

Registrar and User Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes of the plenary meeting

02/04/2019

afnic

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1. Attendees

Registrars: 13 (out of 40 members)

CSC	Hauss	Patrick	
DOMAINOO	Farhat	Saoussen	
DATAXY	Dulac	Bernard	Remote
DOMAINIUM	Franck	Philippe	
DOMRAIDER	Delair	Delphine	Remote
EPISTROPHE	Batreau	Philippe	
NAMEBAY	Lantonnet	Eric	
NORDNET	Jung	Scott	
ORANGE	Jean-Gilles	Sophie	
ORDIPAT	Korn	Jennifer	
ORDIPAT	Destenave	Sylvie	
OVH	Dekokelaire	Pierre-Hugo	
SAFEBRANDS	Guillemaut	Frédéric	
SFR	Poussin	Sylvie	
SFR	Weber	Arnaud	

Users, natural and legal persons: 10 (out of 36 members)

	Audic	Hervé	
ASS. E-SENIORS	Bachollet	Anne-Marie	Remote
	Bachollet	Sébastien	
E BRAND Services	Berecz	Pierre	
ISOC	Castex	Lucien	
	Chaumont	Eugénie	
	Genty	Clément	
	Louis	Benjamin	
	Morenets	Yuliya	
	Porteneuve	Elisabeth	

AFNIC

Benoit Ampeau, Maris Berthelot, Pierre Bonis, Sophie Canac, Loïc Damilaville, Clémence Davoust, Régis Massé, Cédric Michel-Flandin, Emilie Turbat

2. Agenda

9:30: *Welcome*

10:00: *News update*

10:15: *Presentation of items for discussion by the committees*

- *2019 roadmap for changes to AFNIC's products and services*
- *OWG on the association's appeal*

10:45: *Separate consultative committees*

13:00: *Lunch and networking*

14:15: *Feedback from the Consultative Committees*

15:15: *Presentation of information update and discussion items*

- *Development plan for .fr*
- *Partnerships and innovations*
- *Market trends in domain names*

17:00: *End*

3. Minutes

3.1. Welcome

Pierre Bonis introduced the session by recalling the items on the agenda.

The four trustees present, namely Sébastien Bachollet and Benjamin Louis (elected by user members), and Frédéric Guillemaut and Eric Lantonnet (elected by registrar members) also wished to welcome the participants.

They noted that these committee meetings are key moments for discussion that also allow the reporting of any member concerns to their representatives so that these can be followed up or the question raised at Board of Trustee meetings.

Pierre Bonis also noted that, since this year, there has been a student price for membership of the association.

3.2. News update

AFNIC's involvement with ICANN:

Sébastien Bachollet is a member of ATRT3, which is working on ICANN's operation and should make suggestions for improving its governance.

AFNIC is a member of the CCNSO, whose members are CCs. Régis Massé is Vice-Chair of TLDOPS (a sub-group of the CCNSO) and has recently joined the CCNSO's Tech group.

AFNIC is also active in the GNSO, in work on the GDPR, and so on.

.fr was the best ranked European extension in terms of absolute value in 2018.

In answer to members' questions about Brexit, Pierre Bonis added that, UK users who already have a .fr will be able to continue renewing it, with no deletion; however, UK users will no longer be able to register .fr domain names after Brexit.

3.3. Discussion item

3.3.1. 2019 roadmap for changes to AFNIC's products and services

Marie Berthelot presented the 2019 roadmap for changes to AFNIC's products and services

- 1st quarter:
 - FR performance with the delivery of:
 - Beta version of Croissance for registrars, option 1
 - Platinum on subscription (which includes SQUAW and FRWATCH)

