

Registrars' and Users' Consultative Committees



Minutes of 4 May 2021

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1. Attending remotely

Users

14 persons representing 12 members of the college

- **BACHOLLET Sébastien, representing ISOC France**
- **JOLY-BACHOLLET Anne-Marie, representing Association E-seniors**
- **BLAYO Alain**
- **BOUTIGNON Antoine**
- **BOUZIDI Yannis, representing BOUYGUES SA**
- **CHAGNY Nicolas, representing ISOC France**
- **CHAMONT Eugénie**
- **FITZJEAN O COBHTHAIGH Alexis**
- **LOUIS Benjamin**
- **PAWLAK Nicolas**
- **PORTENEUVE Elisabeth**
- **TAYER David-Irving**
- **TOUSSAINT Marie, representing BOUYGUES SA**
- **VAN DE DRIESCHE Charles**

Registrars

14 persons representing 12 members of the college

- **CANER Emma, representing OVHCloud**
- **DESTENAVE Sylvie, representing ORDIPAT**
- **DULAC Bernard, representing DATAXY**
- **ENGRAND Sophie, representing NORDNET**
- **FRANCK Philippe, representing DOMAINIUM**
- **FRANQUINET Arnaud, representing GANDI**
- **GEOFFROY Pierre, representing ONE2NET**
- **GUILLEMAUT Frédéric, representing SAFEBRANDS**
- **HAUSS Patrick, representing CSC**
- **JEAN-GILLES Sophie, representing OBS**
- **KORN Jennifer, representing ORDIPAT**
- **POUSSARD Jean-François, representing SOLIDNAMES**
- **SOYER Sylvie, representing NAMESHIELD**
- **WITTERSHEIM Arnaud, representing NAMESHIELD**

Afnic

- **AMPEAU Benoit, Partnerships and Innovations Director**
- **BONIS Pierre, CEO**
- **CANAC Sophie, Head of Associative Governance**
- **CASTEX Lucien, Representative for Public Affairs**
- **DAMILAVILLE Loïc, Market Intelligence Manager**
- **DAVOUST Clémence, Events Communication Manager**
- **GEORGE LINE Marianne, Director, Legal and Registry Policy**
- **MASSÉ Régis, Director of Information Systems**
- **TOUTAUD Isabel, Managing Director of the Afnic Foundation**
- **TURBAT Emilie, Marketing and Commercial Director**

2. Agenda

Presentation of items for discussion with the committees

1. Naming Charter 2021: Changes
 - 1.1. The new legal mechanism for implementing the CPC Regulation
 - 1.2. Prohibition of registration of domain names ending in -gouv.fr
2. Expectations of the association's stakeholders as regards the management and development of the .fr domain

Separate consultative committees

Feedback from the Consultative Committees

Subjects of information and discussion items with members

1. Legislative and public policy news
2. Progress report on the Avenir project
3. The "Tous en ligne maintenant" ('All online now') project
4. The Afnic Foundation in action
5. Market trends in domain names
6. Addresses from applicant Registrars

Pierre Bonis welcomed members and Sophie Canac introduced the new members who had joined the association this year, who briefly presented themselves.

Mr Bonis recalled the agenda and the principles of the committees, with the consultation in the morning and the subjects of information and discussion items in the afternoon.

The elected trustees Sébastien Bachollet and Benjamin Louis for the users' college and Arnaud Franquinet and Frédéric Guillemaut for the Registrars' college presented themselves and welcomed members. They reminded the meeting that they were available to members and that their contact details could be found in the members' directory.

3. Minutes - items for discussion with the committees

3.1. Naming Charter 2021: Changes

Marianne Georgelin presented the two proposed changes to the naming charter.

3.1.1. The new legal mechanism for implementing the CPC Regulation

Law No. 2020-1508 of 3 December 2020 on various provisions for adapting to European Union law in economic and financial matters (1)

The Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation served as the legal basis for working with the DGCCRF (General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control) at the time of the onset of the pandemic to block illicit domain names linked to the COVID pandemic.

The competent authority in France is the DGCCRF.

The EU Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation

- The new European Regulation on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (the CPC Regulation) came into force on 17 January 2020.
- The new Regulation allows, on certain conditions, the competent authorities for the protection of consumer interests (DGCCRF in the case of France) to order a registry operator or a registrar to delete a domain name and permit the competent authority to register it.

