**August 2003**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to Bizconst News, where we aim to keep you up to date with current issues and events. This issue includes a summary of the ICANN meetings in Montreal, and an outline of changes which could affect the way the BC is represented on the GNSO, an important issue for the BC and its members.Happy reading!

Gary

**ICANN MEETINGS IN MONTREAL: A SUMMARY**

At the ICANN meetings in June, the BC continued its cross constituency leadership outreach by co-hosting a cross-constituency meeting with the ISPCP and the IP Constituencies. The BC then held its own meeting for members.Summaries of the meetings:

1. Cross Constituency with ISPCP and Intellectual Property  
   Among the issues discussed:
   * Dot Org registry. PIR, who took over dot org from Verisign, reported on progress
   * Development of the Country Code Name Supporting Organisation
   * Development of the At-Large Supporting Organisation
   * a Q&A session with the ICANN board on key issues, including stability, WIPO, and 2 reps/3 reps (see below).
2. BC Meeting

Among the issues discussed:

* + Analysis of the new ICANN board and Nom-Com reps
  + 2 reps/3 reps
  + Update on ICANN issues, including WHOIS, WIPO, New gTLDS, CCNSO and GAC.

**BC LOBBYING TO KEEP THREE REPS ON COUNCIL**

BC members and the elected leadership continue to lead a cross constituency effort to seek a change in the by-laws of ICANN, which will disadvantage the business constituency members and weaken ICANN’s geographic diversity and representation.The new ICANN by-laws state that “In the absence of further action on the topic by the New Board, each of the GNSO constituencies shall select two representatives to the GNSO Council”.

At the time this proposal was debated the BC and indeed the Names Council opposed the change: a Names Council resolution of 1 August 2002 called for “three representatives per Constituency on the GNSO Council”.

The BC is keeping up a lobby to get the new Board to maintain the status quo of three reps. The BC believes that to not do so challenges two of ICANN core values:

Core value 2.4 is: “Seeking and supporting broad, informed participation reflecting the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet at all levels of policy development and decision-making”.

Core value 2.7 is “Employing open and transparent policy development mechanisms that (i) promote well-informed decisions based on expert advice, and (ii) ensure that those entities most affected can assist in the policy development process.”

In short, two representatives per Constituency challenges geographic and cultural diversity within the constituency. With three representatives per constituency, the majority of ICANN regions are represented. With two, the majority of ICANN regions are not represented.

Two representatives per Constituency challenges ICANN well-informed decision making. Experience has shown that three representatives improves the constituencies ability to share the workload of a council member, to be able to participate in task forces of the council, and to outreach to multiple regions.

Moreover, there is no evidence of increased effectiveness with two representatives rather than three. The BC will continue to work with other Council members and the new Board to effect this change.

**GNSO web site move**

Congratulations to the ICANN Staff, especially Glen de St Géry and Kent Crispin, and to the AFNIC staff for a smooth transition of the GNSO web site to the ICANN site.You can see the new site, which includes all DNSO archives, here:

[http://gnso.icann.org](http://gnso.icann.org/)

**ICANN NEWS**

A launching group has been established by Country Code Registries to assist in setting up the CCNSO.

The BC has long supported the ccTLDS in their efforts to develop a supporting organization for the CCs. A mutually acceptable agreement between the board and ccTLDS was approved, and bylaws have been published.

* After Louis Touton’s departure from ICANN in June, Dan Halloran is now acting legal counsel.
* Theresa Swineheart, Counsel for International Legal Affairs, made a presentation on behalf of ICANN to the United States Telecommunications Training Institute. USTTI offers training opportunities for telecom professionals from the developing world. The course was developed and sponsored by AT&T.

**WSIS PRELIMINARY MEETINGS**

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held a preliminary meeting on 18 July at UNESCO in Paris. The meeting was one of a series of preparatory meetings for the main summit in Geneva in December 2003. Around 400 delegates attended.The summit aims to “adopt a Declaration of principles and a Plan of Action for implementation by governments, institutions and all sectors of civil society to deal with the new challenges of the ever-evolving information society.”

The preliminary meetings will deal with the texts of these documents. Fifteen heads of state have already indicated they will attend the summit which will also look at the means by which the gap can be closed between the industrialised and developing worlds.

The WSIS web site can be found here:

<http://www.itu.int/wsis>

**SECOND EUROPEAN DOMAIN NAME SUMMIT**

The summit, held in Paris on 3 July, was organised by ISOC France, the Paris Chamber of Commerce, and BC members CIGREF and MEDEF. Speakers from over 20 countries participated in the event, including Paul Twomey, ICANN CEO, and Philip Sheppard, BC Rep.There was open discussion around essential issues: the European position in respect of internet governance, security, and decentralisation of root servers. Also, European public sector representatives within ICANN accepted the need to reinforce dialogue with the private sector.

Quotes on the summit:

“Everyone must play a role in internet governance. Cigref is working to support users’ interests, especially from the private sector . . . We have created a unique platform for exchanging and sharing views”

Sébastien Bachollet

“We hope to accompany ICANN’s entry into the Age of Reason, through ensuring that the voice of French businesses, both large and small, can be heard in order to encourage the creation of a stable and secure internet space”

Catherine Gabay

The partners are now organising the next summit in 2004

**US SENATE HEARING ON ICANN**

On 31 July, the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Communications held an oversight hearing on ICANN.Senator Conrad Burns said that ICANN must be more accountable to the public in order to defend against catastrophic hacker attacks on the Internet’s Domain Name System.

Paul Twomey responded that an ICANN security committee formed after the 11 September terrorist attacks has taken steps to secure the DNS, including conducting exercises to test the resiliency of the servers in case of attack.

Key themes to the hearing were:

* an update on the status on Reform and ICANN progress on the MOU tasks from the DoC
* stability, security of the Internet
* WLS.

Several BC members attended the hearing, including: Marilyn Cade, Ron Andruff, Mike Roberts, and Edward An.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**ICANN meetings, Carthage – 27 – 31 October 2003**