



**Activity  
report  
2005**



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# Introduction by the President

## AFNIC is changing in a changing world...

It would not be incorrect to say that the French Network Information Center -AFNIC- is a paradoxical association:

- inaugurated at the initiative of the public authorities, it has not been granted the status of a public body;
- a non-profit association exercising a monopoly role, it has not been exempted from common law business taxes;
- although not having the shareholder base enjoyed by limited companies, it nevertheless adopts their organisational structures (GM, BoD, DG etc.).



This list could go on but we need to remain within the dual constraints of available space, imposed by the publisher, and basic courtesy towards the reader.

And just who is the reader?

For the first time, AFNIC is this year entering into a communications exercise via its activity report:

- new presentation which is not intended as a poetic fancy, a traditional management report or an advertising catalogue;
- new targets embracing an audience beyond our readers alone and leading to the idea of a presentation brochure describing the challenges, the aims, the objectives and resources as well as the organisation, the mode of operation, the events and the areas of development.

Initially under the auspices of INRIA following its low-key inception in 1987, AFNIC became independent in January 1998 at the instigation of its first director general.

Research director and therefore a researcher himself, but also a «discoverer», a leader inspired by his mission, who gave birth to the term «co-development» and gave a practical dimension to this great ambition, Jean-Yves Babonneau deserves special praise.

The new design of our activity report chosen for 2005 needs to accord him a special place because it was in November of this year that he elected to take his retirement after participating actively at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

The newly designed activity report goes hand in hand with AFNIC's new Director General. A warm welcome, therefore, to Mathieu Weill and every success in the future for AFNIC and its personnel.

Jean-Claude Gorichon  
President of the Board of Directors

# Foreword

## New challenges, new strategies



*«2005 was more than just a year of transition, it was also a year of consolidation and consultation»*

Sandwiched between two extensions, 2005 could simply have been a year of transition. In practice, though, the dynamism of the May 2004 extension has snowballed thanks to the excellent state of the sector, in particular in terms of e-business and on-line advertising. The *.fr* and *.re* registry has consequently expanded at a healthy rate: the number of administered domains grew by 33% over the year going well beyond the 400,000 name mark.

Within this context of intense operational activity, AFNIC has worked intensely to prepare for the opening up of *.fr* to private individuals by focusing very strongly on consultation. This step, scheduled for 20 June 2006, will represent the culmination of a process of successive extensions which commenced more than five years ago. Its preparation is already greatly influencing the form AFNIC will take in the years to come and the environment in which it will operate. The simplicity and automation of the registration mechanisms adopted in 2005 are key factors in its success and must serve as a reference for future developments; the interest shown by private individuals in domain names is opening up new prospects for our registrars; finally, the *.fr* namespace will benefit from a second

dimension complementing the economic space which it constitutes today by making it a space for freedom and personal expression.

In the face of this major forthcoming development, AFNIC possesses strengths which it worked to consolidate in 2005: the structuring of its organisation, the boosting of its information system, the strengthening of its international position etc. But, most importantly, it has striven to reinforce its links with its partners, the first among these being the registrars. The setting up of technical, marketing and communications working groups and legal workshops has provided the tools necessary for this enhanced cooperation which is an essential prerequisite if the objectives in terms of service quality and the development of the namespaces for which AFNIC is responsible are to be met. The participants in these working groups have been able to measure just how carefully the Association listens to their opinions and how intent it is on establishing long-term partnerships with them.

AFNIC now enjoys a robust financial, technical and structural base which makes it possible to anticipate the extension of domain names to private individuals with confidence. However, this dynamic development will go much further and there is no shortage of projects: enhancement of the range of advanced services such as IDNs or DNSSec, closer partnerships with registrars to promote *.fr* and encourage future innovation, research and development concerning the future of the DNS and Internet identifiers etc.

As an association in accordance with the law of 1901, AFNIC belongs to its members who represent all the actors involved in the Internet. It strives to offer them a high-quality service which meets their expectations. Given this perspective, 2005 was far more than a transitional year: it was a year of consolidation and consultation. It made it possible to strengthen the avenues of communication between AFNIC and its partners, thus permitting dialogue to develop in the type of calm, confident environment which is essential if we are to realise our joint ambitions. AFNIC's teams are dedicated to ensuring that 2006 brings about the successful extension of domain names to private individuals and sees the continuation of this constructive communication.

Mathieu Weill  
Director General

# 1

## Active in the development of the Internet in France... in the general interest

**Dedicated to the respect for the general interest ever since its inception, AFNIC strives to defend important principles in its function as .fr and .re registry.**

At a very early stage, it demonstrated its determination that domain name owners should respect applicable rights, and in particular intellectual property rights, while equally including in its charters the principles of non-discrimination and fairness in the attribution of domain names.

At the technical level, it has always ensured that its registrars respect Internet standards before delegating a domain name.

In the desire to involve the maximum possible number of parties in its considerations, it has also drawn up rules to ensure transparency as attested to by the transparent operation of its deliberative and consultative bodies.

From its inception, AFNIC has wanted to offer high-quality services while respecting third-party rights and reducing costs. Its activities have been designed to extend Internet access to the greatest possible number of public and private actors.

In its commitment to the general interest, AFNIC is determined to:

- constantly improve the registry services in the French part of the Internet;
- fully exert its role as a contributor to Internet governance in its fields of activity while also involving Internet users;
- contribute to the development of the information society in France and internationally.

## A balanced representation of public and private interests



Apart from the general meeting, which is characteristic of all associative structures, AFNIC also possesses a board of directors consisting of ten members, with:

- Five representatives being designated by the founder members, namely:
  - the Institut national de recherche en informatique et en automatique (INRIA = National Institute for Information Technology and Automation Research) (two representatives);
  - the State represented by the ministry responsible for telecommunications, the ministry responsible for industry and the ministry responsible for research (three representatives in total).
- Five representatives of the members elected at the general meeting by and from each of the three categories below and distributed as follows:
  - two representatives of registrars who are members of the consultative committee (elected on 11/06/2004: Indomco and NordNet);
  - two representatives of users who are members of the consultative committee (elected on 11/06/2004: Aysel and the Paris Chamber of Trade and Industry);
  - one representative of the international correspondents (elected on 11/06/2004: NIC Senegal).