- 2nd quarter:
 - FR Lock V3
 - Launching of the service on an automated round-the-clock basis
 - Simplified contact management (number and management)
 - Locking/Unlocking in batches
 - Upgrading of the extranet display to simplify use and monitoring
 - BOA (AFNIC Back Office) performance review
 - An analysis of the BOA product's performance is being carried out by AFNIC's teams and will result in suggestions for patches
- 3rd quarter:
 - RDAP
 - For registries in connection with ICANN compliance
 - Syreli
 - Review of the .fr technical integration guide
 - Delivery of a new version of the technical integration guide taking into account Focus Group feedback from registrar customers.
 - Aim of improving the quality and consistency of the information provided.
- 4th quarter:
 - Authorisation code reminder for gTLD registries
 - Sending of notification to the registry by email if an operation requires an authorisation code
 - Switching of the first gTLD to the new SRS

Other functionalities are being explored:

- Differentiated registrar extranet access,
- For registries: promotion functionality (allows the configuration of promotion operations) and data space.

An initial improvement loop for the products delivered between 2018 and the start of 2019 will also be introduced based on customer feedback.

Régis Massé explained the 2019 roadmap for the Avenir project for the reshaping of the SRS.

The MVP (minimum viable product) is functional and was demonstrated in January 2019. The development of the standard system is continuing in 2019. This is the base common to all .fr and gTLD registries, which will be supplemented by additional, differentiated functionalities in the extended version.

The first registry migration will take place at the end of the year. New focus groups will be organised in 2019 to approve the elements before the migration of the first TLD.

The aim is to be able to migrate a brand TLD and an open TLD to the new SRS by the end of 2019. The other TLDs (open and closed) will be migrated in 2020 in the first half of the year, in accordance with a timetable that is currently being prepared, as the migration plan will also include technical migration.

Frédéric Guillemaut, an elected representative, reminded the registrar members present that they should act as spokespeople for the technical teams, in order to be able to transmit the teams' questions to AFNIC ahead of these migrations.

Pierre Bonis emphasised the fact that this roadmap is proof that, alongside the Avenir project, AFNIC and its Board of Trustees have decided not to stop legacy developments.

Registrars' position:

The registrars did not debate the roadmap so there was no particular feedback. There was nothing objectionable, no flags to raise and no comments to make.

Users' position:

The users did not debate this issue.

3.3.2. OWG on the association's appeal

Frédéric Guillemaut, responsible for the OWG on the association's appeal, presented the proposals made in this regard.

The fact that there was a single candidate per college in June for the election of representatives to the registrars' and the users' Board of Trustees raised questions about the association's appeal and the involvement of its members in the Board of Trustees. Involvement is important and necessary to be able to influence the association's decisions. The Board of Trustees gives guidance to AFNIC.

The aim in terms of the timeframe is to be able to amend the articles of association in June 2019, as the no-deadline method has not proved effective to date. There will be new elections to the Board of Trustees in 2020, and there is a wish for the amendments made in 2019 to result in a large number of candidates in 2020.

Objective: rethinking the membership and appeal of AFNIC's Board of Trustees with no taboos, to ensure its future and increase its effectiveness.

Method: discussing the options and issuing a recommendation to the consultative committee meeting for discussion by the Board of Trustees. If this is approved, it may be transmitted for approval at the General Meeting.

Elements in place:

- A draft job description of the chair has been produced by the Chief Executive Officer. It has been amended and approved by the appointment committee to be put before the Board of Trustees. The latter approved it at its meeting of 7 February 2019. It may therefore serve as a base for the upcoming process of selecting a candidate for chair. (It must be regularly updated)
- The continuity of ministry representatives depends on their careers.
- The chair may be chosen from the (unelected) founding members.
- Trustees are not remunerated but are reimbursed for their expenses.
- The issue of the rotation of elected trustees was resolved by the new articles of association (in 2016).
- Renewing trustees is complicated due to the lack of choice of candidates.

Discussions:

In answer to the questions from various members about the issues discussed by the Board of Trustees, work load and access to minutes (as decision reports are too concise), Pierre Bonis explained that the Board of Trustees meets five times a year, and also holds online voting and remote meetings. This is more regularly than previously, as before there were three a year, and the articles of association provide for at least two. There are also specialised committees within the Board of Trustees: the finance and risk committee (chaired by Sébastien Bachollet), the registry policy committee (chaired by Eric Lantonnet), the commitment committee (public

procurement) and the appointment committee. These committees were made necessary to limit discussions at meetings of the Board of Trustees, whose work load has increased. He noted that the Board of Trustees' decision reports are published on the AFNIC website. Minutes are not published as they also contain undisclosed information.

