

To EURIM Members and Observers

From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General  
E-mail: [virgo.philip@eurim.org](mailto:virgo.philip@eurim.org)

THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



## EURIM Newsletter April 2008

### 1) Why Do We Never Learn?

#### *People continuity is not enough*

The first question to John Suffolk at the EURIM Transformational Government Policy Dialogues on 5<sup>th</sup> March was whether the rate of change at the top (Senior responsible Owners, not just Ministers) made failure inevitable. He replied that this had to be factored in at the planning stage, in terms of design and risk management, but we also had to articulate why change was necessary and, from the very beginning, win the hearts and minds of those doing the implementation. Otherwise we would not succeed, even if we did have continuity at the top.

The subsequent session was equally lively and informative. No-one appeared to notice the time overrun. I particularly noted the agreement between John and his questioners that trying to embed hundreds of rules to deal with 100% of cases adds unnecessary complexity to systems where a handful of rules would be sufficient for 80% of the population. More effort could then be spent on better handling the exceptions. There was then a short but interesting discussion of the challenges that approach would pose for policy formation, scrutiny and accountability. The full report is at [www.eurim.org.uk/activities/tgdialogues/080305\\_HearingMinutes.pdf](http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/tgdialogues/080305_HearingMinutes.pdf).

The draft conclusions from the dialogues (there will be another meeting to agree the report) are in the members' area (e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) if you have forgotten your password). The parliamentarians on panel included members of the Public Accounts Committee and Home Affairs, Innovation, Justice, Local Government and Treasury Select Committees, plus a former chair of the Work and Pensions Committee. The cross-party co-operation in the sessions was fascinating to watch and in a subsequent closed session they picked up on the challenges of joined up policy formation and scrutiny. This has led to a series of recommendations together with forward plans for the group, which will appear on the website shortly, alongside an integrated report of all the EURIM Policy Dialogues hearings.

### 2) The Internet, Crime and the Work of the Police

On 16<sup>th</sup> March at a joint meeting organised via PITCOM and the All-Party Policing Group, Sandra Quinn, Director of the National Development Team at the National Fraud Strategic Authority and Arshad Rahman, on secondment to the City of London Police, the lead force against Fraud, outlined their plans. David King, chair of the new "Information Security Awareness Forum" described why and how nearly twenty industry bodies have decided to pool their awareness programmes to reduce duplication of effort and collectively present common and compatible messages to top management, end-users and those between. The Rt Hon Alun Michael JP MP then showed how the various initiatives could and should come together in an overall e-Crime Reduction partnership and how that related to the establishment of the UK Internet Governance Forum. The meeting report is on the PITCOM website at:

<http://www.pitcom.org.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=183>

David King has agreed to become a vice chair of the EURIM E-Crime Group, with a view to facilitating co-operation between his forum and major suppliers and users via EURIM, and we are now actively recruiting members among those who wish to announce their participation in advance of

Information Security Week, 21<sup>st</sup> – 25 April, in parallel with Infosec, [www.infosec.co.uk/](http://www.infosec.co.uk/), Europe's biggest annual information security exhibition.

### **3) Towards a National Strategy for Secure Information Sharing**

*If "Identity is the new money" (Crosby) – who would you trust with your wallet?*

The headings in the report [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/7/identity\\_assurance060308.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/7/identity_assurance060308.pdf) of Sir James Crosby on "Challenges and opportunities in identity assurance" puts the issue into long overdue context: "Identity is "the new money, it is the consumer's identity" ...and so on.

The report [www.dfes.gov.uk/byronreview/pdfs/Final%20Report%20Bookmarked.pdf](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/byronreview/pdfs/Final%20Report%20Bookmarked.pdf) of Dr Tanya Byron, "Safer Children in a Digital World", brought a similar breath of fresh air to another area where previous debate had become almost equally divorced from practicality and common sense.

Philip Dunne MP, the new parliamentary chair of the EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing group, has discussed ambitious objectives with the industry chair, Stephen Darvill of Logica. Philip Dunne will be looking at the issues from top down: and at information sharing and identity management in the context of overall corporate governance – it helps that he also chairs the All-Party Corporate Governance Group. In this context "corporate" includes "public sector" and recent surveys show the nadir to which confidence has sunk.

This approach heightens the importance of the plans of some of our industry members for a major showcase on Identity Assurance systems that already work and the lessons learned to date. This will take place on the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> June in the Attlee Suite. We already look set to have a powerful political attendance. If early corporate interest is anything to go by, it is likely to be healthily oversubscribed with offers to demonstrate success. If so, we plan to ask those unable to fit in to the space available to help produce and publicise additional case studies of success to go alongside those released at the showcase. Please contact Dave Wright [davywright2@ntlworld.com](mailto:davywright2@ntlworld.com) for details. Please note that this event is focused on that which is already operational. The group is working on separate exercises to bring together those working on the next generation of secure interoperability standards and processes to brief policy makers and parliamentarians on progress, practicalities and how the initiatives fit together, if they do.

### **4) "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy"**

*Attracting and breeding the butterflies*

Lucy Fairbrother has replaced Dan Mount in Margaret Moran's office and, among her EURIM tasks, will be lead rapporteur on Knowledge Economy. Emma Fryer will still be available to help with guidance and industry contracts but is expected to be fully occupied on other projects, including helping with the follow up to the excellent Intellect Report, "High Tech: Low Carbon" (visit [www.intellectuk.org/content/view/52/11/](http://www.intellectuk.org/content/view/52/11/) to download).

Ian Taylor has agreed to chair the parliamentary side of the Knowledge Economy programme, with the support of Chris Mole and of the EURIM MPs on the Innovation Select Committee, Tim Boswell and Ian Stewart. The industry chair, Chris Godwin of IBM, will be looking for additional colleagues to do the work. The next step will be a planning meeting to agree realistic objectives over time and discuss which to progress via EURIM and which to progress via which other channels and partnerships. Please e-mail [FairbrotherL@parliament.uk](mailto:FairbrotherL@parliament.uk) if you wish to participate, indicating your area(s) of interest and what you bring to the table.

### **5) Preserving and Enhancing the Skills of the Existing Workforce**

*Much more than just retreading the wrinklies*

Over 70% of those who will comprise the UK workforce in 2020 have already graduated, as have most of those whom we expect to be responsible for educating and training those who will join it between

now and then. Meanwhile skills policy and initiatives at European level, as well as that in the UK, remain almost totally focussed on first entry education or on social inclusion.

Ian Stewart MP will chair a meeting after the recess to agree a work programme to identify the strategy, tactics and support necessary to deliver results in an area where debate has long been more common than action. The intention is to use internet safety and information security and governance skills, (where there is general agreement that action is urgent as well as important and that the issues cut across organisational and structural boundaries, including within EURIM), as the “case study” to demonstrate the issues and also leverage wider change.

Please e-mail me for an invitation.

## **6) Consultation on E-Legislation Information Service**

*How do you structure a cross-cutting policy monitoring service?*

The E-Business Regulatory Alliance website has been restructured in the light of feedback to accommodate the Information and Monitoring Service. The site is now live, but the team will be updating links and information throughout April 2008 and looking to develop a database over the summer. Please take a look at [www.e-ra.org.uk](http://www.e-ra.org.uk) and pass your comments to William Roebuck [William.Roebuck@twobirds.com](mailto:William.Roebuck@twobirds.com)