When no other effective means is available to put a stop to or to prohibit the infringement covered by the Regulation in order to prevent the risk of serious harm to the collective interests of consumers, the competent authority has the power to:

- withdraw content from an online interface or restrict access to it or order a warning message,
- order a hosting service provider to delete, deactivate or restrict access to an online interface,

OR, IF NECESSARY

- **order registry operators or registrars to DELETE a complete domain name and allow the competent authority concerned to register it, including by entrusting the execution of these measures to a third party or to a public authority**

Article L. 45-2 of the French Post and Electronic Communications Code

Amendment of the Post and Electronic Communications Code to bring it into line with Article 6 of law 2020-1508.

“Article L. 45-2 of the French Post and Electronic Communications Code is completed by a paragraph reading as follows:

“Furthermore, the registry shall delete the domain name or transfer it without delay to the competent authority on the order of the administrative authority responsible for competition and consumer affairs pursuant to section 2c) of Article L. 521-3-1 of the Consumer Code.”

Article L. 521-3-1 of the French Consumer Code

“*Article L. 521-3-1.* – When the authorised agents observe, with the powers provided in this book, an **infringement of or failure to comply with** the provisions referred to in Articles L. 511-5, L. 511-6 and L. 511-7 and the rules relating to the conformity and security of products **based on an online interface the author of which cannot be identified** or has failed to comply with an order issued in application of Articles L. 521-1 and L. 521-2, the administrative authority responsible for competition and consumer affairs may:

“1) order the **online platform operators** in the meaning of Article L. 111-7, the persons referred to in Article 6, 11) of law No. 2004-575 of 21 June 2004 for trust in the digital economy or those exploiting software applications allowing access to an online interface **to post a message warning consumers of the risk of harm that they run** when accessing the manifestly illicit content;

“2) When the infringement observed is subject to a penalty of at least two years’ prison and is of a nature such as to seriously jeopardise the fairness of the transactions or the interests of consumers:

“a) Notify the persons falling under Article L. 111-7 I of this Code of the electronic addresses of the online interfaces the contents of which are manifestly illicit for them to take **all possible measures to put a stop to their referencing;**

“b) Notify the operators and persons referred to in section 1o of this Article or I 2) of Article 6 of the aforementioned law No. 2004-575 of 21 June 2004 of the electronic addresses of the online interfaces the contents of which are manifestly illicit for them to take **all possible measures to limit access to them;**

Point 2c of Article L. 521-3-1 of the Consumer Code is amended to read as follows:

“c) Order the registry operators or the registrars to take measures to block a domain name, for a **maximum of three months, renewable once**, followed, if the infringement persists, by **deletion of the domain name or its transfer to the competent authority.**

“These measures shall be implemented within a time set by the administrative authority, which may not be less than forty-eight hours.

“An online interface is understood as any software, including a website, a part of a website or an application, exploited by or on behalf of a professional allowing end users to access the goods or services that the professional offers.”

Afnic was consulted and heard in the preparation of this law, particularly in clarifying to the public authorities the implications of the various technical actions, for example the fact that a deletion entails the possibility of immediate re-registration and that in the case of a transfer this obliges the administration to hold a portfolio of domain names.

Blocking is a very effective way of bringing an end to a nuisance. It works quite well, as the experience of last year showed. At the end of three months the domain name is deleted (but could be registered by the DGCCRF if it wished).

Proposed amendments to the Charter

These changes are important since the Articles of the naming charter concerned are very much framed by the law and by case law, so they are not often amended.

Article 6.3 – Blocking of a domain name

A domain name will be subject to a blocking procedure **with a maximum duration of three months, renewable once**, in the following cases:

- a judicial decision ordering the blocking of the domain name and meeting the conditions laid down by the Article “Judicial proceedings”;
- a verification procedure as referred to in the Article “Powers of the Registry”;
- **On the order of the administrative authority responsible for competition and consumer affairs;**
- when the domain name is an orphan.

