

# Ordinary General Meeting of 11 June 2021



Minutes

## CONTENTS

<b>Preamble</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Agenda</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Attendees:</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Minutes</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1. Opening by the Chair .....	6
3.2. Appointment of a Recording Secretary and a Scrutineer .....	6
3.3. Activity Report 2020 .....	6
3.4. Presentation of the 2020 annual accounts .....	12
3.5. Auditor's reports .....	14
3.6. Approval of the accounts for the 2020 financial year and allocation of earnings.....	14
3.7. Vote on the 2022 overall budget allocated to trustee compensation .....	15
3.8. Overview of current state of Internet governance.....	15
3.9. Election of a trustee representing the Registrars .....	18

# Preamble

On 11 June 2021 at 9:30am, the members of Afnic met in ordinary general meeting at the Maison de l'Alsace, 39 Avenue des Champs-Élysées 75008 Paris and online <https://visio.afnic.fr/b/sop-geq-nim>.

Convocation to the meeting, containing the agenda, had been sent on 21 May 2021, electronically, to all members.

The date and place of the meeting, the agenda and the working documents were available in the members' area: <https://membres.afnic.fr>.

## 1. Agenda

- Opening by the Chair
- Appointment of a Recording Secretary and a Scrutineer
- Activity report 2020
- Presentation of the 2020 annual accounts
- Auditor's report
- Approval of the accounts for the 2020 financial year and allocation of earnings
- Vote on the 2022 overall budget allocated to trustee compensation
- Overview of current state of Internet governance
- Election of a trustee representing the Registrars

## 2. Attendees:

Upon entering the meeting, each member present signed an attendance sheet; for members attending online, a screenshot was taken of the list to identify them and record their online presence on the attendance sheet. These documents can be consulted at the Afnic Members service.

In total, 53 members were present or represented, 48 of whom were entitled to vote. Those present were counted each time a resolution was voted on.

### 3 Founding Members represented by two Afnic trustees:

- **Inria represented by Mr Godefroy Beauvallet**
- **Inria represented by Mr Luc Saccavini**
- **Ministry of Industry represented by Mr Gilles Crespin**

## 1 Honorary Member (non-voting):

- **Ms Annie Renard**, present online

## 12 User Members, individuals (including 1 non-voting):

- **Mr Sébastien Bachollet**
- **Mr Philippe Batreau**
- **Mr Alain Blayon**, present online
- **Mr Laurent Bloch**
- **Mr Antoine Boutignon**
- **Mr Nicolas Chagny** having given power to Mr Sébastien Bachollet
- **Mr David Chelly** having given power to Mr Antoine Boutignon
- **Mr Alexis Fitzjean Ó Cobhthaigh**, present online
- **Mr Benjamin Louis**
- **Ms Elisabeth Porteneuve**, present online
- **Mr Jean-Benoit Richard**, having given power to Mr Philippe Batreau in case his online presence should fail
- **Mr David-Irving Tayer**, present online

## 7 User Members, individuals (including 2 non-voting):

- **Association E-Seniors**, represented by **Ms Anne-Marie Joly-Bachollet** having given power to Mr Philippe Batreau in case her online presence should fail
- **Association bzh**, represented by **Mr David Lesvenan** having given power to Mr Benjamin Louis
- **CCI Métropolitaine Bretagne Ouest**, represented by **Mr Franck Bellion**, having given power to Mr Benjamin Louis
- **INLEX IP Expertise**, represented by **Ms Déborah Fage**, present online
- **ISOC France**, represented by **Mr Nicolas Chagny**, having given power to Mr Sébastien Bachollet
- **JINFO**, represented by **Mr Jomaa Ben Sassi**, present online
- **Sparkling**, represented by **Mr Benjamin Louis**

## 16 Registrar Members (including 1 non-voting):

- **CSC Corporate Domains**, represented by **Mr Patrick Hauss**
- **Dataxy**, represented by **Mr Bernard Dulac**, present online
- **Domainoo**, represented by **Emilie Dessens**, having given power to Mr Arnaud Franquinet
- **Gandi**, represented by **Mr Arnaud Franquinet**
- **Renater**, represented by **Mr Jean-François Guezou**, present online
- **Ikoula**, represented by **Mr Alain Closson**
- **Meyers & Partenaires** represented by **Mr Steve Fuhrmann**, present online
- **Namebay**, represented by **Mr Arnaud Wittersheim**
- **Nameshield**, represented by **Mr Arnaud Wittersheim**
- **Nordnet**, represented by **Mr Scott Jung**, present online

- **One2net, represented by Mr Pierre Geoffroy**, present online
- **Orange, represented by Ms Sophie Jean-Gilles**
- **Ordipat, represented by Ms Jennifer Korn**
- **OVH, represented by Ms Emma Caner**
- **Safebrands, represented by Mr Frédéric Guillemaut**
- **Solidnames, represented by Mr Jean-François Poussard**, present online

