

*Registrar and User  
Consultative  
Committee Meetings*

**Minutes of the plenary meeting  
held on March 15, 2016**

**afnic**

## 1. Attendees

**Registrars: 18** (out of 45 members)

Argonautes	Nicolas Chagny
Claranet SAS	Sophie Pacavé
Connection SA	Jean-Benoît Richard
CSC Digital Brand Services	Patrick Hauss
Dataxy	Bernard Dulac
Dom Raider	Tristan Colombet
Epistrophe	Philippe Batreau
Ikoula	Alain Closson
Kifdom	Régis Gaillard
Namebay	Eric Lantonnet
Nominalia	Séverine Assadourian
Nordnet	Scott Jung (remote participation)
One2Net	Pierre Geoffroy
Online	Jean-Claude Michot
Orange	Sophie Jean-Gilles
Ordipat	Sylvie Destenave / Jennifer Korn
OVH	Rémi Loiseau (remote participation)
Safebrands	Frédéric Guillemaut

**Users, individuals and corporate entities: 6** (out of 34 members)

<b>Corporate entities</b>	
.BZH	David Lesvenan – (remote participation)
BNF	Annick Le Follic
ISOC France	Mathieu Camus
<b>Individuals</b>	
	Sébastien Bachollet
	Abdel M'Chalet
	David-Irving Tayer (Remote participation)

## Afnic

Mathieu Weill, CEO
Pierre Bonis, Deputy CEO
Matthieu Credou, Marketing Director
Julien Naillet, Communication Director
Loïc Damilaville, Studies & Business Intelligence
Lucile Ravasse, .fr marketing manager
Régis Masse, Technical Director
Emilie Turbat, Commercial Director
Mickaël Vigreux, registrars relations manager

## 2. Agenda for the plenary meeting

09:15: Welcome

09:45: News update

09:45: Plenary Meeting and presentation of the day's items for discussion:

- Topic 1: *The vision.fr project*: Future benefits for the .fr TLD
- Topic 2: Afnic proposals to develop online presence
- Topic 3: Establishment of an operational working group for the Consultative Committees.  
Purpose Initial subjects
- Topic 4: Proposed reform of the Articles of Association

11:30: Coffee break

11:45: Separate Consultative Committee meetings (CCU / CCBE)

13:15: Lunch

14:00: Feedback on CC positions

15:00: Presentation of information updates and discussions with members:

- Information on the elections
- Presentation of the next .fr / gTLD release
- Presentation of the domain name market

16:55: Conclusion

## 3. Minutes

### 3.1. Welcome and news update

Frédéric Guillemaut, Eric Lantonnet and Sébastien Bachollet welcomed the participants. Mathieu Weill suggested the participants introduce themselves and announced the items for discussion in the committee meetings during the morning and the information updates to be shared after the feedback from their work.

Afnic's news was marked first of all by the insertion into the root zone file of the last of the 14 gTLDs that Afnic managed as the technical registry operator. The TLD in question was the .total.

To date, the association therefore operated 14 new generic TLDs, 5 overseas country codes, and of course the .fr TLD.

With regard to the Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity, which was established in April 2015 under the aegis of the Fondation de France, was now getting down to business. The first call for projects had been officially launched on 2 March, on the following themes:

- Digital technology to strengthen social cohesion
- Training to develop an Inclusive Internet
- Transforming organizations and places using digital technology
- Digital technology to serve corporate change
- Digital technology central to change in the Third Sector

These themes never concern Afnic's core business, which was one of the association's major commitments. Using the .fr TLD to promote Digital Solidarity.

A group of experts had been formed to assess the quality of the projects presented and the Foundation was expected to announce the first funding by the end of June.

On ICANN and the transfer of the IANA function, the ICANN "accountability" working group, co-chaired by Mathieu Weill, reported its findings at the recent meeting in Marrakesh. Having been approved by all the stakeholders, or at least there being little formal opposition to its conclusions, which supported strengthening the checks and balances inside and outside ICANN, the proposals were to be sent to the US government. The future transfer of the oversight of the DNS root, closely linked to a reform of ICANN, was therefore now in the hands of the US government. Various points of dissension remained, particularly around the role of government in a renovated ICANN, but they were not to obscure the enormous progress achieved in making ICANN more accountable, more transparent and more democratic. Certain projects had yet to be completed, an essential one of them being diversity within ICANN. However, a major milestone had just been crossed, and the US government's accountability for completing a process initiated more than 24 months ago was now greater than ever.