Article 6.5 – Forced transfer

Afnic will proceed to the forced transfer of a domain name following:

- a decision to transfer taken in the context of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedure conducted by Afnic;
- a judicial decision ordering the forced transfer of a domain name and meeting the conditions laid down by the Article headed “Judicial proceedings”;
- **an order to the competent authority by the administrative authority responsible for competition and consumer affairs;**
- a capital transaction (merger, split, etc.) if the original holder no longer has the capacity to carry out a voluntary transfer;
- a situation in which the original holder no longer has the capacity to carry out a voluntary transfer and a legal or commercial link is demonstrated between the original holder and the new one.

Article 6.8 – Deletion of a domain name

1. A domain name can be deleted:

- at the request of a registrar;
- following a judicial decision ordering the deletion of the domain name and meeting the conditions laid down by the Article headed “Judicial proceedings”;
- following a decision to delete taken in the context of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedure conducted by Afnic;
- **on the order of the administrative authority responsible for competition and consumer affairs;**
- following a fruitless verification procedure as referred to in the Article headed “Powers of the Registry”;
- following an “orphan domain” procedure as referred to in the Article headed “Orphan domain names”;

The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:

- At the end of the blocking period (3 to 6 months) the domain name is deleted since there has indeed been an infringement
- The blocking allows the holder to defend him or herself before the DGCCRF or the courts and his or her rights to the domain name can be restored if appropriate.
- A deleted domain name becomes available for registration again; the registry office does not have the right to make a blacklist of forbidden domain names. Blocked cannot be a permanent status.
- The amendment to the naming charter applies as soon as it has been validated by the Board of Trustees. In the specific case of the CPC Regulation, since the law has already been published, it must be applied, and the amendment to the naming charter corresponds to an alignment with the legislation.
- Afnic proceeds to block between 24 and 48 hours after notification by the DGCCRF, although the law does not impose a deadline for doing so.
- To the best of Afnic's knowledge, the DGCCRF has not so far put in place a specific interface for this.
- The DGCCRF takes the necessary time to investigate between receiving a report and issuing an order, since blocking can be done only if there is an infringement.
- A domain name cannot be illegal before it is registered; it becomes illegal due to its content (except in the case of a domain name explicitly inciting hatred). The list of terms subject to prior examination (a legacy from the past) need not be added to.
- Order to registry or to registrar: the DGCCRF has understood that for .fr domain names it can send its orders to Afnic; it is unlikely to send them to registrars. However, where an infringement concerns a .com domain name it will probably send any such order to the French registrar rather than to Verisign.
- A foreign competent authority cannot have direct recourse to Afnic; it must pass through the DGCCRF (European cooperation)
- The legal framework is very similar at the European level. The administrative decision is the fast model in France, while in the USA it is more likely to be a judge's decision.
- The French legislative framework is very respectful of freedoms, particularly freedom of expression (and Afnic adheres to this principle). In fact the powers of the .fr registry are limited compared with those of the gTLD registries.

3.1.2. Prohibition of registration of domain names ending in -gouv.fr

Domain names ending in "-gouv.fr" are too similar to those in the ".gouv.fr" domain:

- Risk of confusion
- Used knowingly to mislead

Examples: teletravail-gouv.fr; demarches-gouv.fr; vacances-scolaires-gouv.fr; dgse-gouv.fr; casierjudiciaire-officiel-gouv.fr

There are currently 956 domain names registered under “.gouv.fr”.

In 2020, Afnic carried out a “justification procedure” (check) on 260 “-gouv.fr” domain names (with the shorter times for this procedure, domain names can be blocked in just 7 days as opposed to 30). 75% of these checks ended in the deletion of a domain name.

Proposed amendments to the Naming Charter

Article 2.5 - The “.gouv.fr” domain

35. The “.gouv.fr” domain and its IDN versions are reserved to the French government. The supporting documentation needed to obtain the authorisation code are:

- An identifier for the **SIRENE** database or other official document allowing the entity to be identified and,
- The validation of the Government Information Service (SIG).

36. In view of their similarity to the “.gouv.fr” TLD, registration of domain names in “-gouv.fr” and their IDN versions is prohibited.

OR

36. In view of their similarity to the “.gouv.fr” TLD, domain names in “-gouv.fr” and their IDN versions are also reserved to the French government.

