WOLF LUDWIG:

Thank you, everybody, for joining our November monthly telephone conference. I'm very pleased to see some new names, some I have seen from our last call. At our last call, as some of you may remember, I was a bit handicapped because Adobe Connect didn't work with me. This time I had no problems and it makes chairing a monthly call much easier having this important tool like Adobe Connect for this.

So welcome to our call and let me start with our usual agenda, what is in the first part the standing issues and the roll call and the apologies. And I would like staff to go through this part. You have the floor.

KATHY SCHNITT:

Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is the EURALO monthly meeting on Tuesday the 18th of November 2014 at 19:00 UTC.

On the call today we have Wolf Ludwig, Yuliya Morenents, Jordi Iparraguirre, Jean-Jacques Subernant, Dick Kalkman, Yrjo Lansipuro, Greta Jeske, Lianna Galstyan, Christoph Bruch, Pedro Veiga, Palemena Popova, Siranush Vardanyan, and Olivier Crepin-Leblond.

We have apologies from Veronica Cretu, Sandra Hoferichter, William Drake, Roberto Gaetano, and Oksana Prykhodko

From staff we have Silvia Vivanco and Heidi Ullrich will be joining us shortly; and myself, Kathy Schnitt.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

I'd like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes. Wolf, back over to you.

WOLF LUDWIG: Thanks a lot, Kathy, for this roll call and the next agenda item is review of the action items from our last October call. If you have a look, if you click on this sub-page, you will see that there were only two action items listed, what is reconsidering the format and the way we conduct our monthly call, whether we should add new elements like capacity building, webinars or presentations of particular ALSes. What could be more attractive for such calls? We will come back to these questions later during our meeting and in our agenda.

So far for the moment there is nothing open, and if there are no questions regarding these action times from our last call, I would like to go to our next agenda item, what is point three, what is the usual ALAC briefing on ongoing consultations at the moment. And as usual, it's Olivier who has the floor. Can you hear us, Olivier?

I hear no response. Perhaps he is muted in the Adobe Connect. He is set to be…

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Wolf, thanks for this. I just have one small technical problem at the moment, Wolf. I haven't got the page for the public consultation. So, if you go to the next agenda item and then come back to me in two minutes then I'll be on the page and I'll be able to brief you through it, if that's okay with you.

WOLF LUDWIG: This is fine with me. Thanks, Olivier, and we can quickly go to agenda item four, what was EuroDIG planning process for the year in 2015.

We have had this item at our last call already where I shortly informed about ongoing process, which is particularly in October. We opened our call for proposals and the annual EuroDIG program is based on the input of the communities; therefore, this is a very important step in our annual milestones.

The call for proposals will last until the end of December and everybody, including all you at the call, are invited to submit proposals for the Sofia agenda in June, 2015. When I talk about a call for proposals, we are not looking for session proposals, but we are looking for topics. So any topic you think you find would be interesting or important to be discussed in Sofia, particularly regarding the situation in South and Eastern European countries. All your ideas and proposals are welcome.

At the end of the call for proposals early January next year, we are doing a compilation of all proposals received, and this compilation of proposals will serve as a basis for discussion at the first open planning meeting, which will be on 27th of January 2015 in Sofia itself.

The open planning meeting is, as the name says, open to the community and everybody who can make it to Sofia and who is interested to participate in this open planning meeting is welcome. So this is for the moment the most important state of art in the planning process for EuroDIG 2015 and this will be a standing item on our next agendas of our monthly calls and we will keep you updated on this.If

you have any questions or comments regarding the EuroDIG planning process?

I know that some of you have been involved in the last one what was in June of this year in Berlin, and the planning process is small as was standardized by now and but holding such a conference in a Eastern European country signifies a completely new challenge, not only for the organizing team but also for the community.

Any questions, comments on this? I see no hand raised. If there are no questions, I would like to ask Olivier now whether he is ready.

CHRISTOPH BRUCH: Can you hear me, Wolf? This is Christoph speaking.

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes. I can hear you, Christoph. Please, you have the floor.

CHRISTOPH BRUCH: I put in two. I put a question concerning the concrete date, whether that is set already, and I put a suggestion there that is concerning the Internet tax in Hungary.

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes. I've just realized that you put your question in the chat. Yes. The date for Sofia next summer has already been fixed. It's at the beginning of June. It's the fourth and the fifth of June 2015, and this will be the main EuroDIG event.