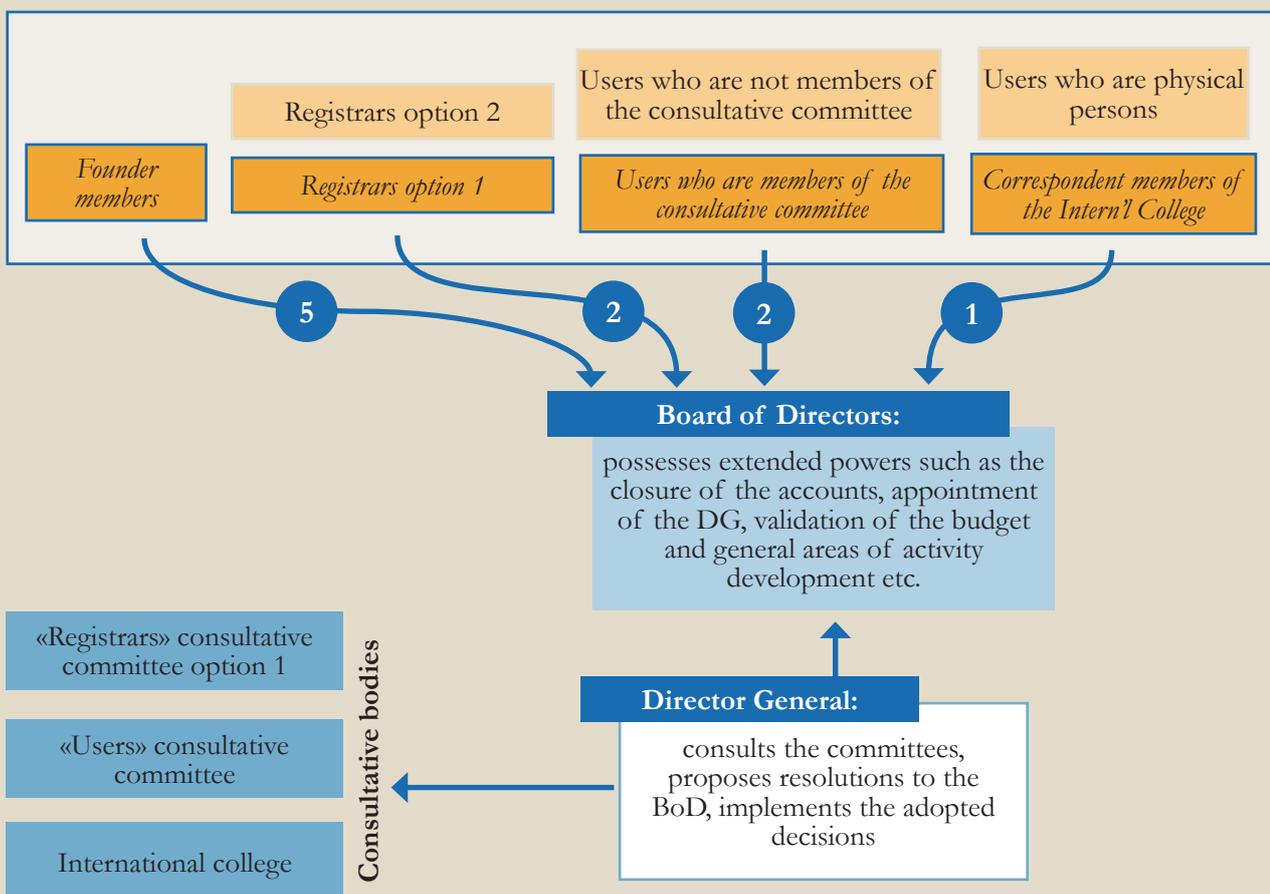
## Constant communications with the local Internet community

In an approach which is open to all, AFNIC relies on the recommendations made by two «consultative committees» which meet regularly to discuss the major avenues of development and the structural choices envisaged by AFNIC.

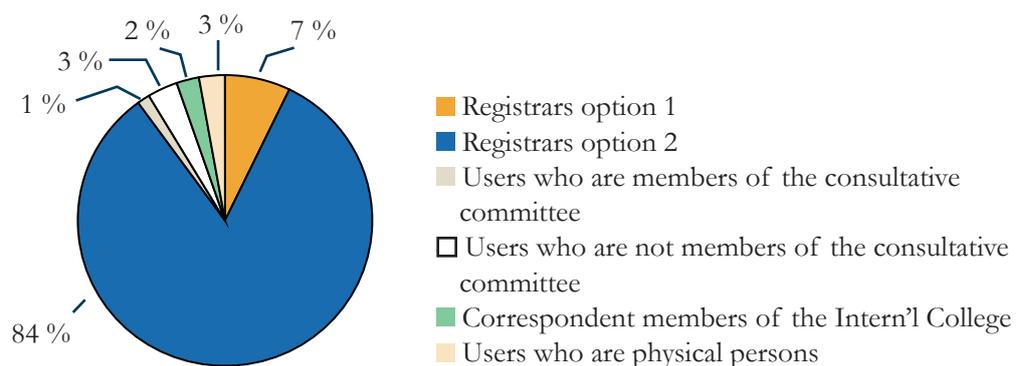
In addition, the International College is an innovative institution which expresses the desire to invigorate AFNIC's relations with its French-speaking correspondents, thus pursuing the aim of co-development stated by the association's founders.

The diagram below summarises the various administrative levels and the overall mode of operation:

**General meeting:** discusses the activity report, the annual accounts, changes to the statutes and elects its representatives to the Board of Directors. Each authorised college elects its representatives for three years.



At 31 December 2005, the 1164 members of AFNIC were distributed as follows:



## Pursuing and developing a trust-based partnership with the registrars

With regard to the thousand or so registrars which have been members for more than five years, AFNIC's position combines consistency with neutrality.

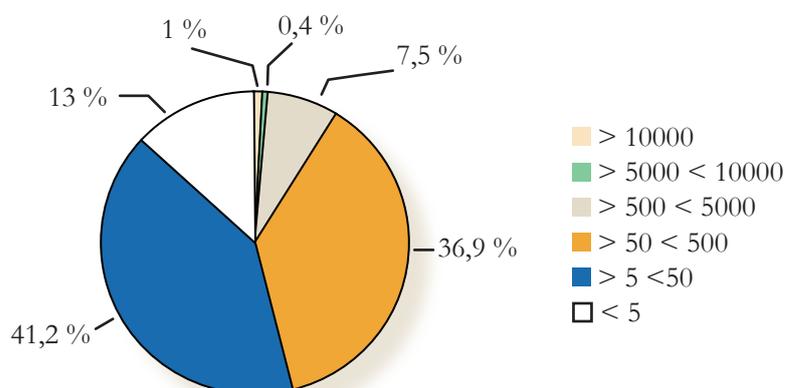
In its role as registry, AFNIC is a neutral management and information body. It does not directly market domain names. It does not handle any requests «directly» in order to avoid any competition with the registrars which are its members.