The discussions and questions-and-answers between the members and Afnic allowed the following points to be clarified:

- *The naming charter is never retroactive; domain names registered before this amendment will be subject to justification procedures (checks).*
- *Domain names that have been justified by the holders will therefore be maintained, except in the case of a contrary decision by the judicial authority, an order from the DGCCRF or a court ruling.*
- *It is not the sequence of characters “gouv” that is in question here. It is not the role that the legislator has assigned to the Registry, which does not have the power, any more than the administrations do, to prohibit domain names in advance. This power, as the Constitutional Council clearly reminded us in its ruling on the former legal framework of domain names, falls within the purview of the legislative. Here Afnic relies on the similarity between “-” and “.” and thus decides to strengthen protection of the particular TLD recognised in the naming policy: “.gouv.fr”.*

3.1.3. Feedback from the committees

3.1.3.a/Registrars

Transposition of the CPC Regulation:

- The registrars asked Afnic to provide them with a specimen letter ordering blocking, to allow them to identify the requirement and avoid their suspending anything that is not supposed to be suspended.
- They said they would like to have 48 hours in which to carry out the blocking
- They would like to have technical details of the “right” way to block a domain name, the status to be used (a new status? the usual lock?)

“-gouv.fr”

- The registrars expressed themselves entirely in favour of anything that can lead to greater trust in the Internet
- The registrars would prefer names in “-gouv.fr” to be PROHIBITED (as opposed to reserved to the government)
- and that the Whois directory, when interrogated, should indicate “prohibited”.
- They would like a way to be found to prevent registrations of “-gouv.fr” names so that they can directly refuse to take orders (even if the registrar is not billed by Afnic, it must manage the dispute with the client and reimburse it – the more automated it is, the fewer subsequent customer relations problems there are).

Afnic replied that it would study the matter technically, but that the justification procedure currently applied systematically to domain names ending in “-gouv.fr” was itself burdensome for registrars, and that these changes would be such as to clarify the roles and lighten their task compared with now.

It was also recalled that the holder must indicate explicitly to the Registrar that he has taken due note of the naming charter before finalising the registration of a domain name.

3.1.3.b/Users

Transposition of the CPC Regulation:

- The users agreed that these changes were a step in the right direction.
- For Articles 6.5 and 6.8, it would be useful to add that it is the French administrative authority that issues the order.
- The order should also be better defined in each paragraph by mentioning the Article of the law referred to so as not to go beyond what is provided by the texts.

Afnic responded that on this last point, the question has been raised, and since the naming charter refers to the French Post and Electronic Communications Code (above in the document) it seemed unnecessary to specify this again.

“-gouv.fr”

- The users had no discussion regarding the implementation
- A user asked whether the SIG (Government Information Service) had been informed.
→ *Afnic replied in the affirmative.*
- There was no arbitration and therefore no consensus as to whether to prohibit or to reserve to the state, particularly due to the difference induced in terms of intellectual property law. Opinions diverged among members between:
 - o It is better to prohibit than to create confusion if a state department were to use “-gouv.fr”
 - o It is important to protect users from fraudulent uses of domain names (for example the possibility of blocking names in -gouv.fr that correspond to existing names in .gouv.fr)
 - o Risk that Afnic will find itself accused of arbitrary refusal, restricting the freedom of expression and intellectual property rights.
 - o Afnic’s deciding to prohibit the registration of a chain of characters was extremely rare. While understanding the logic, one wonders about Afnic’s legal capacity to take such decisions.

Afnic reminded those present that the reservation of the “.gouv.fr” domain to the government came from the naming charter, not the law. One might therefore consider that the “-gouv.fr” TLD also falls within the area of competence of the Registry.

The absence of consensus is in itself a result of consultation which Afnic understands.

3.2. Expectations of the association's stakeholders as regards the management and development of the .fr domain

3.2.1. Reopening of competition for the Registry. Afnic's expectations?

Pierre Bonis reminded the meeting that the registry office for the .fr TLD is reopened to competition every five years (or ten in the event of extension). The contract signed between the State and Afnic expires in June 2022. The State has launched a competitive process. Afnic is naturally a candidate to succeed itself. The work of preparing a response has already been started with the Management Committee and other employees of Afnic, as well as with the Board of Trustees in the seminar of September 2020.

The written response must be submitted by 30 June. There will then be a negotiation phase which we expect to lead to resumption, in any case to a decision in 2021.