Finally, in terms of international news, but closer to home, the Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries (CENTR), an organization associating most of the European

ccTLD registries, had met one week beforehand. Pierre Bonis had been elected to its board of trustees.

Sébastien Bachollet, representing user members, congratulated the Afnic team for all the work they had accomplished in recent months.

## 3.2. Discussion items

### *3.2.1. The vision.fr project: Future benefits for the .fr TLD*

Mathieu Crédou, Marketing, presented the broad guidelines of the "vision.fr" project

After recalling the meteoric rise in the number of users and machines connected to the Internet over the past 20 years, Mathieu Crédou showed how Afnic intended to locate the .fr TLD in the global internet, which today includes nearly a billion websites.

The strengths of the .fr TLD that Afnic wanted to promote and develop in the coming years were as follows:

Simplicity - Innovation - Attractiveness - Solidarity - Exemplary.

**By Simplicity**, Afnic intended to simplify its systems and processes, and work with the developers of new offers for online presence in order to facilitate the integration of domain names, especially the .fr TLD. The goal, with our registrar partners and stakeholders in online presence, was to allow a user to create an online service (website, email) including a domain name, in less than 5 minutes and three clicks.

**By Innovation**, Afnic intended to make the .fr TLD a benchmark for the online presence of French people. To do so, Afnic was to become more involved in the innovation ecosystem, and build expertise around online presence in order to better understand and anticipate the needs of users of the Internet and digital technology, for example through market research. A large survey (presented below) based on a tool for self-assessment of digital maturity, was to be launched in 2016.

**By Attractiveness**, Afnic intended to price the .fr TLD so that it encouraged the development of digital uses.

This might take the form of a pricing system which enabled greater investment in the development of digital uses, but also the careful testing of a free service for a limited time on targets that had yet to be convinced, in order to introduce them to the benefits of domain names.

**By Solidarity**, Afnic intended to continue its efforts to make the .fr TLD more competitive in order to generate profits for the Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity. The latter, with approximately one million euros per year, would provide tangible proof of the contribution of the .fr TLD to field projects using digital technology to reduce inequalities and promote mutual support.

**By Exemplarity**, Afnic intended to continue its policy of operational excellence, which had already resulted in obtaining the European label "EFQM recognized for 4\*\*\*\* excellence" as

well as the establishment of a sustainable development strategy and finally, by an ISO 27001 certification process of Afnic's management system for the security of information systems.

### *3.2.2. Afnic proposals to develop online presence*

Mathieu Crédou recalled that in terms of online presence, France lagged behind its European neighbors. 64% of French companies have an online presence, against an average of 74% for the whole of the European Union.

Basically, French companies had focused on digitizing their internal processes, with some success, which placed them above the European average, but had neglected the development of a major distribution and identification channel, i.e. the Internet, where they were not yet sufficiently present.

The main instrument that Afnic intended to use to accelerate the requisite awareness and promote the development of the online presence of SOHOs / SMEs in France was based on a New Zealand initiative called "digitaljourney", which consisted of a questionnaire that was quick and simple to answer on the use of digital technology in the company, enabling a self-assessment of its "digital maturity index." The index could be used to measure the degree of maturity of a company's online presence, identify new marketing opportunities for the company in the digital economy and social networks, improve its business plan and its processes, and implement a digital action plan, through advice based on the answers to the questionnaire.

By allowing a maximum number of companies to answer the questionnaire online, through partnerships with registrars, academic organizations, and professional organizations, Afnic intended to be able to produce relevant benchmarks in terms of geographic location and market sector.

Users' position (on the first two items in the agenda):

- ✓ Development of the *.fr* TLD had to remain a priority for Afnic. The National Library of France (BNF) illustrated this idea by the fact that, as for many corporate users, the more domain names there were under the *.fr* TLD, the easier it was to work. The BNF took this opportunity to indicate that it would be pleased to welcome the members of Afnic for a forthcoming consultative committee meeting but also allow Afnic to intervene in some of the sessions it organized for companies.
- ✓ Sébastien Bachollet also indicated that in the partnerships to be set up to disseminate the questionnaire, Afnic should also use the opportunity to promote membership in the association.
- ✓ The users also warned about the importance of fully developing the arguments that could motivate users to reply to this type of questionnaire, which at first glance might seem relatively far-removed from their concerns, especially if they had not yet identified their online presence as being a relevant issue.