In addition to registering domain names, most of these also supply associated services such as:

- domain name hosting on their servers,
- Internet access,
- e-mail address management,
- space allocations for the hosting of personal web pages etc.

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### Breakdown of registrars by number of domains created

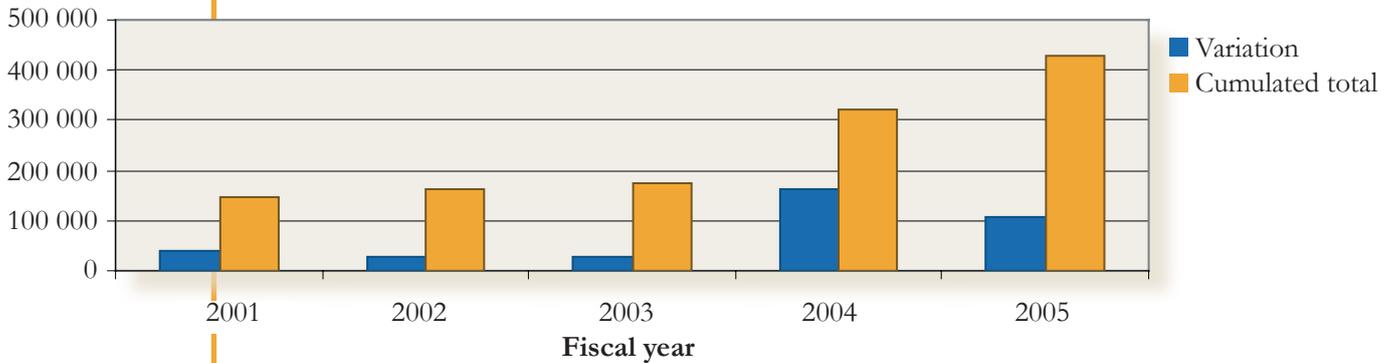


The market for resellers of *.fr* domain names is very disparate: it regroups actors who are intensely involved in the development of the market (less than 10% of the registrars manage 85% of the *.fr* name pool) and a large number of «small» Internet service providers for whom the sale of domain names remains a secondary activity.

However, what is clear is that the environment in which AFNIC operates can be considered as representative of the economic make-up of Internet service providers in France.

## Changes in .fr activity over the last five years

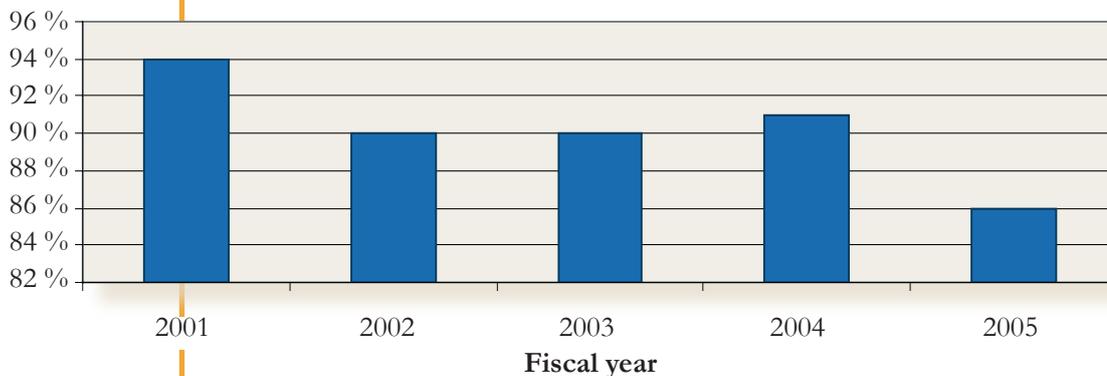
### Changes in the number of .fr domain names



The first opening up of the .fr name in May 2004 resulted in the number of names using this suffix almost doubling. 2005 also saw a significant increase in registrations despite a higher level of deletions following the «extension effect».

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### Changes in the renewal rate for .fr domain names



The logical reduction in the renewal rate in 2005 which was a consequence of the «extension effect» of May 2004 is clearly visible. However, a month-by-month analysis of the renewal rates indicates that the domain names registered after October 2004 tend to exhibit the same renewal rate as was observed throughout 2004. This phenomenon demonstrates that the «extension effect» associated with impulse applications is somewhat limited and that the .fr structure remains particularly robust in terms of renewal rates and the employment of the registered domain names.

# 2

## The key facts of 2005, the avenues of development

**2005 proved to be a particularly intensive year in terms of the activities undertaken and was characterised by sustained growth in registrations well ahead of forecast levels: an average of 556 creations per working day compared to the forecast 450.**

The «extension» of the *.fr* namespace responded to a real need for freedom in the choice of domain names. Apart from the expected one-off impact during the extension period, the registration rate continued to develop at a sustained pace throughout 2005.

Similarly, following a slight dip that was expected one year after the extension, the renewal rate returned to a level equivalent to that of the year preceding the extension.

In 2005, the preparation for the extension to physical persons was the main project mobilising AFNIC's services.

Naturally, actions to counter cybersquatting were pursued with determination, both in terms of the handling of disputes and in terms of educational and preventive initiatives. AFNIC has thus made sure that its actions can be understood within an explicit, public, objective framework both in the context of the fight against flagrant transgressions of the charter and in other areas.

To enable it to respond even more effectively to its obligations, AFNIC has also implemented an internal reorganisation and introduced new operating procedures.

## 2.1

### Joint development of the *.fr* and the registry

#### • Preparing for the extension of the *.fr* namespace to private individuals

All AFNIC's teams are involved in this project which was decided on by the Board of Directors in June 2005.

A «project» type approach was adopted in order to give new impetus to the policy of consulting with members outside of AFNIC and to stimulate an interdisciplinary approach to problems between the various services. In particular, the selected approach was intended to effectively take account of the technical, legal and communications aspects.

A number of ad hoc working groups were set up and brought together AFNIC's user and registrars members. Two events were organised:

- an open workshop to discuss the way in which domain names can be extended to private individuals,
- an «On-line forum on the subject of domain name extension to private individuals» in order to gather opinions and propositions concerning the domain name extension to private individuals.