The major themes required were the following (not necessarily in this order):

- View of strong and weak points of the .fr domain
- Organisation and procedures for managing the .fr TLD (including accreditation, basic operations with the .fr TLD, management of orphan domain names, etc.)
- Quality of service (SLAs for production and support/customer service)
- Technical watch and R&D
- Security
- Protection of personal data
- Trust in the .fr TLD and the fight against abuse, including protection of State domain names
- Dispute resolution
- Development and promotion of the .fr domain
- Digital solidarity, CSR
- Positioning of Afnic among Internet players internationally and nationally
- Cost of services and pricing policy
- Allocation of profits and/or turnover

Pierre Bonis therefore asked members which points they wished to see in Afnic's response dossier.

3.2.2. Feedback from the committees

3.2.2.a/ Registrars

The registrars made the following suggestions:

- Improvement of the SYRELI dispute management interface (with a subscription, an API, a new interface, a document management system, search engine, possibility of subscribing to a newsletter, etc.)
- They also asked whether it could be possible to present the project with more emphasis on co-marketing with the registrars in terms of sharing the result. This with a view to together raising the profile and visibility of the .fr domain.
- They also asked whether there would ever be a call for tender for the French overseas domains.

On this last point, Afnic was preparing for any call for tender for the overseas domains in application of L45 but for now no date was known to it.

3.2.2.b/ Users

The users saw three priorities to be included in the response:

- Protection of personal data
- Security
- Digital solidarity through the Afnic Foundation

The other ideas that came out of the discussions were:

- Integrating Afnic's vision of the .fr TLD and the Internet of tomorrow
- Combating silos (platforms) and making the .fr TLD the best solution for an Internet identity

And lastly, without this being integrated into the proposal made to the State: help Afnic members in exercising their mandates in international settings.

Users expressed their satisfaction with being consulted and with 12 old and new members on the committee with a wide variety of profiles and interests, they could see that indeed strength comes from diversity and that the association plays a useful role.

The CEO thanked members for their unanimous support for the association in this application process.

3.3. Other business:

The registrars wished to address some complementary questions to Afnic:

Avenir: was there a date for the switch of the .fr TLD?

Afnic responded that the switch-over would be at the end of 2021 or early 2022.

Transfer expiry dates: when would we have it for production?

Afnic responded that this would be effective at the time the .fr TLD switches to Avenir.

Will we have a presentation on the evolution of the FTP service for recovering the portfolios?
Can it be maintained until the launch of the new one?

Afnic responded that all the services currently provided in legacy would be maintained until the switch-over.

On the new website, which represents a real advance, the search engine suggested by the registrars could enable them to provide post codes (secondary establishment) to post on the map.

Afnic responded that this request was legitimate and it would look to see what it was possible to do so that registrars can have their hands on the data or can ask for them to be updated.

4. Minutes - subjects of information and discussion items with members

4.1. Progress report on the Avenir project

Régis Massé recalled that Avenir is a programme launched in 2018 for the complete overhaul of Afnic's SRS.

Two major axes in the programme:

- Reinvent
 - Implement new technologies
 - Redesign the whole system
 - Rethink the organisation of the teams
- Diversify
 - Extend the client offering
 - Extend our fields of activity
 - Provide support to the community

A project constructed by iteration

By reference to a number of domain names, a number of registrars, a number of specific functionalities

- Minimum Viable Product
- Scope of brand TLDs
- Scope of open TLDs
- Scope of .fr and French overseas domains

With Constants

- Respect for standards
- Quality
- Performances
- Ergonomics
- Security
- Data protection

Two major milestones passed:

- Mid-2020: switches in production: Closed TLDs
- 29 April 2021: switch of sandboxes: Open TLDs

Preparation of switch in production of open gTLDs

- Integration of customer feedback
 - Correction of bugs, major and minor incidents
 - Accompaniment of clients in getting used to the new interfaces
- Preparation of production switch-over
 - Preparation of data
 - Tests on switch-over of production data
 - Integration of the parametrisation data (registry policies, reserved and premium terms, tariffs, etc.)
- Planning of the production switch-overs
 - Definition of plans with regard to customer constraints
- Switch-over of the production environments
 - Preparation of management of production accounts
 - Switch-over operations
 - Supervision and monitoring of environments

Meanwhile... for the .fr domain

Specification work and realisation & preparation of the migration plan

- Technical work (infrastructure, specific developments, tests, acceptance, continuity plan, etc.)
- Checks and validations (registry policies, functionalities, security audit, management of personal data, etc.)
- Relations with stakeholders
- Functional and technical documentation
- Skills transfer
- Communication plan

Objectives for 2021: provision of global planning after the summer (opening of the sandbox and switch-over of .fr and overseas domain production environments).

