

Report of IPC Meeting, Marina Del Rey

Monday 12 November 2001

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1. Elections

The result of the elections in October 2001 for new officers was announced:

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| President: | Steve Metalitz (North America) | metalitz@iipa.com |
| Executive Vice-President: | Jane Mutimear, AIPPI, Europe | Jane.Mutimear@twobirds.com |
| Vice-President: | Marty Schwimmer, North America | marty@schwimmerlegal.com |
| Treasurer: | Mark Bohannon, SIIA, North America | MBohannon@siia.net |
| Secretary: | Mike Heltzer, INTA, North America | mheltzer@inta.org |
| IPC Names Council Representatives remain: | | |
| | Caroline Chicoine (North America) | cchicoine@thompsoncoburn.com |
| | Axel Aus der Muhlen (Europe) | aaus@mpaa.org |
| | Guillermo Carey (Latin America) | gcarey@carey.cl |

2. Membership

Steve Metalitz urged all those in attendance to consider joining the IPC.

3. Names Council Elections

The process of electing new Names Council representatives from the IPC was discussed. The Chair reported that all three current representatives were standing down at the end of their terms. Axel Aus der Muhlen will be resigning before the end of his term and the President is planning to nominate Laurence Djolakian to fill the unexpired term, in accordance with the Bylaws. Elections for new NC representatives are expected to be held in December or January.

The Chair also recorded a vote of thanks to Axel and Caroline Chicoine, as well as to Guillermo Carey who was not present, for their service on the Names Council.

4. At Large Membership

The Chair reported on the IPC's position in regard to the At Large Standing Organisation and distributed a revised version of the statement previously circulated to the IPC membership. While the IPC supports many principles of the ALSC report, and commends the work of the committee who produced the report, it has some concerns about pushing ahead with the creation of an ALSO to a timetable until its stability has been secured through a sound financial plan. There was a general discussion on the subject during which issues were raised which included:

- Whether there should be 6 at large directors on the Board and whether their appointment should be staggered to promote stability
- Whether the ALSO should operate through five world regions or six
- Who can vote: whether it should be the registered owners of domain names as shown on the whois record or internet users with an e-mail address; how corporations can be persuaded to vote; the importance of cleaning up whois data to facilitate the voting process
- The danger of the capture of the ALSO and by extension the Board by minority interest groups (especially in light of the results of the first election)
- Whether there was a need for an ALSO or whether the Non-commercial Constituency should open its doors to individuals
- The Chair urged all those in attendance to participate in the discussion on the ALSC report scheduled for that evening.

5. MINC

The Chair reported that IPC Executive Vice President Jane Mutimear has been following discussions on the development of Internationalized Domain Names especially through the workings of MINC (the Multilingual Internet Names Consortium). The general discussion included the following points:

- The importance of accurate whois information
- The impending publication of standards by the IETF
- The hope that testbeds by e.g. VeriSign will be delayed until the publication of these standards.

6. Transfers

The Chair asked for a volunteer to represent the IPC on a Transfer Task Force being set up to consider a proposed standardised gTLD transfer process proposed by the Registrars' Constituency. The discussion on transfers included points on:

- Problems in transferring names after UDRP decisions
- The need for a process for bulk transfers
- The importance of up to date whois information
- Questions on the role of the billing contact and the administrative contact and the definition of Apparent Authority
- Whether the process should be expanded to include ccTLDs.

The discussion concluded with all present in agreement that a standardised process across gTLD registrars is in the interests of IP owners. The chair resolved to seek a representative for this Transfer Task Force himself.

7. CCTLDs

The Chair reported on the formation of the CCSO and a request from the ccTLDs for the Business and IP Constituencies to put forward a liaison group that could draft a paper for the ccTLDs on how business and IP issues could be managed in any ccSO. The Chair's call for volunteers was answered by a number of those in attendance including IPC members Roy Hibberd, Hector Manoff and Laurence Djolakian. The Chair resolved to talk with all those interested after the meeting.

8. UDRP Review

Caroline Chicoine, the Names council representative for North America for the IPC reported on the questionnaire posted to the DNSO website on the UDRP and urged all present to review and complete the forms. The subsequent discussion included:

- Difficulties in enforcing decisions in certain jurisdictions, for instance, India where losers often file a complaint with a court which may take up to 10 years to hear the case
- The cost of UDRP in some parts of the world which is seen as being prohibitive
- The Max Planck Institute report which the IPC has supported and which should be available by year's end.

9. New gTLD Task Force

The Chair reported that IPC Secretary Mike Heltzer is the representative of the IPC on the New gTLD Task force set up to establish criteria by which to evaluate how successful the introduction of new gTLDs has been.

10. Names Council Whois Survey

Axel Aus der Muhlen reported on the Names Council's Whois survey which so far had produced over 3000 responses of which 10% have been analysed. He explained that the survey is not meant to be a statistical analysis and emphasised the importance and value of the free text responses.

11. GAC Influence

The Chair reported on the successful lobbying of ICANN by the Government Advisory Committee to have two letter domains that coincide with geographical ccTLD indicators reserved under .info. The speed with which ICANN accepted this request without consideration by the DNSO was noted with the expectation that this issue would emerge in full ICANN session.

12. Security

A short discussion on the contribution that the IPC could make to the security focussed agenda of the full ICANN meeting in light of the September 11 terrorist attacks was held. Comments included:

- Whether and how registrars and registries back data up and what they hold in escrow
- The value of domain names as intellectual property to corporations and their vulnerability to high-jacking
- The importance of accurate whois data.

The meeting closed at 1230pm.

Minutes taken by Nick Wood

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