Avenues for thought:

- Getting elected trustees involved in selecting the chair (through the appointment committee).
- Remunerating of trustees, with the possibility for them to donate their remuneration. Or allowing the remunerating of customer trustees through their company (e.g. through a remittance).
- Creation of committees linked to AFNIC's future activities (IoT)
- Promoting and developing discussions between elected and appointed representatives to foster an understanding of each other's operation and challenges.
- Developing the Board of Trustees' personal branding.
- Opening up the Board of Trustees to two new expert trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees. One put forward by the founders and one by the elected representatives.

Discussions:

In answer to the members' questions, Sophie Canac set out the timetable for the steps required for the amendment of the articles of association at the General Meeting in June: a decision must be made by the Board of Trustees on 11 April, a notice of meeting sent out on 30 April for an EGM between 21 and 24 May; then, if quorum is not met, the sending on 24 May of a second notice of meeting for an EGM at the same time as the OGM on 14 June.

Pierre Bonis stated that, to keep this type of very constrained schedule, it would be necessary to focus only on proposals of attractiveness proposals that are likely to be approved quickly.

Opinions of the committees:

Getting elected trustees involved in selecting the chair (through the appointment committee).

Registrars' position:

The appointment committee should approve the candidate put forward by the founding members. The choice of chair should be debated, which would increase the transparency of the selection process. The goal is for there to be a debate rather than an *imposed choice*.

Pierre Bonis raised a point about the idea of "approval by the appointment committee". If a right of veto is given to the committee, this necessarily entails a change in the articles of association (this can not only be dealt with in the rules of procedure) and, in this case, all the trustees would join the committee, so it would be tantamount to discussion and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Users' position:

Trustees must be involved through the appointment committee, which is producing a detailed job description of the chair that must be regularly reviewed. The match between the candidate and the profile sought must also be discussed by the appointment committee. This therefore only requires an amendment of the rules of procedure.

Discussions:

A user member added that the most important point is the job description, to avoid parachuting someone in who does not meet AFNIC's needs.

As the registrars' opinions differed, Benjamin Louis suggested that the elected representatives should meet to adopt a joint position. A consensus should be reached on a draft wording that allows the appointment committee to check that the candidate put forward meets the criteria expected in the job description.

Remunerating of trustees, with the possibility for them to donate their remuneration. Or allowing the remunerating of customer trustees through their company (e.g. through a remittance).

Registrars' position:

The registrars agreed that elected trustees should be remunerated, and even that the company should be remunerated, in the case of a registrar or legal entity, although remuneration should be subject to effective attendance.

Users' position:

The users reached a consensus on the fact that trustees should receive remuneration.

Discussions:

*Pierre Bonis noted that additional legal work will be required on the legal framework for the remuneration of trustees within an association, particularly to determine whether or not it is technically feasible to remunerate a company rather than a person. It is already known that a person can be remunerated *intuitu personae*. However, it is not possible for a trustee to receive payment to then pay it back in the form of a donation, as AFNIC already pays 90% of the .fr profits back to the AFNIC Foundation for digital solidarity.*

The discussions concerned "which trustees should be eligible or ineligible for remuneration", as it is likely that only elected trustees would be eligible given that this would be difficult for state-appointed representatives. Nevertheless, if a chair was no longer a state employee they could also be remunerated. The scope of remuneration would therefore need to be extended and not limited to elected trustees.

Pierre Bonis stated that, to be able to remunerate trustees, the Extraordinary General Meeting resolution would need to amend Article 14 of the articles of association, which stipulates that trustees are volunteers, to state that trustees may be remunerated and that this remuneration is governed by a defined framework that will be set out in the rules of procedure. The terms and amounts will subsequently be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Creation of committees linked to AFNIC's future activities (IoT)

The registrars did not debate this issue.