Working from home for a year now has changed ways of operating, monitoring, etc.

Creating TLDs on Avenir is 20 times quicker than in the case of Legacy.

One of the objectives pursued through Avenir is to save time on future developments and cut system response times for new products and services.

One member who had been able to start testing the registry interface gave an initial feedback: “fluid, easy to use, intuitive.” It’s functional and it looks good: encouraging.

In response to members wishing to know the impact of Avenir on end users, Afnic explained that this would be seen in reduced response times from Whois and the implementation of RDAP (Registration Data Access Protocol, designed to eventually replace Whois). The rest is masked and yet essential to the proper operation of the Internet, which is still the case for the DNS.

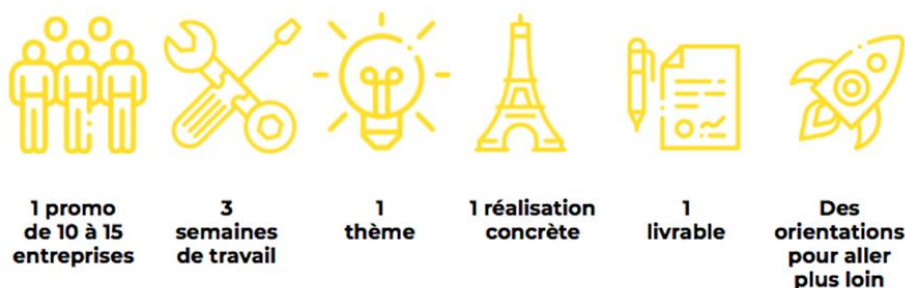
Pierre Bonis congratulated the Information Systems Department and the Marketing & Sales teams on the implementation of the project. He recalled that this project was a genuinely transversal business project and that all Afnic teams would be affected by the switch-over of the .fr TLD. He added that having a multi-actor Board of Trustees was very useful to the Afnic teams in terms of support, guidance and advice.

4.2. The “Tous en ligne maintenant” (‘All online now’) project

Emilie Turbat reminded the meeting that it was a pilot scheme developed jointly with Néocamino and Cinov-Numérique at the end of 2021 that allowed this mechanism to be created.

The concept of support actions

A grant of €300 including tax for a free service for the beneficiary enterprise



Themes centred on online presence

- Create the first version of your website
- Sell products online
- Optimise your local referencing so that you can easily be found in your catchment area
- Create or re-think your presence on LinkedIn for prospecting and to convey the best image of yourself

- Keep in touch with your clients and prospects with effective emails
- Build your online reputation on the opinions of your satisfied customers
- Put in place an online quotation system in order to sell more effectively
- Collect your customers' email addresses and contact them more effectively

A grouping and partners for reaching VSEs/SMEs throughout the territory

The grouping: Leader: Afnic, In charge of operations: Neocamino,

Other members: CINOV Numérique, CPME, La Mêlée

Partners for communication and recruitment:

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, AFPA, Planète CSCA, the CINOV Federation

A name: **Tous en ligne maintenant** (“All online now”) and a website <https://tousenlignemaintenant.fr/tousenlignemaintenant.fr>

Selected together with three other groupings from among 75 respondents to the Bpifrance and FranceNum call for projects.

Bpifrance and FranceNum have already issued the second call for projects and will regularly issue more.

Objectives and criteria

Duration of the project selected by Bpifrance and FranceNum: 18 months, from May 2021 to October 2022

Objectives:

- Number of beneficiary enterprises: 3,000
- Neocamino's commitment: 2,000
- La Mêlée's commitment: 200
- Afnic's commitment: 100 (in Yvelines)

Criteria to be adhered to:

- Minimum 80% VSEs
- Maximum 20% SMEs
- Businesses with at least two years of existence in France and €20,000 turnover in the last financial year
- Grant limited to two themes per beneficiary enterprise or to two persons per beneficiary enterprise in any one session
- No focus on a single proprietary solution

Communicating to recruit

The needs:

- - Recruiting beneficiary enterprises
- - Recruiting coaches to coordinate the support actions

The means:

- Communication kits made available to the partners at the beginning of May
- A website presenting the scheme and the support action themes and inviting visitors to register
- Presentation document for coaches, delivered at the beginning of May

Afnic explained that it was adding these arrangements in order to promote the online presence of VSEs and that it was another complementary means of encouraging the move from words to deeds and as such could lead to new business.