But we are already with some of the stakeholder groups from Eastern Europe, we are already discussing a pre-event, what would be a day-long discussion about the particular concerns and the assessment of the situation in Eastern European countries. So a discussion as the result from the pre-event would more or less feed into the main event on the fourth and the fifth of June.

Regarding your next question whether the Internet tax in Hungary will be a topic. Well, you can make it a topic. You can just make a suggestion via the EuroDIG website where you have the template for the call for proposals and you can simply deposit this question Internet tax in Hungary.

I know I have seen that it is very much contested. There have been announcements that it will be withdrawn, etc. I have even seen that the new commissioner for a digital economy in Europe, a German guy called Mr. Oettinger, has raised his voice and has said something that Internet tax would be a good idea. So therefore, this may even become a broader issue not only for Hungary.

I don't know what will pop up until next year, but I can only invite and encourage you, Christoph, just make it as a suggestion that it will be listed about topics for next year.

I see your feedback. Thanks. So I guess your questions have been answered.

Are there any more questions? If this is not the case, I'm now asking Olivier again. Olivier, you are ready for agenda item three?

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OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yes, Wolf, thank you. I am ready indeed. Can you hear me?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes. We can hear you clearly.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I apologize for the background noise, which is due to we just had a cocktail for the IANA stewardship transition issues over in Frankfurt so things are just all happening at the same time. Anyway, back to the policy development.

We have a number of statements that are currently being developed or endorsed. The one that has been done recently was a statement on the draft document from the GAC subgroup on geographic names. That one was approved with 13 votes in favor.

The GAC is the Government Advisory Committee. They have worked quite extensively on defining geographic names and finding out the way to deal with them with regards to their protection and so on. So the ALAC wrote a statement and that's out there now and it's been adopted.

There are currently four statements that are being developed. Actually, three of them being developed, one of them being a charter thing.

The first one that you'll see on the agenda is the Cross Community Working Group charter. In fact, it's Cross Community Working Group on

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Accountability charter. As you know, there is a cross-community working group on IANA Stewardship Transition where the U.S. government is currently doing and moving out of and trying to find a solution to the removal of the U.S. government and having some replacement system or body or whatever it is. That's why I'm in Frankfurt for.

But parallel to this, there is a cross-community working group that has been created for the accountability issues and that group will actually be working according to its charter in two different tracks. One track will feed directly into the IANA process. That will be a very short track because we are under very short time constraints to actually get the results and make sure that ICANN is accountable for those specific issues of the IANA functions.

Then there is a second track that will take a much longer amount of time that will actually be reviewing accountability across all of ICANN and going much deeper into reviewing the accountability processes and if anything needs to actually be implemented or set up to expand on the accountability. And that's what the charter describes at the moment.

We've had two members of the At-Large that were in the committee that drafted the charter and the ALAC is now voting on this charter. Once the ALAC has voted on it and has ratified the charter, I hear that the Generic Names Supporting Organization has also ratified the charter, the other supporting organizations and advisory committees of ICANN will need to also recognize and ratify the charter and that will then make this cross community work group.

I remind you through this that there has also been a call for members of this cross-community working group, and so anybody who is interested in taking part in this cross community working group should send an expression of interest to At-Large staff. Hopefully, staff is putting their e-mail address on the chat and putting a pointer to the location which explains what this cross-community working group on accountability will work on. There will be one member from each region of At-Large that will be selected to be on this cross-community working group. It's a very, very important track and that's why I'm taking the time on this specifically.

There are three statements that the ALAC is currently working on. The first one is the public interest commitment ALAC review, and that's effectively a follow up of our previous statement on the public interest commitments.

The ALAC is on record for saying that the current system of public interest commitments, which is basically a document that is filed with an application for a new generic top-level domain, these ones are not particularly good. If you read through some of these public interest commitments, you will find out that some of them actually say at the bottom of those documents, "We reserve the right to disregard any of the commitments we have made above."

Obviously, that's not good enough for us. The commitments are not even worth the paper that they are written on. So we are asking for a much stronger way to look at these public interest commitments and for them to be also enforceable by ICANN one way or the other.

And one of the concerns has been with strings, which are what are called category one strings. These are strings that applicants have applied for, for new top-level domains, but are controversial in some way.