A communications strategy designed to meet the needs of the new target public was drafted in cooperation with professionals working in the sector:

- launch of a brand image survey (July – September) in order to gain a better understanding of communications measures destined for the public at large,
- launch of a procedure for the selection of publicity agencies,
- initial ideas concerning the communications plan.

### • Development of relations with the registrars

AFNIC is constantly concerned with maintaining its professional relations with external partners and the quality of the existing relations with the registrars.

As a result, a programme of systematic relations-support measures has been implemented. This includes the following actions:

- going to meet the registrars (several meetings per month),
- asking our partners to tell us their expectations,
- initiating a more regular dialogue in the marketing and communication fields to help promote and develop *.fr*;
- creating a network of AFNIC correspondents in the registrars in order to assemble a number of positive aspects:
  - a high-quality information channel concerning the perception of the *.fr* name
  - feedback «from the field» to AFNIC, concerning current and future commercial activities, any difficulties that are experienced, suggestions for improvements to our modes of operation and the positioning of the *.fr* name;
  - the distribution of information, supporting documentation or promotional material intended for the teams working in the registrars.

### • Enhancing the efficiency of AFNIC's organisation and procedures

Initially structured around a small team which had taken over the operations of INRIA's French cooperative name assignment service, AFNIC has not yet benefited from the time and distance necessary to rethink its activities, organisation and future.

Well aware of this situation, the association's management is intent on boosting the responsiveness of the internal organisation and making its procedures more effective. These changes appeared to be all the more pressing given that the domain name extension to private individuals was due to enter into an active design phase.

It was therefore necessary to modify AFNIC's functioning to adopt a structured, hierarchical mode of operation accommodating 40 people.

- **Establishment of a new organisation:**
  - consolidation of the legal and disputes service;
  - development of the «engineering service» to adopt a technical direction organised in the form of functional competences better suited to the technical tasks involved in the information and communications technologies with which AFNIC deals;
  - creation of a function responsible for the marketing relations with the registrars;
  - creation of a «human resources» function within the general secretariat, responsible for administrative organisation and operation.
- **Analysis of the development of specific competences:**

AFNIC's competence-oriented approach lies at the heart of the association's considerations since it largely determines its organisation and operation. It requires not only the analysis, formal definition and clarification of tasks but also the specification of functional, logical competence groups. Technical management assists in implementation by adopting an approach which focuses on competences, applications and infrastructure support.

## 2.2

### AFNIC as a driving force in governance in cooperation with the local Internet community

- **Mastery of information technologies within AFNIC's competence-oriented environment:** to ensure the organisation and long-term viability of the information system.

As a key factor of AFNIC's activity, the information system serves two distinct functional fields:

- the technical management of domain names (their registration and administration), in particular through the relation with IANA,
- the management of the association's data and the tools for the management and administration of AFNIC's structure.

AFNIC's information system is primarily a response to the need to ensure that its activities benefit from a sound IT base. This need is expressed through the association's competence-specific objectives and the formal definition of associated operating procedures. This subject was considered during 2005 in cooperation with an external consulting firm.

Two high-priority tasks can be singled out among the various objectives defined for the future:

- to clearly specify the management of the throughput of registration activities and enhance the traceability of operations;
- to partially automate data exchange and the management of the relations between the various parties involved in the association.

- **Reinforcement of internal and budgetary supervision procedures**

Work on the establishment of internal procedures commenced in 2005 and will be continued during 2006. In particular, this involves the creation of a management supervision committee which will report to the general management.

- **Affirmation of respect for the naming charter**

- Because it believes that *.fr* is a public resource which has to be managed in a spirit of strict neutrality, AFNIC does all it can to ensure that the French namespace is characterised by both freedom and responsibility. To put this philosophy into practice, it makes the holders of domain names more aware of their actions and responsibilities in terms of the respect for third-party rights and the principle of territoriality.
- In an effort to respond to local authority concerns, AFNIC introduced the new concept of «reserved names» in May 2005. Within this concept, only those communes and persons who own a brand name (registered before 1985) corresponding to the name of a commune are authorised to register the associated domain name directly under *.fr*: AFNIC uses the national statistics office's (INSEE) list of reserved names in conjunction with an algorithm which makes it possible to reduce these reserved names to a canonical form (deletion of whitespace and hyphens). The name as it appears when reduced to its canonical form (to the nearest character) - with or without the article in the case of local authorities - is protected. Any application to register a domain name which matches a name in this reference list is blocked and reported to the registrars and triggers a special registration procedure.

- **Making rights owners aware of their protection on the Internet**

In response to the public's growing demand to see its rights respected on the Internet, AFNIC decided to go further in the information it communicates concerning domain names. This desire resulted, at the end of 2005, in the publication of a «practical guide to domain names for rights owners» which indicates the correct practices to adopt in response to rights violations, the available channels of recourse, and the guidelines governing the actions taken by AFNIC when confronted with clear transgressions of its charter.

Below is a list of the three attitudes to be adopted by rights owners with regard to the protection of domain names:

- **prevention and monitoring,**
- **warning of the person or body registering the disputed name (amicable resolution),**
- **recourse to legal or other solutions (alternative procedures for the resolution of disputes).**



- **Management of disputes**

The first extension, in 2004, of the *.fr* namespace to individuals who are identifiable on-line resulted in a number of disputes. AFNIC has always responded through amicable information measures or by adopting blocking measures in order to ensure respect for its charter. It persisted with this mode of conduct throughout 2005, with the resolution of disputes taking the following form:

- two cases currently before the courts (EuroDNS and KLTE) with the initial decisions being favourable to AFNIC,
- a number of disputes settled by a simple exchange of correspondence before reaching the courts,
- many legal decisions relating to the *.fr* namespace not directly involving AFNIC (e.g: Free/EuroDNS, Milka etc.),
- arbitration ruling made by WIPO in support of the AFNIC charter.

## 2.3

### **AFNIC and its contribution to the development of the information society in France and internationally**

AFNIC's vocation, which is to contribute to the development of an information society, naturally leads the association to establish contacts with various other parties involved in the sector at both the national and international level. If it is to realise its ambitions, AFNIC must both remain at the very top in terms of technological development and exercise the consultation and cooperation that good Internet governance demands. AFNIC is active at many different levels.