Among the “guidelines for going further” at the end of the accompaniment, there was for example, the “je passe au numérique” (“I’m going digital”) scheme featuring the packs offered by the registrars. A resource centre will also be available on the website to accompany beneficiaries of the support actions.

4.3. The Afnic Foundation in action

Isabel Toutaud, Managing Director of the Afnic Foundation presented the actions carried out by the Afnic Foundation for Digital Solidarity.

The Foundation was created in April 2015 by Afnic, based on an idea that came from the agreement signed between the State and Afnic in 2012. Afnic donates 90% of the profits from the management of the .fr TLD to the Foundation.

The foundation is comprised of:

- An Executive Committee with nine members
 - Six members designated by Afnic: Godefroy Beauvallet, Pierre Bonis, Marine Chantreau, Jean-Pierre Dardayrol, Arnaud Franquinet and David Tayer,
 - Three qualified personalities chosen for their on-the-ground digital knowledge and skills.
- One Managing Director
- Three instructors

The Foundation engages in projects directed at people facing difficulties in the day-to-day use of digital tools and digital life in general, regardless of age, specificity and region.

The Afnic Foundation in 5 years of calls for projects:

- **€4,939,359 distributed**

- **1,669 projects submitted**
- **244 awards**

The three main project themes between 2017 and 2020 were: Education/Training - Insertion/employment - Health/disability

2 calls for projects in 2021 are under way, one of them for a dedicated “digital workshop” project aimed at seniors, young people in the insertion process or having dropped out of school, etc.)

In addition to the annual calls for projects, the Foundation offers:

- A resource centre
- Training sessions
- Video publicity about the projects
- Themed coffee chats where you can meet project sponsors, network and create synergies
- Video Q&A sessions
- Accompaniment of national structures to increase the leverage effect on regions (bringing together solidarity operators with digital cruisers for example)

Lastly Isabel Toutaud encouraged members to visit the website of the Afnic Foundation <https://www.fondation-afnic.fr> and to promote the .fr domain: *“the .fr domain stands for solidarity”*.

4.4. Market trends in domain names

Loic Damilaville presented the market trends in domain names to members.

He said that the 2020 domain name market observatory should be published soon, as writing had been completed.

4.5. Addresses from applicant Registrars

The three candidates introduced themselves briefly and said they looked forward to seeing the member registrars on 27 May:

- CSC -> Patrick Hauss
- NAMESHIELD -> Arnaud Wittersheim
- OVHCloud -> Emma Caner

Members will be able to consult **the members’ space**:

- Candidates' manifestos and declarations of interests
- Candidates' campaign videos

Upcoming diary dates:

- 27 May, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM: Special election of the registrars' committees to allow members of the registrars' college to exchange and pose questions to the candidates.
- Early June: online voting opens
- 11 June: General assembly, voting in person, count.

Pierre Bonis took advantage of this moment to thank Frédéric Guillemaut for his involvement in and contribution to the association over the course of many years as trustee.

4.6. Legislative and public policy news

In this new section of the consultative committee meeting, Lucien Castex presented a particularly full news bulletin with reforms at both the French and the European level.

After a presentation of the ambitions in terms of digital sovereignty, the ecological impact of the digital transition and cybersecurity, the national context was addressed: texts under discussion, strategic impact, prospects.

Next the projects being carried out at European level were presented: these projects are aimed at strengthening the digital single market: security, implementation of rules to foster innovation, consumer protection and protection of fundamental rights on the Internet.

Particular subjects mentioned included the legislation on digital services and markets presented by the European Commission on 15 December 2020, the European strategy on data and the revision of the NIS (Network and Information System Security) directive.

Lastly, time was spent on prospects for public policies and exchanges. Several participants expressed their particular interest in seeing this presentation of legislative and public policy news made a permanent feature of future consultative committee meetings.