Users' position:

The users feel that an IoT Consultative Committee should be set up.

This issue falls within the scope of the rules of procedure rather than the articles of association.

The advantage of this would be to allow the participation of one or more trustees and the development of their expertise. The committee could be opened up beyond the Board of Trustees to members, if they have specific expertise. Each member would receive a report on the work of this committee.

Pierre Bonis explained that this issue needs to be considered carefully, as it is also relevant to the work of the Scientific Council, and recalled that Luc Saccavini has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as the Board of Trustees' representative to the Scientific Council.

Promoting and developing discussions between elected and appointed representatives to foster an understanding of each other's' operation and challenges.

The registrars did not debate this issue.

Users' position:

The users believe that discussions between elected and appointed trustees should be promoted by organising team building events once a year.

Developing the Board of Trustees' personal branding.

The registrars had no remarks to make on this issue.

Users' position:

The users consider that it would be useful to develop the personal branding of trustees, through speeches given by the latter (e.g. at the French night or AFNIC events), and to produce videos on issues that are also of concern to trustees. A prize could be awarded at the General Meeting to thank a trustee at the end of their term.

It would also be possible to send trustees to meetings so that they could then report to AFNIC and to members through minutes or at a consultative committee meeting.

Discussions:

A member asked whether trustees are spokespeople for AFNIC.

Pierre Bonis replied that there have already been cases where trustees, on an opportunistic or case-by-case basis, have participated in a meeting that AFNIC staff could not attend. In such cases, they have been given a one-off authorisation to represent AFNIC at the meeting. There is nothing in the articles of association to prevent an AFNIC trustee from seeking election to an organisation and AFNIC from deciding that it is important enough for an authorisation to be given to a trustee for them to represent AFNIC in this context and this specific framework, in which case there must be a regulated agreement. In these specific cases, the issue should be raised with the chair so that the decision is not solely made by the CEO.

Pierre Bonis recalled that AFNIC has only two permanent spokespeople: the chair of the Board of Trustees and the CEO.

Opening up the Board of Trustees to two new expert trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees. One put forward by the founders and one by the elected representatives.

Registrars' position:

After discussion, the registrars reached a consensus on the term "qualified individual" rather than "expert". The registrars' proposal is for the appointment committee to appoint two qualified individuals, who would be trustees without voting rights and who could offer the benefit of their knowledge and expertise to the Board of Trustees.

Users' position:

The users are in favour of opening up the Board of Trustees to two experts, providing that they are not figureheads. They must make a real contribution and do real work.

A user member stated that voting rights may be given to the two experts if one has been chosen by the elected trustees and the other by the appointed trustees, as this would not alter the balance of power within the Board of Trustees.

The expert or qualified individual would be a remunerated trustee whose expenses would be reimbursed.

Pierre Bonis recalled that the articles of association effectively enable the association to have trustees with voting rights and others without voting rights (this is the case for the CEO). There is also the status of permanent guest of the Board of Trustees, without voting rights. The chair of AFNIC's Scientific Council holds this status. All of these arrangements are possible.

Pierre Bonis ended by recalling the next steps for moving forward with these issues.

Certain proposals depend on an amendment of the articles of association in addition to the internal rules, while others depend on an amendment of the rules of procedure only (voted on by the Board of Trustees rather than by the General Meeting) and will therefore not necessarily be decided on next week. Finally, other proposals relate solely to the functioning of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees will discuss this subject at its meetings next week and, after discussion, may decide whether or not to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in order to amend the association's articles of association. The proposed amendment would cover the specific items agreed on by the Board of Trustees.

3.4. Information update

3.4.1. Development plan for .fr

Emilie Turbat presented the main actions for 2019 to be carried out with members.

Sales operations with registrars and their resellers (tripartite) relating to creations with uses or the renewal rate. Target: 10,000 domain names created through sales operations and a high renewal rate.

Synergy with the France Num platform. AFNIC is very much involved through réussir-en-.fr. It also provides content for the platform. It participates in the recruitment of activators for the platform with 23 registrars currently and a target of recruiting 50 activators in 2019. The AFNIC teams are able to help potential activators.