#### **Knowledge sharing at the national level**

- **Implementation of a policy designed to promote widespread awareness based on various measures such as:**

- training sessions for various professional bodies such as magistrates, the French police force and, within the framework of courses offered by INPI (national intellectual property institute), intellectual property consultants,
- participation in a post-graduate course at the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin (UVSQ): AFNIC is responsible for a domain name training module as part of UVSQ's diploma course «Rights implications of the new information and communication technologies».

- **Participation in the interministerial spam group**

AFNIC is a member of the «Counter-spam contact group» which was set up as an interministerial committee on 16 January 2004. It directs the efforts of the «Filtering» committee which is responsible for technical issues.

AFNIC's contributions to the work of the contact group include a general document which provides a definition of spam and a major text on the need to be able to trace mass e-mail transmissions before the effective application of explicit consent rules («opt-in»). The contact group's summary report which includes the text «Good practices for the filtering of incoming mail» should be published in 2006.

- **Contribution to the policy regarding the protection of personal data**

Since the extension of the *.fr* namespace risks aggravating the problems relating to the protection of personal data, AFNIC has presented the various aspects of the project to CNIL (the National commission for IT and freedom). In this way, the association wants to find the best way of reconciling «the protection of the owner's personal data» with the «duty to provide information concerning domain names» for which it is the sole delegated authority.

- Chairmanship of a working group open to the different parties involved in Internet governance in France and intended to define or harmonise the French positions which need to be defended at the international level.

### The development of ambitious international projects



From the very start, AFNIC has demonstrated its commitment to international relations and to the concept of co-development in particular. The pledge to develop knowledge transfer is the most recent expression of AFNIC's institutional international commitment. Furthermore, as part of its reorganisation, AFNIC has created an «international relations committee» which is led by its technical director.

### The joint actions conducted by AFNIC and the International College include

- **Training trainers in information technologies (FFTI)**  
A second-level training course for trainers working in the IT field (FFTI2) was held from 20 to 25 June 2005 at Conakry University (Guinea). AFNIC was able to organise this course thanks to the assistance provided by:
  - the University of Conakry,
  - the French foreign affairs ministry,
  - the University Agency for the French Language (AUF).

This third FFTI2 welcomed fifteen participants.

The programme included theory courses interspersed with practical work on IPv6, OSPF and BGP.



- The aim of the **CODEV-NIC** project is to encourage and support participating registers in the development of a software solution which will make it possible to automate the management of the data relating to registration procedures, statistics and the distribution of the social information contained in the Whois databases. This project, conducted in the general interest, is supported by the French ministries responsible for foreign and economic affairs, finance and industry. AFNIC was able to coordinate and supervise the project via its International College. The project has been conducted in three main phases:

- **1<sup>st</sup> phase** : workshop held at AFNIC (7/02 to 4/03/2005)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> phase** : development (03/05 to 10/05) and promotion at the WSIS
- **3<sup>rd</sup> phase** : implementation (as of 10/05).



The first official presentation took place during the plenary session of the WSIS in Tunis in November 2005. A second presentation was undertaken at APRICOT on 2 March 2006 in Perth (Australia).

• **Participation in the «World Summit on the Information Society» (WSIS) in Tunis from 16 to 18 November**



As a member of the French delegation, the association occupied a place in the French pavilion where it presented the actions undertaken and achievements made in the field of co-development (in particular CODEV-NIC) and the reduction of the digital divide, i.e. the main themes of the summit.

### **Sustained strategic awareness to maintain the level of excellence**

Since its creation, AFNIC has taken part in a number of R&D projects. Amongst the most recent of these are: DNSsec for greater security thanks to DNS; ENUM (an RNRT [National Research and Technology Network] project) to enable individuals to be accessible via telephone, mobile and e-mail at a single number; IPv6, the new Internet protocol; «NIC générique», a site designed to help train and reorganise bodies responsible for the management of an Internet suffix.

In order to maintain a very high level of competence and to anticipate technological changes, AFNIC demonstrates sustained strategic awareness. It actively participates in efforts to achieve the technical coordination of the Internet at the global level and efforts to ensure the governance of the DNS. It is active in technical organisations such as IETF or RIPE-NCC as well as in organizations which are involved in governance such as ICANN where it promotes practical considerations concerning the proper functioning of the DNS and operational exchanges between ccTLD registries.

During 2005, more than 60 staff days were spent participating at high-level scientific meetings:

- IETF-62 in Minneapolis
- IETF-63 in Paris
- IETF-64 in Vancouver
- BIND-FORUM-2005 in Paris
- RIPE-50 in Stockholm
- RIPE-51 in Amsterdam
- JRES-2005 in Marseille

AFNIC also works with its European counterparts in CENTR (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries) which continues to be the preferred framework for «professional» communications between registries and for the coordination of their positions with regard to the body responsible for Internet governance. As the manager of several Internet suffixes, AFNIC is particularly concerned by the functioning of the underlying services such as the management of the Internet's strategic resources. Here it is primarily concerned with the coordination and delegation of Internet resources and the regulation of the management of root name servers.

# 3

## The AFNIC team

### Organisation

In its eight year of existence, the development of AFNIC's activities and the growth in its staffing levels have made it necessary to introduce a change management process, thus resulting in improvements in organisation and operating procedures.

A technical director started work on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

