

**16 June 2021, 12.30 – 14.00 UTC**

**At-Large EURALO Policy Session: New gTLDs: Protection of Geographical Names in Europe**

**Objective:**

Review and discuss the proposed protections afforded by the recent Subsequent Procedures policy development procedure (PDP) on the eventual creation of new 'generic' Top Level Domains (gTLDs).

**1. Welcome and introduction (3 min)**

- Sébastien Bachollet, Chair European Regional At Large Organisation (EURALO), France

**2. Introduction of the speaker and to the topic (3 min)**

- Sandra Hoferichter, Chair of Medienstadt Leipzig e.V. and of the Board of Directors of EURid, Germany

**3. Presenting the position of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) - Advice to the ICANN Board on the Sub-Pro Report (3 min)**

- Yrjö Länsipuro, ALAC-GAC Liaison, Finland

**4. Geographical Indications in the Domain Name System (DNS) (3 min)**

- Francis Fay, Head of Unit DG Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission, Belgium

**5. The example of India - legislation on protecting geo-names and geographical indications (3 min)**

- Latha Nair, K&S Partners | Intellectual Property Attorneys, India

**6. Reserved and protected geo-name TLDs: Practical considerations: legal, administrative aspects of eventual policy. (3 min)**

- Giovanni Seppia, EURid, Italy

**7. Question / answers and discussion with the audience (~70 min)**

**Rapporteur**

- Lucien Castex, EURALO, France

**CVs**

**Francis Fay** is Head of the Unit responsible for geographical indications in DG Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission. Francis has more than 20 years' experience of policy on geographical indications, agricultural standards and value-adding schemes, having been involved in more than one reform of EU GI policy. Previously, Francis was desk officer responsible for agricultural trade negotiations with the US and Canada, notably on trade in wines and spirit drinks.

**Yrjö Länsipuro** a EURALO Board member and the vice president of the Finnish ALS, ISOC-Finland, and the ALAC Liaison to the GAC in the past 5 years. His background is in journalism and public diplomacy. While working in government service, he represented Finland in the GAC.

**Latha R. Nair** chairs the trademark, copyright and GI practice at the Indian IP boutique, K&S Partners. GIs is a niche area of her practice where she has had over 23 years of experience in protecting several Indian and international GIs including big names like Basmati rice, Darjeeling tea, Scotch Whisky, Champagne and Pisco. She has published a book as well as several articles on the issues pertaining to GIs, which are available on her firm's website [www.knspartners.com](http://www.knspartners.com)

**Giovanni Seppia** is the External Relations Manager at EURid since late 2007. In this function, he coordinates a 20 people's team from all over Europe who are in charge of EURid relations with registrars and registrants, communications, marketing, contractual compliance, international relations and relations with the European institutions. The External Relations team is also in charge of managing the lists of reserved and blocked domain names under the .eu TLD. In his capacity as External Relation Manager, over the past thirteen years Giovanni has worked together with the European Commission to update these lists and to investigate the option to expand the list to include "geographical indications".

**Lucien Castex** is the representative for public policy of Afnic and currently serves as the co-chair of the French Internet Governance Forum' Steering Committee and as a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the UN Internet Governance Forum. In addition, Lucien is an associate researcher at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle and the co-lead of the Internet Governance and regulation research group (CNRS, Centre Internet et Société).

**Sandra Hoferichter** is the Secretary General of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), the European IGF. Nowadays as Chair of Medienstadt Leipzig e.V., a German non-profit organisation, she became involved in Internet Governance matters in 2006 by coordinating inter alia, the European Summer School on Internet Governance (EuroSSIG). Since 2020 she is also Chair of the Board of Directors of EURid.