- ✓ The users agreed that Afnic should rely more on professional associations to disseminate the questionnaire, but recalled that Afnic also should rely on its members.
- ✓ The users asked that the digitaljourney questionnaire be integrated with the reussir-en.fr campaign, which was already well-known and recognized

Registrars' position:

- ✓ They cautioned against the notion of judgment that might be linked to a digital maturity index. Care therefore had to be taken not to seem to teach a lesson to companies that replied to the questionnaire, which would be counter-productive.
- ✓ The more the recommendations were "made-to-measure", the more effective the questionnaire would be.
- ✓ The registrars were of the same opinion as the users about the questionnaire's integration within the reussir-en.fr campaign
- ✓ With regard to the first presentation, and the notion of exemplarity in particular, they asked if Afnic's efforts to obtain ISO27001 certification would result in new operational requirements for registrars. [The answer was no, at least not in the context of the certification itself, and not in the short-term]
- ✓ With regard to attractiveness, based on experience, they indicated that a free service was a bad good idea; in addition to be really "free", the registrars would have to accept to give up their profit margin. Nor did they favor an increase in prices of the .fr TLD

### *3.2.3. Establishment of an operational working group for the Consultative Committees. Purpose Initial subjects*

Pierre Bonis indicated that in the past, them-based working groups had existed that made it possible to address legal or technical subjects.

Given that there were many requests made in its consultation committee meetings to involve members more and further upstream in Afnic operational decisions when they had a significant impact on them, the proposal had been made to revive the initiative taken by working groups.

To avoid a silo type of approach, and above all allow everyone to get involved on a case-by-case basis in subjects that interested them, it had been proposed to set up a cross-business operational working group (GTO).

The way such a group would work would be simple:

- ✓ *Formation of the group on a voluntary basis, with call for applications sent to lists of members*
- ✓ *15 days in which to volunteer*

- ✓ *If at least five members volunteered, appointment of an Afnic advisor and set-up of a schedule for an online discussion and Conf Call for feedback by the next Consultative Committee meeting at the latest.*

The themes, based on feedback from the satisfaction survey and exchanges that Afnic's teams had had with registrars and users in recent months, could be:

- ✓ Trade and Transfer billing
- ✓ Aligning the expiry dates of domain names in a given portfolio
- ✓ Clarifying the conditions under which snapping activities might be acceptable

Users' position:

- ✓ Agreed on the principle, which might also be an interesting alternative to the silo approach which was still too widespread within consultative committees separate (consultative committees for users and registrars)

Registrars' position:

- ✓ Also agreed on the principle
- ✓ With regard to the themes, they asked that the issue of harmonizing the old and new extranet, and the tools available to registrars on these platforms be addressed. They also indicated their willingness for a "snapping - back order" theme

### *3.2.4. Proposed reform of the Articles of Association*

Mathieu Weill introduced the proposed reform of the articles of association, which had been discussed at the last board meeting but had not yet been finalized.

The main virtue of the reform would be a stronger and more attractive association, through amendments clarifying the roles of all the stakeholders and ensuring greater continuity of work by the Board of Trustees.

- ✓ The Association's sustainability had to be seen in Article 3 "Term"
- ✓ The roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the President and CEO would be clarified:
  - ✓ *The Board of Trustees would have its role reasserted as regards the acceptance of membership in the association (contractual freedom of association) Article 6 "membership"*
  - ✓ *The accountability of the Board of Trustees, → President → and CEO would be clarified: Articles 12 - 13 - 15*

- ✓ *The continuity of the work by the Board of Trustees would be reinforced through the partial renewal of the elected members every 2 years (art. 11)*

On this specific point, Mathieu Weill drew the attention of members to the fact that a change in the term of office of the elected members of the Board of Trustees, from 3 to 4 years, enabling the renewal of half of the members, would require a transitional measure.

During the next elections, if the reform of the Articles of Association had been adopted beforehand, the representatives of the registrar and user colleges with the most number of votes would have a term of 4 years, the representatives with the least number of votes would have a term of 2 years, thereby enabling the principle of renewing half of the two colleges in the Board of Trustees every 2 years.

Finally, a discussion had begun during the previous general meeting, but had not yet been concluded, concerning the reorganization of the colleges themselves, in particular an idea based on supply / demand rather than registrars / users, in order to clarify the conditions and colleges that could join the internet registries or private stakeholders in digital technology, who at present were all in the "User" college. Mathieu Weill wanted the members to indicate whether they thought that this part of the reform should be implemented as soon as the forthcoming month of June.