#### 14 Correspondent Members of the International College:

- **Arcep Burkina Faso, represented by Mr Serge Roland Sanou**, present online
- **ARTCI, represented by Mr Kouadio Landry**, present online
- **CACSUP, represented by Mr Philémon Kissangou**, present online
- **CAMTEL, represented by Mr Oumarou Mounpoubeyi**, present online
- **CII, represented by Mr Vojo Spahiu**, present online
- **CNI, represented by Mr Félix Ndayirukye**, present online
- **Centre Reseautic, represented by Mr Mamy Randriamaharo**, present online
- **Comores Telecom, represented by Mr Ali Hadji**, present online
- **INPHB, represented by Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga**, present online
- **NIC Madagascar, represented by Mr Raft Razafindrakoto**, present online
- **NIC Mauritanie, represented by Mr Ahmed Salem Cheikh**, present online
- **NIC Sénégal, represented by Mr Alex Corenthin**, present online
- **SAN, represented by Agim Cami**, present online
- **Webnet Africa, represented by Ms Rita Tshimanga**, present online

Also attending the General Meeting:

- **Mr Olivier Souillard, auditor, Audit France**
- **Mr Laurent Toutain, Chair of Afnic's Scientific Council**
- **Mr Benoit Ampeau, Partnerships and Innovations Director, Afnic**
- **Mr Pierre Bonis, CEO of Afnic**
- **Ms Sophie Canac, Head of Associative Governance, Afnic**
- **Mr Lucien Castex, Representative for Public Affairs and Partnership Development, Afnic**
- **Ms Clémence Davoust, Events Communication Manager, Afnic**
- **Ms Caroline Duval-Favre, Purchasing and Finance Director, Afnic**
- **Ms Marianne Georgelin, Legal Director, Afnic**
- **Mr Hervé Martin, Human Resources Director, Afnic**
- **Mr Régis Massé, Director of Information Systems, Afnic**
- **Mr Pascal Vella, Head of Digital Communication, Afnic**

## 3. Minutes

This year once again the general meeting was held in hybrid mode, members being present either in the room or remotely by video-conference.

### 3.1. Opening by the Chair

The ordinary general meeting lawfully convened, the Chair Mr Godefroy Beauvallet opened the session. He welcomed the participants and announced the agenda.

### 3.2. Appointment of a Recording Secretary and a Scrutineer

Ms Clémence Davoust (Afnic) was appointed recording secretary and Ms Sophie Canac (Afnic) was named scrutineer.

### 3.3. Activity report 2020

Godefroy Beauvallet announced he was pleased to be able to report that 2020 had been satisfactory overall, despite the major operational disturbances linked to the health context. This proved the resilience of the association's operation and made it possible to present very high-quality results to the General Meeting. None of this would have been possible without hard work, due to the market uncertainties in 2020, which led to frequent exchanges and questions at the level of both the teams and the Board of Trustees. During this crisis, the business continuity plan, the risk management plan, the quality initiatives and the major work on security as operator of an essential service were all fruitful and effective. Sometimes considered cumbersome and costly, these proved on the contrary to be major plus points, vectors of agility for the organisation, thanks to the spirit in which they were designed and continuously improved. All services were maintained and projects pursued despite the majority of employees having shifted to teleworking. As well as continuing the ESO compliance measures, Afnic became a training organisation, and the overhaul of the registration system passed some major milestones.

This particular year was also an opportunity for the French Internet, in view of the massive move online of small enterprises and associations. Rather than a presence under the umbrella of the GAFAs platforms or other major players, Afnic wants this move online to represent a staking of independence, part of which involves having a domain name under the trusted French .fr TLD, and is striving to make this an obvious choice. It is for this reason that Afnic made raising the profile of the .fr TLD a priority in 2020, notably through its year-

end audiovisual campaign, and took action surrounding the FranceNum initiatives. The results were very positive, with growth of 14% in .fr domain create operations in 2020.

2020 nonetheless revealed a weakness for Afnic: the relational deficit that has been compounded in its mission as coordinator and central actor of the French, European and world Internet community. The online shift of the various meetings, seminars and trade fairs admittedly made it possible to do more than just expedite day-to-day matters. The meetings of the International College, like those of the Users' and Registrars' consultative committees were held online in 2020 and in the first half of 2021. But doing everything remotely inevitably impedes the creation of new projects and the building of trust-based relations. This must be a point of vigilance in 2021 and beyond.

Lastly, 2020 was also a year of preparation for... 2021, the year of the call for tender for the renewal of the concession of the role of registry for the .fr domain, for which Afnic is needless to say a candidate. Afnic's success in 2020 places it in the best possible position for this crucial renewal.

Pierre Bonis welcomed participants and presented the activity report for 2020.

## The Association

Despite the health context, the association's Board of Trustees had been able to meet with the normal frequency, albeit online. All association events were held as planned except for the annual Afnic dinner.

For the first time, the General Meeting was held both in person and online, and online voting was introduced for the elections of representatives to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees seminar in September 2020 marked the start of work for the Government's call for tender for the public service concession for the management and promotion of the .fr domain.

With the consultative committees and the committees of the Board of Trustees, we were able to develop the registry policy on protecting accented variants (IDN) of ".gouv.fr", validate a simplification of the method of calculating expiry dates following transfer operations, obtain recognition of Afnic as a training body and launch VSE packs recommended by the .fr domain with the Registrars.