They might be controversial as far as intellectual property is concerned. They might be controversial in a various number of ways, and so far not very much has been done with regards to those strings. The Government Advisory Committee has published several statements and several communiques about those strings saying, "Hang on. These are strings which we really need to be looking at in further detail before these are allocated."

But ICANN has so far continued allocating those and has actually signed contracts with some of those strings. Let's say, for example, .health or .medic or things that are health related or .bank for example, or strings that might be used for fraud in the future. We need to be sure that Internet end users are not going to be defrauded when they go onto a website in the future that uses one of these top-level domains.

This is an issue of trust. It's a core issue for us and that's why we pushed in our first statement for a freeze on the allocation of these strings until ICANN finds a solution. When we mean ICANN, we mean ICANN and its communities, finds a solution to this problem and make sure that the public interest is sustained and that at the same time we're going to be seeing a minimization of fraud in the use of these strings.

Just like the GAC says, "We need to have some safeguards in these strings and they need to be run in a special way." Because some have

been allocated so far, some are saying in ICANN and on the GAC as well and on the ICANN Board are saying, "Well, you know, we've already gone too far with this. They've already been allocated. We can't go back. We'll just have to continue allocating those and find a solution in the meantime."

That's not a solution that the At-Large Advisory Committee finds satisfactory. So we are now – we asked in our last statement on this that those category one string allocations be frozen until we find a solution.

There has been a lot of push-back admittedly from those organizations that are applying for these strings, and because of the push back, we now are publishing a follow up statement that is effectively pushing and providing the board with details of what we want done and why we want that done. I really encourage you to read through that statement. As I said, it's at its final stage of being voted on. But it's particularly important that you are aware of this and you can share this with your At-Large structures. We really need all the support we can get on that.

Next, the ICANN draft five-year operating plan. This has been recently published and you will see that the operating plan shows effectively what's going to take place in ICANN and how much money is going to be spent in this and that, and more on an operational level than on a strategic level.

The ALAC is currently considering drafting a statement, and when we mean that, it really is the finance and budget subcommittee of the ALAC is considering drafting a statement.

I invite you to have a read through the operating plan and if you see or find that anything stands out and that you totally disagree with – or indeed the other way around, something that you totally agree with – then it would be great to have your input on this and to help the ALAC Finance and Budget Subcommittee to draft a statement. Hopefully, that should move forward pretty soon. We still have some time on that I believe until I think the end of the month.

The next one is the new generic top-level domain auction rules for direct contention. Now, this is something that's brand new, that's just come out.

One of the things that happens when you have many different applicants for the same string, in effect the organization that ends up being able to run the string is the organization that wins an auction that ICANN puts together and runs, which effectively shows the organization with the deepest pockets. Now, this is not something that we're particularly happy with, but it's the way that it was designed in the applicant guidebook. So there are a few modifications that are currently being looked at.

It is quite an involved topic. You need to know a little bit about the way the auctions run and the auctioning process runs. It's an interesting process. It's interesting to see how things work in a very commercial sense, but there might be some points that the ALAC might wish to be saying about this.

So I invite you – it's still very early on in this process. The comment closing date is on the 14th of December. But I invite you to read this and

[point out] if you think the ALAC should be saying something about this, should be voicing its opinion on that. Now is the time to do it.

The way to do it as usual is to go on the Wiki page, which is linked from the agenda, click on there and log in to the confluence Wiki system and type in your comment underneath. If you want to hold the pen, I remind you all that you do not need to be an ALAC member, committee member as such, anyone can be the pen holder for a statement.

In fact, we encourage as many people as possible to hold the pen. We need to have a diverse set of views, and a varied number of pen holders is always a good thing. In fact, you could be a co-holder of the pen. So have a couple of other people hold the pen with you and come up with a first draft, collect the feedback, go through the second draft, etc.

There are three more open public comments at the moment that are shown on our agenda. One is to do with the .ngo, .ong registry agreement amendment. I think the ALAC did not actually put any statements through the first time around, so I don't think we have any objections to the bundling of second-level domains with regards to this. And as a result, it's been decided that there would be no statement. If you think otherwise, please voice your concern right now and we will be able to open it and draft a statement on this.

