meetings and this enabled those round the table at Bird & Bird in the afternoon to make rapid progress under the chairmanship of Hamish Sandison.

The underlying issues in both the EU and USA need open and transparent debate, with the interests of consumers and of business users properly represented and addressed. The UK/EU regulatory regime for those with significant market power should prevent telcos entering into preferential arrangements with strategic partners, the trigger for the US debate. There is therefore no need for legislative change. However, there are issues as to whether regulators are using their powers to ensure that suppliers (ISPs as well as Telcos) provide clear information to users on pricing, quality of service and restrictions (e.g. bandwidth rationing, filtering etc.). Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you are interested in participating in any follow up discussions.

## **6) Internet Caucus**

### ***Progressing transatlantic partnership***

Plans are now in train for a small party of Parliamentary members to attend and address the annual conference of the Internet Caucus Advisory Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and to use the opportunity to progress discussions on Anglo-US co-operation at both political and practical levels.

The visit is being organised by EURIM jointly with PITCOM. APIG, which mounted a similar visit last year, is helping with advice and contacts. The Parliamentary groups concerned with Telecoms, Mobile Communications, Voice over IP, etc. will also be invited to participate. The main topics are expected to be Internet Governance, Safety, E-Crime and Child Protection. RFID issues are also known to be of major concern in the US. A meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November will discuss whether RFID is of sufficient concern in the UK/EU to merit the formation of a EURIM group. If so, this will be added to the ICAC agenda.

By copy of this I ask corporate members to e-mail me c/o [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if they have a Washington office and are able to help with organising programmes of meetings with officials on 29<sup>th</sup> January and with Congressmen and Senators on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## EURIM Timetable – November 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.

### November

- Date:* Wednesday 1 November 2006  
*Time:* 15.00 - 17.00  
*Venue:* Lewis Media Centre  
*Organiser:* Ofcom & Westminster Media Forum  
*Description:* Ofcom Annual Lecture: Lord Currie of Marylebone  
*Attendance:* [david.crocker@westminsterprojects.co.uk](mailto:david.crocker@westminsterprojects.co.uk)
- Date:* Thursday 2 November 2006  
*Time:* 12.00 - 14.00  
*Venue:* Committee Room 7, House of Commons  
*Organiser:* EURIM Transformational Government Planning Group  
*Description:* Meeting to plan topics, timetable, logistics, responsibilities & funding for planned Transformational Government Select Committee  
*Attendance:* EURIM corporate & associate members interested in contributing serious resource
- Date:* Thursday 2 November & Friday 3 November 2006  
*Time:* 2 days  
*Venue:* London  
*Organiser:* Information Commissioner's Office  
*Description:* 28th International Privacy Conference: "A Surveillance Society?"  
*Attendance:* [www.privacyconference2006.co.uk](http://www.privacyconference2006.co.uk)
- Date:* Monday 6 November 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* To be confirmed  
*Organiser:* Conservative Technology Forum  
*Description:* Health: agreed speakers include Glyn Hayes & Andrew Lansley MP  
*Attendance:* Contact the office of Malcolm Harbour MEP [mharbour@europarl.eu.int](mailto:mharbour@europarl.eu.int)
- Date:* Tuesday 14 November 2006  
*Time:* Afternoon  
*Venue:* Lewis Media Centre  
*Organiser:* Westminster Media Forum  
*Description:* The Future of News Media  
*Attendance:* [david.crocker@westminsterprojects.co.uk](mailto:david.crocker@westminsterprojects.co.uk)
- Date:* Friday 17 November 2006  
*Time:* 10.00 - 12.00  
*Venue:* Room T, Portcullis House  
*Organiser:* EURIM Communications Regulation Group  
*Description:* Meeting to identify whether there is the potential (importance of issues not covered elsewhere, agreement on objectives & deliverables, support etc.) for an effective exercise on the political issues related to UK/EU Radio Frequency ID usage.  
*Attendance:* Current & potential EURIM Corporate & Associate Members & Sponsors
- Date:* Monday 20 November 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 19.30, followed by Annual Dinner  
*Venue:* Meeting: House of Commons; Dinner: House of Lords  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* Future Issues for the Government Chief Information Officer: John Suffolk.  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

**Date:** Tuesday **21** November 2006  
**Time:** 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00  
**Venue:** National Liberal Club, London, SWA 2HE  
**Organiser:** Real Time Club  
**Description:** Who owns your data now? The unintended consequences of DRM: after dinner discussion introduced by Rufus Pollock: Foundation for a Free Info Infrastructure.  
**Attendance:** Contact [carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com) for details