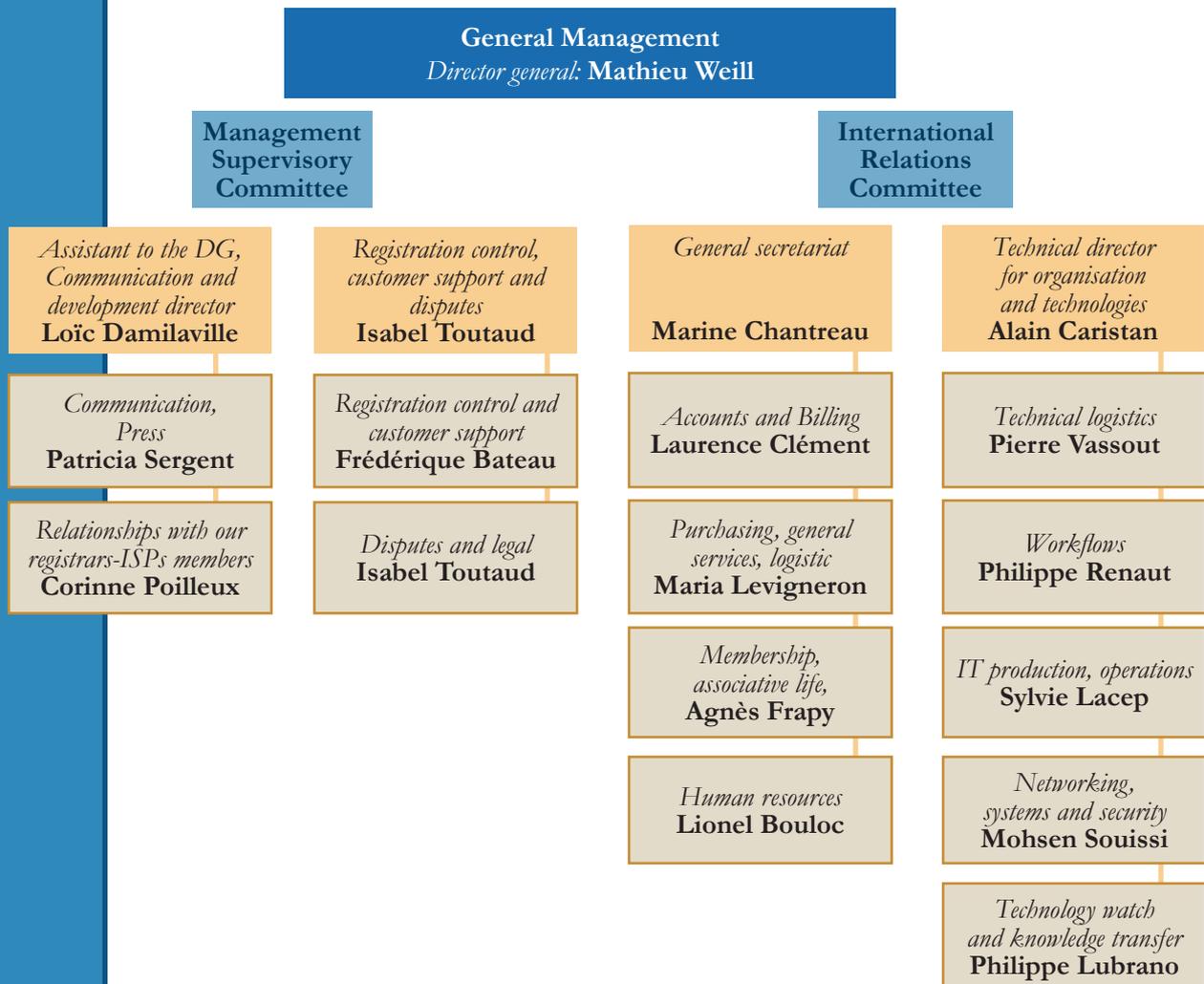
The new director general assumed his functions on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005.

A «human resources» function has been set up.

At 31 December 2005, AFNIC numbered 38 permanent staff.

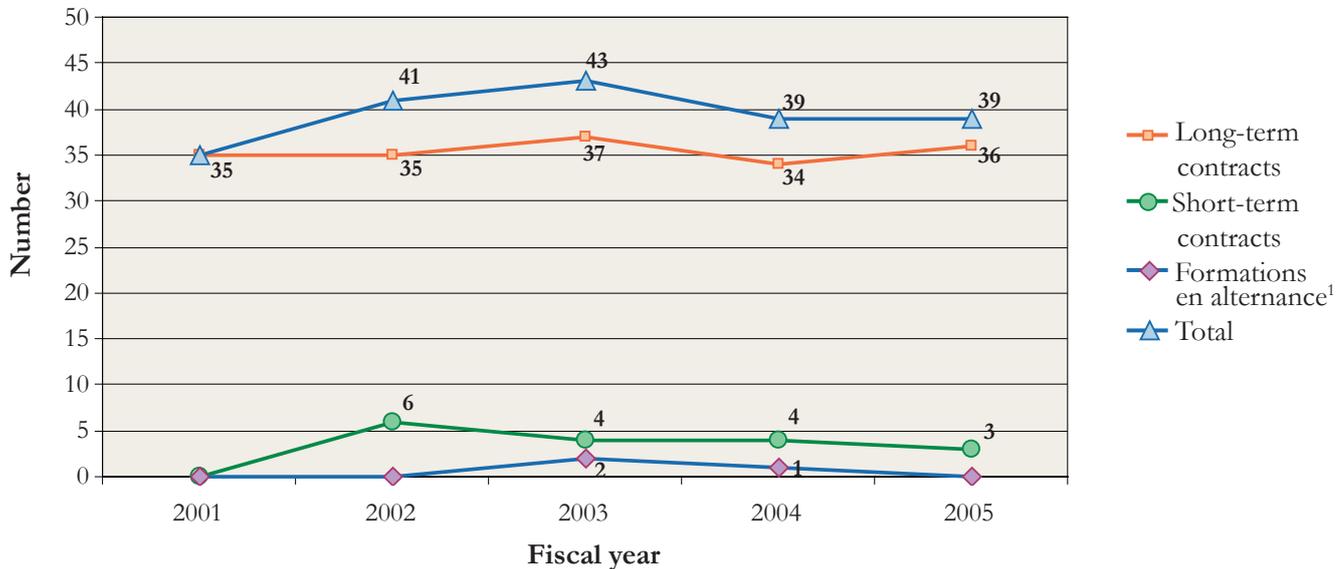
(See the table below for the change in staff distribution)

#### AFNIC's organisation chart at 31 December 2005:



## Personnel: the force behind the machines

### Changes in the AFNIC payroll since 2001:



The payroll curves, based on personnel levels at 15 September of each year, indicate a number of changes. The use of personnel on fixed contracts corresponds:

- from 2002 to 2003, to AFNIC's involvement in R&D projects supported by the research and industry ministries;
- in 2004, to temporary recruitments in order to cope with the increase in activity associated with the extension of the *.fr* namespace to individuals identifiable on-line.

Statistical data concerning AFNIC's personnel at 31 December 2005:

- total personnel: 38 employees,
- average age: 36 years,
- proportion of women: 41%,
- turnover: 15% (arrival of 1 DG, 1 TD and 6 employees; departure of 5 others).



1- Training given partly in an educational institution and partly in the workplace

# 4

## Outlook

2005 appears to have been a transitional year in terms of activities and the renewal of the management team. It was characterised by work in preparation for the extension of the namespace, organisational change, actions undertaken in defence of the charter and the development of relations with registrars.

In the near future, AFNIC will do all it can to respond more effectively to the concerns of the registrars at the technical level (simple, standard tools and procedures etc.) and the marketing and procedural levels (decision making as a function of the specific characteristics of the agencies, introduction of stable operating rules etc.) and will continue to promote a responsible approach to domain names amongst all the parties involved.