There's also a complex one. Inter registrar transfer policy [inaudible] policy development process recommendations for ICANN board consideration. We have had several instances in the past of being able to comment on this and we have commented on this. What I understand from the process is that our concerns have been taken into

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account, so the ALAC chair has voiced the fact that at the moment no statement appears to be necessary. We really are in the very final stages of this process here.

And then finally, the .madrid introduction of two approved launch programs. That's, again a specific string, .madrid. There are two programs that they're trying to launch and put together. So far, it doesn't look as though it's something that's core to our concerns or to end user concerns. If you think otherwise, then please voice your concern and then we'll proceed forward with drafting a statement for it.

That's it for the current consultations. Just before I give the floor back to Wolf, I invite you to have a look. You've got a link here to the policy advice development page. That's the page which has got all of our pipeline of policy work that is constantly updated by Ariel Liang, staff member in charge of policy. It's always good to check periodically because the policy work that we do is core to the ALAC. That's what we're here for. So I hand the floor back over to Wolf, and if there are any questions, I am happy to answer them right now.

WOLF LUDWIG: Thanks a lot, Olivier, for this concise briefing of ALAC consultations and affairs. Are there immediate questions or comments to Olivier, to one of the points he mentioned and referred to?

I see no hand raised. Nobody seems to have a question.

I have a question, Olivier. Before you started, you had said that you are in Frankfurt at the moment. I guess this may be one of the ICANN

meetings, which was scheduled and convened in Frankfurt. Can you quickly say what the Frankfurt meeting is about?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yes, Wolf. Thank you for reminding me of this. I was actually meant to be speaking about this as well. This is all part of the work that we do.

As you might know, the U.S. government has announced a few months ago that it would step back from assuming the function stewarding the IANA function. Now, the IANA functions are actually part of what ICANN does. It's a separate department that deals directly with three things.

The coordination of vertical parameters around the world. That is primarily done by the Internet Engineering Task Force. They're designing the protocol parameters. The register of protocol parameters is done by IANA and the U.S. government oversees this to make sure everything runs properly and procedures are adhered to.

The second is to do with internet protocol address. So IP addresses, the numbers that your computers use to get connected to the Internet. These are primarily distributed – in fact, they are distributed – by the regional Internet registries, and in Europe it is RIPE. They are the organization that distributes IP addresses to organizations, and the end organizations Internet service providers and so on use these in order to connect you to the Internet. This coordination is all done through the NRO (the Number Resource Organization) that is like an umbrella organization that works directly with ICANN, and the register of all this is kept within ICANN. And again, the U.S. government oversees what goes on there.

The third function is dealing with the top-level domains. The root zone as it's called contains all of the top-level domains in the world and ICANN and the IANA is in charge of keeping tack and of publishing that root zone whenever there's an update and so on. There's a whole process that takes place. And again, the U.S. government is actually overseeing this and makes sure that protocols and that addresses and that names are allocated and re-allocated and modifications are done according to certain procedures.

Now, the U.S. government about five-six months ago – I lose track of time – has announced that they will now retreat from this. So they will not have any more control over what goes in the root, what doesn't go in the root, over anything in fact. But what they would like is to have some kind of process, some proposal to be made by the multi-stakeholder community to replace their stewardship.

Now, there are various levels to this of course. There's a contractual level to it because all of the contracts at the moment are with the U.S. government. The IETF (the Internet Engineering Taskforce), which is a sub organization of the Internet society, has a contract with the U.S. government and ICANN has a contract with the U.S. government on the other side and that's the defining bridge between the two organizations. When the U.S. government goes away, what happens? You have to change the contracts.

At the same time, there are accountability issues and oversight issues, which are particularly important. So far, the U.S. government has acted, we would say, in the public interest making sure the process is run properly.

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If they step away, who's going to assume that? Is it going to be a separate organization? Is it going to be a part of ICANN or a committee within ICANN? Is it going to be a trust organization that's going to be, again separate, but following a different legal model? Would it be a new organization based in Geneva, let's say, or in Switzerland, let's say, or something? There are many different ways, many different solutions that could be explored.

Now, the three operational communities – the names community, the IP address community and the protocols community – have to come up now with proposals that will be put together and that will be presented to the U.S. Department of Commerce for the end of September 2015. But, of course, those proposals have to work together.