**Date:** Tuesday **28** November 2006  
**Time:** 18.30 - 20.30  
**Venue:** IBM South Bank, London SE1  
**Organiser:** British American Business Inc  
**Description:** "Audio-Visual Media Regulation across the EU (TV without Frontiers)". Speakers include Martin Le Jeune (BSkyB), John Whittingdale MP & Ofcom speaker.  
**Attendance:** Special rate for EURIM members; contact [ukevents@babinc.org](mailto:ukevents@babinc.org) or call 020 7290 9888

*Additional meetings planned for November, but dates and venues not yet fixed:*

**Organiser:** EURIM Knowledge Economy Group  
**Description:** Launch of Knowledge Economy Paper  
**Attendance:** EURIM members, observers, guests & press

**Organiser:** EURIM E-Crime Group  
**Description:** Review of plans for 2007  
**Attendance:** EURIM E-crime Group & prospective members/sponsors

**Organiser:** EURIM E-Crime, Personal Identity & Communications Regulation Groups  
**Description:** Meeting to identify whether there is the potential (importance of issues not covered elsewhere, agreement on objectives & deliverables, support etc.) for an effective group on the UK/EU regulation of Information Governance (public & private)  
**Attendance:** Those concerned to reduce malpractice & waste by reforming information governance, regulation & compliance frameworks & processes

## **December**

**Date:** Monday **4** December 2006  
**Time:** 18.00 - 20.00  
**Venue:** To be confirmed  
**Organiser:** Conservative Technology Forum  
**Description:** Intellectual Property Rights: agreed speakers include John Whittingdale MP  
**Attendance:** Contact the office of Malcolm Harbour MEP [mharbour@europarl.eu.int](mailto:mharbour@europarl.eu.int)

**Date:** Thursday **7** December 2006  
**Time:** 16.00 - 18.00  
**Venue:** Members Dining Room, House of Commons  
**Organiser:** PITCOM, Parliamentary Space Committee & All Party Olympics Group  
**Description:** The Olympics & Satellites  
**Attendance:** PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

## **January 2007**

**Date:** Tuesday **16** January 2007  
**Time:** 16.00 - 18.00  
**Venue:** To be confirmed  
**Organiser:** EURIM Board  
**Description:** Board & Council meeting  
**Attendance:** Directors & Council Members only

**Date:** Tuesday **23** January 2007  
**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30  
**Venue:** House of Commons  
**Organiser:** PITCOM  
**Description:** Professionalism & ICT  
**Attendance:** PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

*Date:* Tuesday **30** January 2007  
*Time:* Evening  
*Venue:* Washington DC  
*Organiser:* Internet Caucus Advisory Committee  
*Description:* Pre-conference dinner  
*Attendance:* MPs, Congressmen, Senators & Committee members & guests

*Date:* Wednesday **31** January 2007  
*Time:* All-day  
*Venue:* Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington DC  
*Organiser:* Internet Caucus Advisory Committee  
*Description:* Annual Conference: topics expected to include: Internet governance & safety, e-crime, homeland security & RFID issues.  
*Attendance:* MPs, Congressmen, Senators & Committee members & guests

## **February**

*Date:* Monday **5** February 2007  
*Time:* 18.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* To be confirmed  
*Organiser:* Conservative Technology Forum  
*Description:* Intelligent public sector procurement  
*Attendance:* Contact the office of Malcolm Harbour MEP [mharbour@europarl.eu.int](mailto:mharbour@europarl.eu.int)

*Date:* Tuesday **6** February 2007  
*Time:* 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00  
*Venue:* National Liberal Club  
*Organiser:* Real Time Club  
*Description:* Network Neutrality v. the Intelligent Internet: a fight for the soul of the Internet or a domestic US regulatory spat? After-dinner discussion introduced by Jonathan Zittrain, Professor of Internet Governance at the Oxford Internet Institute  
*Attendance:* Contact [carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com) for details

*Date:* Wednesday **7** February & Thursday **8** February 2007  
*Time:* 2 day event  
*Venue:* The Plaisterers Hall, London EC2  
*Organiser:* CMA Annual Conference  
*Description:* Details to follow  
*Attendance:* Details to follow

*Date:* Monday **12** February 2007  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* House of Commons  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* AGM  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

## **March**

*Date:* Tuesday **27** March 2007  
*Time:* 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00  
*Venue:* National Liberal Club  
*Organiser:* Real Time Club  
*Description:* E-Crime: the worlds fastest growing, most profitable & lowest risk business? After dinner discussion introduced by DCI Charlie McMurdie (Metropolitan Police) & Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Economics, University of Cambridge  
*Attendance:* Contact [carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com) for details: note that delegates to the National High Tech Congress (27-28th March) are among those being invited.