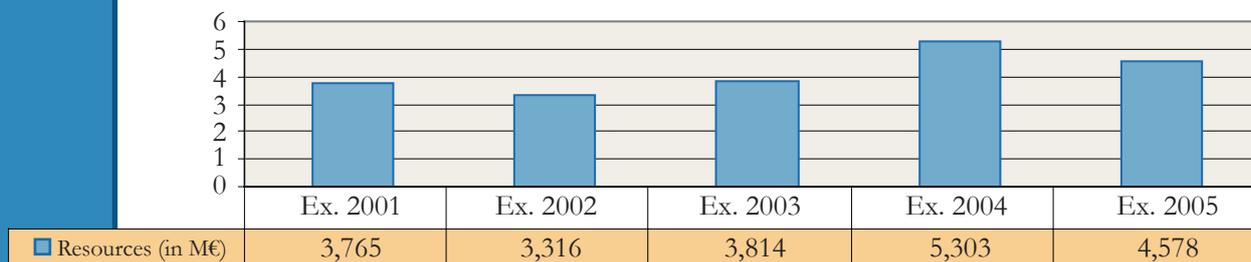
Beyond the extension of the namespace to private individuals and its repercussions in terms of internal organisation, AFNIC's main objectives for 2006 are to consolidate its «core competence» while remaining faithful to its founding values, enhance its strategic awareness and pursue and launch innovative projects (CODEV-NIC, IDN etc.).

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# 5

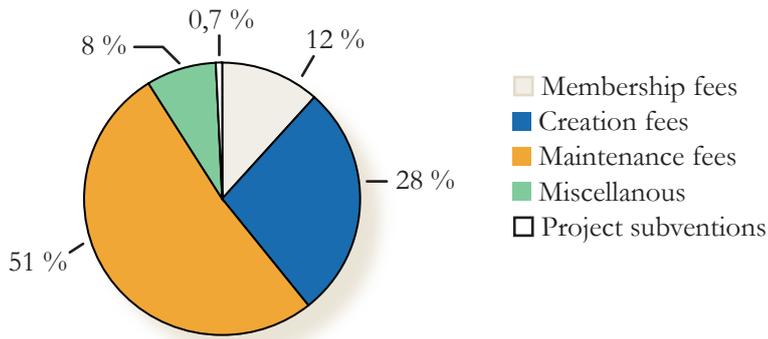
## Some activity indicators

### Changes in resources:



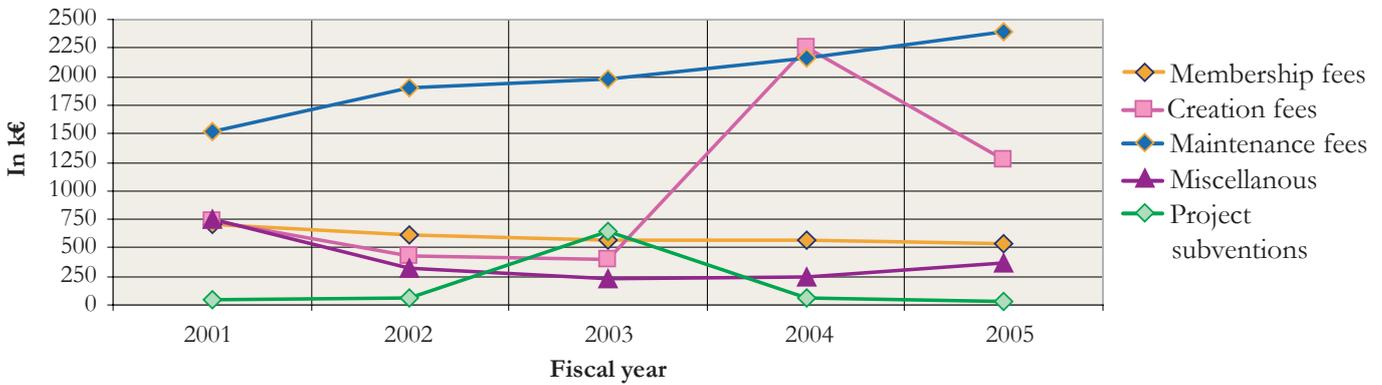
2004 was the year in which *.fr* was extended to legal persons. Activity in 2005 was considerably ahead of forecasts despite the € 5 fall in the price of creations (from € 14 to 9) (see the table below).

### Structure of AFNIC's resources in 2005 (k€):



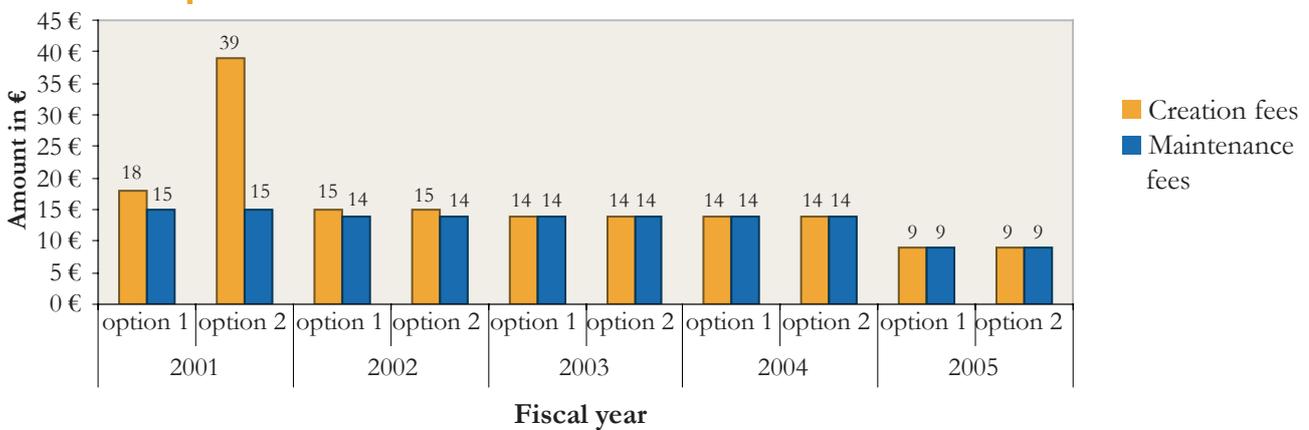
Nearly 80% of AFNIC's resources come from the creation and maintenance of domain names. AFNIC has been totally self-financing since its creation and receives grants only for R&D projects which are secondary to its main activity.