So the names community, which is effectively ICANN and ICANN communities, so that the different supporter organizations and advisory committees have come together and started a cross-community working group on IANA stewardship transitions naming issues. But because this is a very controversial subject and some of the component parts of ICANN would just like to have registries dealing with the oversight of this, because they are their primarily concerned customers of IANA.

Others are saying, "Well, hang on. We need to have some multi-stakeholder process." And then some are saying, "Well, the IANA function should really be taken out of ICANN and put into a new organization." Others are saying exactly the opposite.

In order to be able to find a solution, there's a two-day meeting which has been set up, that is taking place in Frankfurt starting tomorrow. Well, tonight is the opening thing where we're all smiling, but tomorrow we're in the board room for the whole day and the day after as well, so Wednesday and Thursday, a full two days of the different supporting organizations, advisory committees, and that includes the Country Code Names supporting organization, the Generic Names supporting organization, of course the ALAC, the Security and Stability advisory committee, the SSAC, and others – the ASO, the Address Supporting Organization. They're all somehow here and we'll all be discussing the scenarios moving forward.

We have at the moment several strawmen proposals on the table, the groups have to go through them and find out the just proposal that will satisfy everyone and find consensus on this.

As I said, there are very different views in there, so we really need to be making a choice. It's going to be a hard discussion, but I really have high hopes that we will find a solution that will reflect the consensus and that will be satisfactory to everyone.

The ALAC point of view is that we should have and we have sent a poll out recently to the At-Large membership and we've also sent a poll to our IANA Issues Working Group. We have a working group on this.

By the way, just a quick run on there. If you are interested in these issues, I really recommend that you join that IANA Issues Working Group. Those groups have said, "Well, we need something that is multi-stakeholder in nature." The oversight has to be multi-stakeholder. At

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least controlled by multi-stakeholder system. We cannot have just a single pipe of organization. Whether it's private, whether it's a government, we cannot give that power to just one organization. So multi-stakeholder in nature.

With regards to IANA itself, whether it should be within ICANN, it should remain within ICANN, or whether it should be separated and put as a separate organization, well, the majority point of view in At-Large is that we should keep it within ICANN, because at the end of the day, we do have that direct input into the ICANN processes. That said, others are thinking something completely.

So far, we're just at day minus one, so I can't really give you much forecast of which way it's going to go, but it's going to be an interesting two days.

If you're interested in listening or even participating in the process, the reunion is public. So if you're in Frankfurt, I wouldn't advise that you come down here. I don't think the room is large enough to accommodate more people, but certainly, remote participation.

It's open to everyone. It's all transparent, so it's open to everyone to participate. I hope that staff is able to send a pointer in the chat that will point you to the meeting that will take place tomorrow and the day after and be able to show. You can participate. You can even bring your input forward and you'll be able to speak as well. This is not something that's just restricted to the people that will be in the room.

I think I've spoken a little too much about this. But this provides you a very full picture of where we are and where we're going, and as I said, it starts tomorrow. I think it's 8:30 AM Central European time.

WOLF LUDWIG: Thanks a lot, Olivier, for this additional and detailed explanations about the Frankfurt meeting. By the way, Olivier is representing EURALO at this meeting etc., and as he said, anybody who is interested, I guess staff may post the respective links to this meeting in the chat and anybody who is interested to follow up on this in more detail could do this via remote participation tomorrow.

Are there any questions regarding the Frankfurt meeting and issues to Olivier? Any comments from your side? I see no hands raised. Thanks again to Olivier for all his elaborations and let's continue with our agenda.

Before Olivier could step in with agenda item three, I started with agenda item four, the planning forces for Sofia already, and I explained the milestones and the ongoing call for proposals and there was Jean-Jacques who wanted to come back to this agenda item. Jean-Jacques, you have the floor please.

JEAN-JACQUES SUBERNANT: Thank you, Wolf. Can everyone hear me?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes. Go ahead.

JEAN-JACQUES SUBERNANT: Yes. I would like to put up for you the suggestion for an overarching theme for EuroDIG 2015 in Sofia. In the same way that I had proposed the overarching theme, which was retained, in fact, for the ATLAS II meeting in London. The one I had proposed on which was agreed upon for London was the user perspective. So the Internet today and the user perspective.

Now I would like to propose for the meeting in Sofia the following. It would be called Internet governance [towards] European perspectives. Now, why European perspectives? Because I think that we would be able to put under this general heading Internet governance European perspectives several things.