Webinars will be organised for registrars and their resellers for the revised pitch for .fr, and systems will be implemented for the promotion of .fr that may also be used by registrars.

Regarding **operations aimed at VSEs and SMEs**, AFNIC will be involved in:

- The digital Tour de France in partnership with Cinov-It. Members are invited to participate alongside AFNIC in the different stages of the race.
- The Bougeons-Nous awards in partnership with RMC
- The Foliweb workshops are continuing.

2019 will also see a **relaunch of réussir-en-.fr** with:

- The production of a web series showing the support given to VSEs in establishing their online presence. AFNIC is looking for partners in this endeavour: financial backers, content providers and local VSEs to offer testimonies.
- A campaign to promote the benefits of an online presence and .fr to the tourism sector. AFNIC is looking to forge partnerships with players involved in this sector.

Eric Lantonnet, an elected registrar representative, offered his thanks for the efforts made by AFNIC over the last two years to involve the distribution network in the promotion of .fr. It is important that

registrars, resellers and members are present alongside AFNIC at these events, which can be used to reach future registrants and to convert this awareness raising into purchases.

3.4.2. Partnerships and innovations

Benoit Ampeau presented the place and role of partnerships and innovation within AFNIC to the members.

Partnerships have been established in all fields since AFNIC was founded. Much work has been done over the last year to map AFNIC's partnerships.

Partnerships may be commercial, academic or scientific, with suppliers or service providers.

The aims of these partnerships are to:

- Contribute to the achievement of AFNIC's strategy and aims
- Find solutions to boost commercial potential, increase the value of the services rendered, and support the association's service and cooperation missions
- Reinforce and preserve the diversity of AFNIC's partners (*major corporations, mid-cap companies, SMEs, VSEs, institutions, universities, and other local, national or international associations*).

The key steps in AFNIC partnerships are:

- A common purpose: contributing to the achievement of AFNIC's strategy and aims
- Developing the relationship: objectives, capacity to deliver and milestones
- Value creation: operating methods, management of requests and complaints and operational management
- Measuring, developing and wrapping up: intermediate assessments, finalisation, development and communication

AFNIC currently has partnerships with more than 150 listed partners, in all departments: General Management, Marketing and Sales, Communication and Operational Excellence, HRD/Legal, IT and Partnerships and Innovation. These partners are Registrars, CCIs, Web Agencies, Publishers of solutions, Institutional investors, Universities, Schools, Suppliers and Support Service Providers.

Innovation is driven by the AFNIC Labs team

It is based on four focal areas: exploration, monitoring, knowledge transfer, and innovation, which enable the team to:

- Conduct experimental projects
- Carry out technological monitoring and contribute to standardisation activities
- Transfer knowledge and know-how
- Prototype new products and services

The team is composed of two PhDs, two engineers and one PhD student.

It works on R&D projects (R&D and cooperation projects include Zonemaster with IIS, and Comar in the security field), provides opinions and participates in appraisals, works with AFNIC's Scientific Council, contributes to standards and working groups (IETF, RIPE, CENTR and LoRa Alliance), and publishes issue papers.

The three areas of innovation in which AFNIC is present are:

- Registry services: identification and security, IoT, abuse/fraud and private/semi-public dispute resolution services
- DNS development: DNS over, DNS Priv and service discovery
- Domain name and use: use, segmentation, machine learning/AI, technical monitoring (zonemaster) and external data repositories

The 2019 roadmap is focused on the following issues: more data for registrars and registries, Zonemaster, AI (domain name operations), DNS standards and the impact of DoH, and IoT (registry and DNS service operator).

3.4.3. Market trends in domain names

Loïc Damilaville presented the market trends in domain names.

3.5. Conclusion

The registrar and user consultative committee meeting ended at 17:00.

The schedule of upcoming meetings was provided, and is reproduced below:

Date	Event
Friday 14 June	Ordinary General Meeting Annual dinner