



The Interview with Chris Mondini February 2020, Brussels

EURALO

In February 2020, during an ATRT3 working meeting in Brussels, EURALO Chair Sebastien Bachollet asked several questions to ICANN Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, Europe and Managing Director for the Brussels, Belgium office, Chris Mondini.

We kindly invite you to read the full version of this interesting
interview





1. What are your global working goals and objectives for this year as Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, Europe?

My goals are derived from those of the [ICANN Strategic Plan](#). Each task or work activity is in support of a strategic objective. Broadly speaking, I can explain the work as follows: Through education, awareness raising, and advocacy, I will work with my team to build and enhance relations and trust with the key stakeholder groupings, both within the existing ICANN community and beyond. My intent is that this will result in increased active participation by European stakeholders in ICANN's policymaking as well as, very importantly, increased technical coordination supporting ICANN's operational remit. As always, my team will work with members of the community to reinforce public understanding and support for ICANN, the DNS, and the multi stakeholder governance model.

Engagement must be balanced among all groups – business, individual Internet users, civil society, technical experts and governments. In working with governments in Europe, we will continue to expand engagement beyond the GAC representatives and the responsible Ministry to other Government authorities and institutions such as sector regulators, parliamentarians, law enforcement, cybersecurity centers, data privacy authorities and judicial bodies. This is in line with ICANN's strategic objective of monitoring legislation and regulatory activities affecting the Domain Name System (DNS) and ICANN's remit. Capacity building with relevant public institutions about the DNS will be key, as will highlighting the voice of diverse stakeholders – from business associations to consumer advocacy groups – to underline our shared interest in the global, interoperable Internet that the DNS enables.



2. How can you characterize the specific of the European region and the stakeholders if compare with other 4 "ICANN identified regions"?

Across the European region as a whole the ICANN community is sophisticated and engaged. We are fortunate to have leading voices from Europe in all the SO/ACs. We also see leadership from Europe in policy development processes (PDPs), doing the hard work of negotiating and writing policy. We have good partners like CENTR and RIPE NCC, with whom to collaborate. However, our ongoing strategy must also focus on areas of Europe that are still underserved, and to reach new audiences who are affected by ICANN's work, and also those who can help us to be successful

Europeans are also active in the global, national and regional IGFs and in broader Internet governance discussions . This results in a strong understanding of and support for multi stakeholder approaches across a wide spectrum of actors.

A number of indicators such as the number of registries, registrars, registrants, participants in ICANN meetings or PDPs, technical trainings, deployments of L-root, etc. illustrate the strength of our region. In order to assure balanced engagement that reaches all parts of Europe, we aim to identify fundamental metrics that can be achieved. An example might be the formation of an At-Large Structure in every country...



3. How can you qualify the role of At-Large in ICANN global mission and in the evolution of Multistakeholder Model?

The At-Large is an essential building blocks of the ICANN model: The At-Large is inherently multistakeholder, people join - either as participants in organizations representing users' interests, or as individuals themselves. Whatever their day job, they seek to represent the interests of individual Internet users. At-Large provides global representation more diverse any other SO/AC. The At-Large is very important to ICANN's legitimacy as stewards of a global resource, to our bottom-up, consensus driven model, and to our efforts to act always in the global public interest. I have been very impressed with the At-Large capacity building and policy participation on matters that very clearly need a user's perspective.

At-Large will continue to bring new voices to ICANN. EURALO has been successful in this regard, we see a healthy mix of both new and experienced people, backgrounds and ideas. I hope to support this positive trend.



4. What are your ideas regarding Euralo ALSes participation in GSE activities in Europe?

I have asked Adam Peake to serve as the Engagement Team liaison to EURALO, working very closely with the At-Large staff team of ICANN Org. We will be represented on your upcoming EURALO calls to provide updates on our activities and to indicate opportunities for ALS participation. I want to be sure that ALSes are also connected to the GSE regional managers responsible for their country – Adam Peake, Gabriella Schitteck or Andrea Beccalli.

I will be based in Brussels, but traveling widely, and hope to meet with all the EURALO ALSes eventually!

I have also always pledged that if an ALS or member can create a gathering of 10 or more people, I will find a way for our team, working with community members, to provide a webinar on any topic of mutual interest. An example of such a gathering is the ICANN post-meeting reports (read-outs) that are conducted in some regions. These can be Q&A sessions in local languages to review the highlights of an ICANN Public Meeting. EURALO is well positioned to help with such an activity.



5. What help are you waiting and hoping for from Euralo leadership in your new position?

As I mentioned already, I think there is a great opportunity for EURALO to help us as a conduit of information to wider audiences as well as a monitor of the wishes and sentiments of the user community in Europe. I think EURALO is also well-placed to reach new parts of Europe and new communities. I encourage everyone to review the ICANN strategic objectives so we can collaborate on achieving them.

On a personal level, I am very grateful for the warm welcome from EURALO. I have worked and studied in Europe in the past, but it has been a number of years, so your advice, guidance, creative ideas and constructive criticisms are always very welcome. I have already had some fashion advice from an Italian stakeholder!

Global Stakeholder Engagement Europe

Chris Mondini: <https://www.icann.org/profiles/273> (languages: English, French and Spanish)

Andrea Beccalli: <https://www.icann.org/profiles/147> (languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese)

Gabriella Schitteck: <https://www.icann.org/profiles/315> (languages: Swedish, English, German, Polish, basic Russian)

Adam Peake: <https://www.icann.org/profiles/16583> (languages: English (Japanese))