First of all, we take stock of how things have evolved worldwide, [I believe], since NETmundial [inaudible].

Second, it would be also an opportunity to try to bring the attention of governments and organizations such as ICANN, ISOC, etc. back to what is often [inaudible] or minimized, which is the Internet user perspectives.

Third, it would also be a very good opportunity to take stock of what already exists or what is being proposed on the European level for, for instance, human rights on the Internet, etc. I think that it's quite clear that European models have great value for other parts of the world. For instance, the work which was done by Council of Europe remains quite forward looking.

Finally, it would be the opportunity to take stock of how Internet governance is viewed in other parts of the world. This would allow us EuroDIG members to come out of our sometimes too exclusively European shell and to interact with other parts of the world. They may be interested in some [inaudible]] European legislation models, and we have to [ignore a bunch] of problems and the perspectives of Internet governance in all the other parts of the world. Thank you.

WOLF LUDWIG: Okay, thank a lot, Jean-Jacques, for these ideas and for your thoughts regarding potential overarching theme for next EuroDIG in Sofia. The selection of an overarching theme is part of the call for proposal process. This means you can either contribute with a topic for one of the sessions, or you can also contribute with a suggestion for an overarching theme during call for proposals procedures.

Then it's the authority of the planning meeting and all people who attend directly there or remotely. At this open planning meeting at the beginning of the year, we usually try to select the overarching theme for the next conference. So [it seems] this done in a bottom-up manner as well, and therefore I can just encourage you to submit your idea via the EuroDIG website, that it can be considered at our discussions during the open planning meeting end of January.

Are there any further [inaudible].

JEAN-JACQUES SUBERNANT: I just wanted to say thank you for that proposal. Actually, in five minutes, you will be seeing on the appropriate page for the EuroDIG my proposal in writing, which I have just made for you already. Thanks.

WOLF LUDWIG: Okay. Thanks to you, Jean-Jacques. I think one point is already very clear right from the beginning, that the agenda for the next EuroDIG will be much different compared to the last EuroDIG we had in Berlin.

So far, in my opinion, it was always sort of a deficit we faced over the last years organizing EuroDIG that most of the agendas there focused too much on Western European perceptions and Western European assessments of the situation. Therefore, the existing gap between Western and Southeastern European countries were only discussed in more or less marginal way.

I really do hope that during the call for proposals, we invited a lot of Eastern European existing networks already to contribute their own ideas, to participate in the call for proposals process. I really hope that we will end up with a lot more suggestions which particularly reflect the situation of Eastern European countries. This must be one of the key issues on the agenda. This could also reflect the overarching theme for next year, etc. But how to bridge the existing gap between east and west of Europe must be in the agenda of next EuroDIG, in my opinion. I am confident that we can make a big step forward into this direction.

Any further questions, comments from [your side] regarding agenda item 4, EuroDIG planning process for Sofia? As I said before, this will be

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a standing issue on our next call agenda, as usual, and we will come back to this and keep you updated on this.

If there are no questions and comments to point 4, I would like to go to the next agenda item, which is just as short. Briefing about Geneva Internet Conference, Internet Governance at a Crossroad.

Maybe some of you have heard about this already before. This initiative was partly created and promoted by the Diplo Foundation and partly supported by the Swiss government. It's more or less the first conference of probably several following up on this in Geneva, which was opened yesterday, Monday, in the afternoon by a keynote speech by Fadi Chehadé.

On the official program for today and tomorrow, there are more ICANN people involved, like the ICANN representative in Geneva. There are also people from EURALO directly involved – what is Bill Drake, what is [inaudible], what is Désirée Miloshevic, who will be on one of the panels over the next two days. On the link which is posted under agenda item, you can find more details about this conference.

I see Olivier has raised his hand. Olivier, you have the floor, please.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah, thank you very much, Wolf. Just to add that our own director, selected by At-Large, is over there at the moment as well. Rinalia Abdul Rahim is in Geneva, and she is also attending this conference.