Users' position:

- ✓ The users generally approved the spirit of the reform of the Articles of Association, which they had requested for a long time.
- ✓ Sébastien Bachollet indicated that the possibility of a more ambitious reform (changing the balances in the Board of Trustees for example) had been amply discussed by the Board, and that no consensus had been reached. As it stands, the proposed reform goes in the right direction, and strengthens the resilience of the association.
- ✓ Regarding the changes to the colleges, while users felt that the reform was too far-reaching to be fully accomplished by June, they nevertheless insisted on the fact that opening up discussions within the association was necessary. The implementation of the operational working group, and the organization of discussions during the next Consultative Committee meetings on themes the working group addresses, seemed to be a good means of opening up the discussions.

Registrars' position:

- ✓ The registrars also agreed on the main outlines of the changes to the Articles of Association
- ✓ The changes to the colleges required greater thought, and did not seem likely to be ready for June.

### 3.3. Information updates

#### 3.3.1. Elections

Mathieu Weill informed the participants that the elections would be held during the next general meeting of Afnic be held on June 12 in Paris.

The elections concerned the two elected members representing the registrars, only one of whom (Eric Lantonnet) could stand again for election, Frederick Guillemaut having served two terms.

They also concerned the two members representing users, David-Irving Tayer and Sébastien Bachollet, both of who could stand again for election.

Finally, they concerned the elected representative of the international correspondents, who could also stand again for election.

The Board meeting of February 4 set up an Appointments Committee, which would examine the applications and report to the general meeting about any potential conflicts of interest of the candidates, before moving to the vote.

The committee consisted of:

- ✓ Georges Fischer (President, former director)
- ✓ Frédéric Guillemaut (representing the elected members)
- ✓ Geoffroy Hermann (representing the founding members)

The election timetable was as follows:

- ✓ *March 17: opening of the applications campaign;*
- ✓ *March 17 → 19 May: nomination paper: candidates send the committee their election address and their declaration of interest (+ if necessary a mandate from the legal representative to represent the organization on the Afnic Board of Trustees), review of applications by the committee (organization of conf calls if needed)*
- ✓ *May 19: application closing date;*
- ✓ *May 20: notice of AGM sent electronically*
- ✓ *Between May 20 and May 27: publication on the Afnic website of the applications ruled admissible by the Application Validation Committee*
- ✓ *June 10: AGO, 5 elected representatives elected to the Afnic Board of Trustees*

Mathieu Weill insisted on the need for involvement of members in the Board of Trustees, ensuring a diversity of skills, and a good level of member representation. In order to attract applications, a special election newsletter would be sent to all of the members, in addition to official information about the opening of the application period.

Mathieu Weill took the opportunity to thank, on behalf of the entire Afnic team and its members, all the outgoing directors for their work, their involvement and the invaluable contribution they had made to Afnic.

The discussions in the Board of Trustees were always rich and instructive, the leadership of the trustees, particularly through the Board's committees, was genuine and needed by the Afnic management team so that it could give its best.

All of the participants in the consultation committees wished to pay tribute to the high quality of the work performed by Frédéric Guillemaut. In particular, of the Safebrands registrar, who had reached the end of his second term.

Everyone wanted him to be present in the consultative bodies of Afnic, even after his departure from the board.

### *3.3.2. Presentation of the next .fr TLD / gTLD release*

Régis Massé, Technical Director, presented the timing and content of the next major release of Afnic on the .fr TLD and gTLDs.

- ✓ Sandbox deployment: **14/03/2016**
- ✓ Go-live: **11/04/2016**

For the .fr TLD, the release allowed qualified contacts to be updated, as well as domain names related to holder contacts.

For the gTLDs, this release mainly affected the .paris premium domain names (changing the text of the domain:check via EPP when the premium DN is not registered)

For all of the TLDs: corrective maintenance operations.

- ✓ After the release of 11/04, the next .fr TLD // gTLD release would take place in the second half of June:

For the .fr TLD, it was a release that would have little impact, since it only contained a few corrective and perfective maintenance operations

For the gTLDs, this release would include the implementation of the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) (reminder: ICANN required the RDAP to be set up by or before August 2016)

### *3.3.3. Presentation on the domain name market*

As usual, Loïc Damilaville gave a presentation on the state of the domain name market. This presentation, highly appreciated by the participants, was not the subject of a report. It was reserved for those attending or taking part remote in the consultative committees.

The consultative committee meetings finished at 16:30.

*The next consultative committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2014 at 9:30 am.*