### Change in the structure of resources:



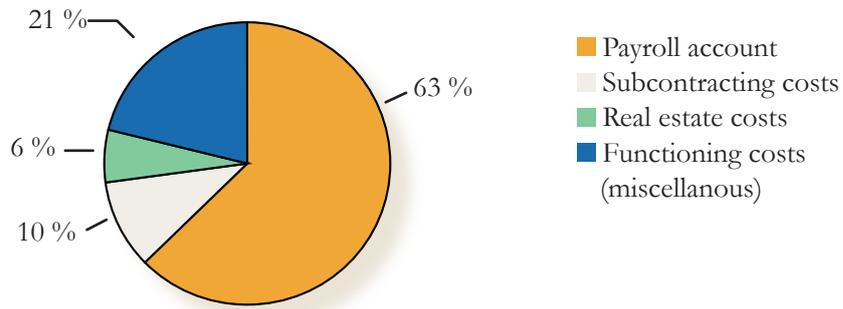
Before the «peak» of the first extension in 2004, AFNIC's resource structure was fairly stable. With the major increase in the number of domain names, the significance of maintenance revenues in the association's resources will increase over the years.

### Changes in AFNIC's prices:

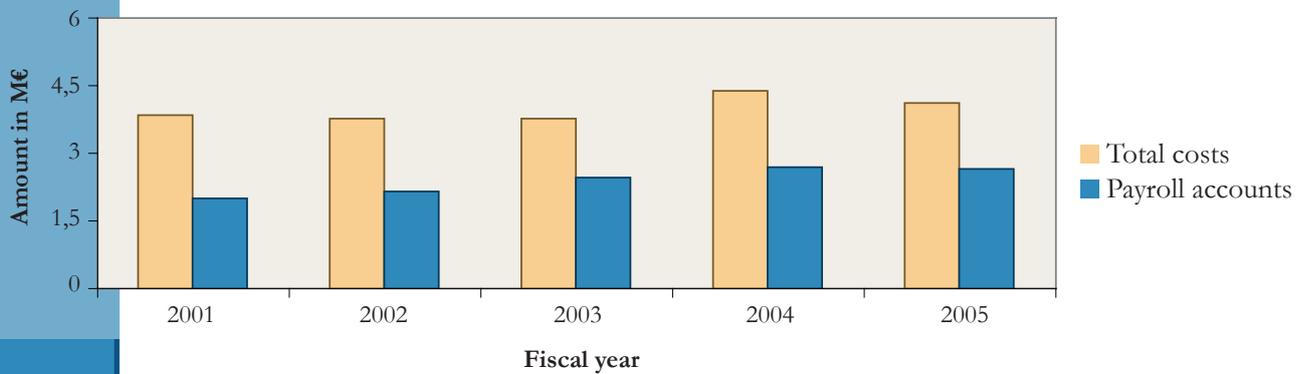


The fall in the price of AFNIC's services (creations, maintenance and other operations) is a factor acting on the association's budgetary balance since it impacts the overall resource level. In 2005, in the wake of the «2004 extension effect», the cost of billing the association's services to the registrars fell by more than a third. Membership rates have not moved since 2001.

**Structure of AFNIC's costs in 2005:**

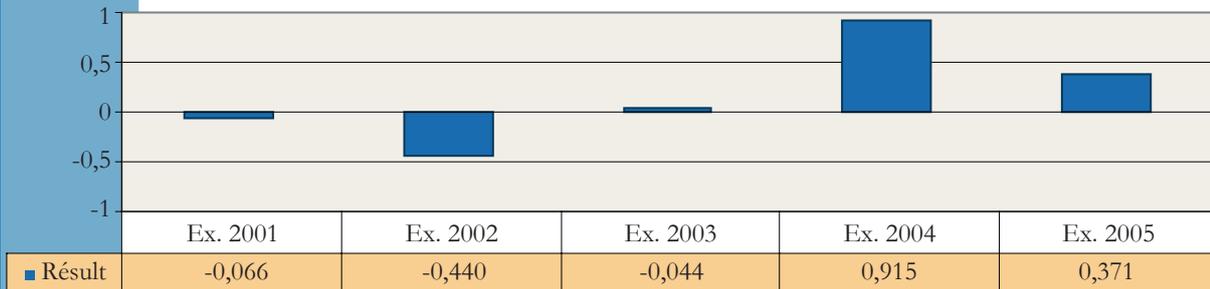


**Changes in AFNIC's costs:**



Like all other service suppliers, the payroll accounts for two thirds of AFNIC's costs (salaries plus employer's contributions). Subcontracting costs (or miscellaneous consulting costs, legal fees etc.) may also change significantly as a function of the year or project in question.

**Changes in operating profit:**



The operating loss recorded in 2002 was due to two cumulative factors: firstly, the fall in revenue resulting from the price-cutting policy and, secondly, responsibility for development costs not covered through participation in the RNRT programme, with the associated payments being postponed to the succeeding years.

It should also be remembered that AFNIC, which balances its budget without any operating subsidies or borrowing, possesses reserves equivalent to one year's payroll costs (salaries plus employer's contributions).

# 6

## Glossary

### **AFNIC**

Association Française pour le Nomage Internet en Coopération  
French Network Information Centre, .fr and .re registry

### **APRICOT**

Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies

### **BIND**

Berkeley Internet Name Domain ou Berkeley Internet Name Daemon

### **ccTLD**

country code Top Level Domain

### **CENTR**

Council of European National Top-level domain Registries

### **DNS**

Domain Name System

### **DNSsec**

Domain Name System Security Extensions

### **ENUM**

Telephone Number Mapping

### **gTLD**

generic Top Level Domain

### **IANA**

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

### **ICANN**

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

### **IDN**

Internationalized Domain Name

### **IETF**

The Internet Engineering Task Force

### **INRIA**

Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique  
The French National Institute for Research in Computer science and Control

### **IPv6**

Internet Protocol version 6

### **JRES**

Journées RESeaux

### **NIC**

Network Information Centre

### **NTIC**

Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication

### **RIPE**

Réseau IP Européen

### **RIPE NCC**

RIPE Network Coordination CENTRe

### **RNRT**

Réseau National de la Recherche en Télécommunications

### **TLD**

Top Level Domain

### **WIPO**

World Intellectual Property Organization

### **WSIS**

World Summit on the Information Society