WOLF LUDWIG:	Right. Sorry, I forgot to mention her, but thanks for the [accomplishment] on Rinalia, who was on a panel today already.
	Any further comment? Any further questions from your side on this briefing?
	Just one more thought from my side, what is besides the many conferences on Internet governance issues and so-called crossroads. There is one new added value on the agenda of this Geneva conference, what is remarkable involvement of UN bodies based in Geneva who have not been involved in Internet governance discourses so far. Therefore, this is a next step forward to make more and more UN bodies, like [Civipol] etc., there about these upcoming challenges etc. and to get some closure into the debate. Therefore, let's wait for the outcome of this conference, but I guess there might be some new incentives in this direction.
	Olivier, "Is [inaudible] an annual event?" I don't think it's a [fixed] annual event like EuroDIG so far, but it's not a one-time event. This Geneva initiative may come up with one or two annual events in the next year. So this is more or less sort of a pilot, and there will be on similar issues some more initiatives and conference following up next year and afterwards.
	Any further questions? I see no hands raised. Comments? Just have look on the link to the website of this initiative, and you can find some more interesting information on this.
	I see a question from Heidi: "Could EURALO plan a panel for the next conference?" Good question. Good point. If we had a good idea for

that, then it would be rather easy to get in contact with Jovan and Vlad Radunovic from Dilpo Foundation or some guys from the Swiss government who are closely involved there and to make such a suggestion.

I think this Geneva initiative is not the same bottom-up initiative and process like EuroDIG. This is something in between bottom-up and top-down. As we know the organizers pretty well, there would a chance, if we have a good idea for a panel at the next conference. There would be good chances that we could make something like this.

Further questions? Further comments from your side? I see Heidi is typing.

By the way, it could also be, [yes], At-Large who could make such a suggestion. This is not a European conference. It's an international conference. Therefore, we are close to Geneva. We have good connections to the organizers. But it also could be At-Large who could submit an idea to the organizers and follow up on this.

I guess this is something we have to keep in mind. First of all, I'm now waiting for the first, let's say, outcomes or results from the ongoing conference. Depending on this, we can have some more ideas on how to get involved and how to deal with this in future.

There's a comment from Siranush, "Veronica [inaudible] will be also one of the panelists." Yes, I mentioned Veronica Cretu. She is on a panel talking about access to public sector information. It's example of recent developments and projects in Moldavia. Access public sector information in the context of open access is a very important issue. I

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think Veronica, who is in charge of this [order] in her country, can make some good presentations on this.

Besides, others like Bill Drake and also Avri Doria I've seen is on two panels as well, somebody we know [quite well].

Further questions and comments regarding agenda item 5, Geneva Internet Conference?

If this is not the case, as we are running short of time, let me go to our next agenda item 6, members' participation at EURALO. This was an issue we shortly discussed at our last call already. I was very pleased, or even extremely pleased, when I saw the increasing number of participants attending our November call. We exceeded the critical line of more than ten participants. Usually it's more among us, and usually it was more among the usual suspects. I am very, very pleased about Christoph Bruch [inaudible], Jean-Jacques. [For] Jimmy, he is ALAC member, he is almost obliged to attend our monthly call. I am also pleased about Jordi, about [Yuliya], about Pedro, and Dick.

I would like to have more of this over our next calls, because I think what is now ahead of us is ideas for the EURALO planning and organization in 2015. We do not have for the moment any concrete project we had a year ago. Let me just recall a year ago, we were in a more or less comfortable situation, that it was the ICANN meeting in London and it was ATLAS II, which was foreseen for summer 2014 in London. In line with ATLAS II, there was another face-to-face general assembly for EURALO. We could plan long ahead.

At the moment, we do not have such concrete projects for 2015. Therefore, any ideas from your side, what could be an emphasis for EURALO's next year planning? Any of such ideas from your side are welcome. Please feel free to let me know or to post them on our EURALO list. I will, after this call in the next days, post a message on the EURALO list raising this question again, asking for suggestions how we could improve the participation of EURALO members during our monthly calls via different elements which were suggested at our last call.

One idea was to offer more capacity-building webinars for our members. This could be one option. I have seen when we offered such capacity-building webinars [tied] to the ATLAS II in London. There [have been] unfortunately not many participants from EURALO at the time.

But any good idea [who] may create an incentive is welcome. I think we have to follow this up also via our EURALO list, and then comments can be posted, etc., and discussed on our list.

