

Workshop on Member States' experiences with ccTLD

Geneva, 3-4 March 2003

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

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Title: About the Administration of the Internet Domain Name System

Please note that this is a preliminary document, with a formal ratified document forthcoming.

About the Administration of the Internet Domain Name System

CENTR secretariat

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CENTR members welcome the opportunity of the workshop arranged by the ITU Telecommunications Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) on 3 – 4 March 2003 in Geneva, to share their views on the administration of the domain name system (DNS), within the global process of the reformed Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

CENTR members are grateful that this ITU workshop provides a forum for interested parties to explore how the DNS sector operates, and identify how they can best contribute to the process.

About CENTR

CENTR (<http://www.centri.org>) is the Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries, a peak industry body comprised of over 40 ccTLD Managers – predominantly based within Europe. It provides a forum for members to exchange information, educate each other on new developments, and develop consensus positions on behalf of their industry.

The ccTLD managers in Europe have been, and continue to be, instrumental in ensuring the robust operation, technical stability and interconnection of the Domain Name System since the pioneering days of the Internet.

An important aspect of a ccTLD manager's role is to foster a technically stable and secure basis for the development of the Internet and e-commerce in Europe.

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In 1998, European ccTLD managers formed the Council of European Top Level Domain Registries (CENTR) to encourage the development of policy and best practice for European ccTLDs in a stable, integrated and coherent forum.

The experience of the European ccTLDs is of significant value to the European and global community, and we offer our considered opinions to those interested in the continued success of the Internet, and the principles of industry self-management.

Overview of European ccTLD Registries

The domain name landscape is diverse in many ways, from small to large operators, from strict to liberal policies, from academic networks to private companies. However, these operators are based on a number of key unifying principles.

Most importantly, all registries operate in a way that is accountable to the Local Internet Communities, reflecting the desires of local stakeholders in how their respective national resources are operated.

Beyond this guiding principle, there are commonly held views on most aspects of the industry.

As essentially a technical resource, standards on technical interoperability and deployment are paramount for the effective functioning of the DNS. ccTLD Managers work closely to ensure standards are developed, and adhered to, with operational policies that integrate with technical reality.

With differing regulatory environments, ccTLDs are also concerned with ensuring there is a stable framework in which they can operate their services. It is key to providing dependable services that ccTLD managers are not subject to arbitrary action beyond their control.

The success of the domain name industry is perhaps best illustrated by the low amount of attention it obtains from the public generally. European ccTLD Registries have reliably and dependably provided a stable and trusted resource that operates effectively. As a service that is literally taken for granted, we see one indicator of a well-functioning industry.

Policies of Interest

CENTR has issued several formal positions on key issues that are relevant to DNS discussions:

Best practice for ccTLD managers

<http://www.centri.org/docs/legal/best-practice.html>

CENTR position on Whois

<http://www.centri.org/docs/statements/CENTR-Position-on-Whois.html>

Comment on ICANN zone access policy

<http://www.centri.org/docs/statements/ICANN-Zone-Access-Comments.html>

ccTLD Requirements for International Coordination of the Domain Name System

<http://www.centri.org/docs/statements/approved-ICANN-response.html>