Are there any ideas, suggestions from your side regarding this agenda item 6 and 7, how to improve participation of [inaudible]—

SILVIA VIVANCO: If I can—

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes, please, Silvia. Please speak up, Silvia.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, just from discussions [inaudible] have one idea to increase participation, even though it's something very cosmetic, if you wish, is to update [inaudible] EURALO [inaudible] with any activities that EURALO members have participated in – conference, webinars, seminars, and tell [people] where they are going and they are speaking about ICANN. They can put a link there or send us the link. Staff will be happy to put a link there and update activities so everybody can look at the EURLAO [inaudible] as a newspaper, if you wish, and check out what everybody else is doing. This is helping all the RALOs to build sense of community. So that would be one idea. Thank you.

WOLF LUDWIG: Okay. Thanks a lot, Silvia. I had partly difficulty to understand you in detail. Please, can you post your idea more clearly under the action items of our today's call? Your incentives or your suggestions will not be lost and can be considered for our further discussions on the subject.

Anyone from your side, from the participants of our today's call, is of course [apt] to contribute. One option is we have a EURALO workspace – let me be modest – which is not heavily frequented usually. This workspace is open for all of our members. Anybody who has attended an Internet-governance-related event during the last weeks, etc., can post, click "memo" or "note" on our workspace and shortly explain what was event about and how it could be related with our EURALO work.

There was another suggestion made by Heidi, what I really think is a good idea which didn't come up to my mind so far and what we should

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keep for the action items of our today's call as well. There will be a next ICANN meeting to my memory in autumn 2015, what will be an ICANN meeting supposed to be organized in Dublin. I think it was already decided.

What we could do for that Dublin meeting, what will be held in our region, is to submit a fiscal year 2016 special request and asking for funding to organize a face-to-face general assembly in line with the Dublin meeting. It would be more or less the same procedure I have followed, I have done two years ago, when we submitted such a fiscal year 2012/2013 request that finally allowed us to organize our general assembly in June 2013 in line with EuroDIG in Lisbon.

So thanks, Heidi, for pointing out to this option. I would like to ask Silvia to add this point also among our action items, that I will have a closer look on this.I could try together with Yuliya to submit such a special request for fiscal year 2016. It [wouldn't] be fiscal year 2015, because the fiscal year is always from middle of 2015 to 2016. As the Dublin meeting would be an autumn meeting, it would fit into this timing.

I have seen Heidi mentioned already the Dublin meeting will be between the 18th and 22nd, October 2015. It is confirmed already, and face-to-face meeting, ICANN meeting in our region is a good idea, yes. This should be noted. This is one of the first concrete ideas which popped up now during this call in the discussion for ideas for EURALO planning and organization for 2015. We keep this in mind, and we will follow up on this.

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Are there any further questions or suggestions from your side? Please raise your hands. Please use the opportunity.

Heidi was just commenting that she thinks we would have a very good chance of getting such a face-to-face general assembly. I think it would be stupid not to try it. I tried it several times before in previous years, 2010/2011. 2012, I was rather frustrated because we repeatedly asked for it, and it was never. But then in 2013 for Lisbon, we were lucky, and for the first time we got approval for this. I think it's worth the effort to try it again.

YULIYA MORENENTS: Do you hear me, Wolf? Can I speak?

WOLF LUDWIG: Yes, please, go ahead, whoever.

YULIYA MORENENTS: I'm not on Adobe, so I couldn't [raise the hand]. I want to just record I think it's a great idea, and we definitely should [work this] [inaudible]. It will be great opportunity to [address], so I'm [inaudible].

WOLF LUDWIG: Okay. Okay. I think it was Yuliya who was speaking, yes.

YULIYA MORENENTS: Yes, thank you.

WOLF LUDWIG: I think, yes, we have to follow up.

Any further questions, ideas, comments? Please go ahead [inaudible]. If it's not the case, because we are ten minutes behind our time schedule, let me thank all of you deeply for your participation at this call. As I said before, I was very impressed about the number of participants, and I hope we will get a similar impressive number of participants for our next monthly call, which will be the last of this year. It's the second part of December. Let me just have a quick look on . . .

Yes, it will be the third Tuesday of the month. Tuesday is the 16th December. Please fix the date, note it in your agenda already. It must be the third one before the Christmas break. I hope to welcome all of you, most of you, at our next call. Thanks for your participation tonight, and I wish you an excellent evening. Thanks, and goodbye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]