The Afnic Forum for a trustworthy Internet allowed members and the wider community to acquire information and to debate during four meetings on online abuse.

Lastly, the International College continued its work on three projects: the African Domain Names Observatory (ONDA); the Process of Automating ccTLD Registries (PAR) and National Digital Identity (I2N).

The association retained its attractiveness, and several new members joined.

## A record year for .fr

The .fr domain experienced an atypical year in 2020, with a sharp increase in create operations (+14%) and a 7% growth in stock.

These changes are the consequences of the acceleration of the digital transformation, which led numerous VSEs and SMEs to develop their online activities.

Afnic was thus able to accompany the clear resurgence of digital transformation needs and to bring about a perception of the .fr TLD in this period as a safe, accessible, close-at-hand solution suited to the general public. We have not lost ground to the proclaimed winners of this crisis, the major platforms. On the contrary, the latest figures published on e-commerce, coupled with our own .fr scorecard show that solutions based on autonomy around domain names have gained in market share, and the .fr domain has gained more than its rivals (.com and others, .net, .org, etc.) and European counterparts.

The majority of these enterprises opted to register .fr domain names, leading to an increase in the TLD's market share, which stood at 38% at the end of 2020.

The renewal rate also improved, reaching 83.9%. The age structure of .fr domain names has contributed so far to the TLD's stability, but also to its growth.

At 31 December 2020, .fr had 3,670,372 domain names in stock, compared with 3,428,951 at 31 December 2019.

It thus grew by 7.0% in 2020, with a net balance of 241,421 names.

After two years of slowdown, .fr almost doubled its growth in 2020 relative to 2019 (7.0% as against 3.7%). This growth remained higher than that of the French market for all TLDs together (+6.1% in 2020 as opposed to +2.5% in 2019).

## Promotion of the .fr TLD

For the first time, in November and December 2020 Afnic carried out a TV promotional campaign for the .fr TLD, with the aim of raising the profile and visibility of the domain among its targets - VSEs, SMEs, craftspersons, the self-employed and micro-entrepreneurs - at a time when going online was crucial for the continuity of their activities. Afnic thus sponsored the weekday current affairs programmes and the weekend culture and leisure programmes on BFM TV, the France Télévisions group channels and Arte. This TV advertising was also accompanied by an online promotional campaign for the .fr TLD using advertising banners highly visible on PCs and mobiles: these banners were then linked to a dedicated page of *réussir-en.fr*. ("succeed with .fr"). In all, this advertising based on the trust associated with the .fr TLD was broadcast more than 1,000 times by sponsoring a score of national and regional TV programmes, some fifty regional daily press websites and a dozen professional websites.

The VSE/SME packs were launched with the Registrars after consultation with members. This is a fine example of cooperation between the registry and its distribution network. A speedy response from all actors to the situation experienced by users, with the move online becoming urgent during the health crisis.



The support and other actions launched in 2021 were prepared in 2020 with a proof of concept (POC) presented to the Minister with responsibility for VSEs and SMEs in November. This concept, put together with Néocamino and Cinov-Numérique, was proposed to Bpifrance and France Num, and the consortium is one of the four bidders retained following the call for projects.

### **A partnership with the DGCCRF to combat abuse**

During the health emergency, Afnic signed a partnership agreement with the DGCCRF (General Directorate for Competition Policy, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control) aimed at identifying .fr domain names featuring expressions belonging to the semantic field associated with COVID-19. Afnic sent a daily updated list of domain names to the DGCCRF. Upon implementation of the procedure, all the domain names were checked, then each new website was systematically verified and domain names that had been inactive at the time of the first check were placed under surveillance. The partnership also made it possible to obtain the blocking of websites identified by the DGCCRF as vehicles for misleading sales practices.

### **R&D - In-house or partner projects**

This past year, more digital than ever, brought more intense general attention to the quality of service and the security of exchanges on the networks. This naturally concerned the DNS too.

For the ecosystem of DNS actors, 2020 was marked in particular by the fast-moving developments and the numerous associated discussions around the adoption of DoH.

The developments of the DNS protocol are aimed at making DNS requests more secure through the use of new channels (TLS, http/2 and http/3).

Noticing that there were few if any resources in French on these subjects, Afnic's R&D department created and made available technical resources illustrated with concrete examples accessible to all, as well as a tool for testing conformity with standards, for implementing DoT and DoH resolvers by providing an open software app.

Afnic is involved in several partnered research projects on Cybersecurity and the Internet of Things, and two research articles were accepted and published in 2020 in leading conferences.

Following a year of re-energising in 2019, 2020 was a historic year for the drawing up of proposals for collaborative projects, with no fewer than six R&D projects.

The balance is positive. Two proposals were adopted. The first proposal consists of two parts: the implementation of a proof of concept of sovereign digital identity based on domain names and the strengthening of France's presence at European level in cyber and DNS subjects (support of the MEAE - French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs), while the second one is a new partnered research project in the context of a Franco-German call for projects (MESRI-BMBF, French Ministry of Higher Education, Research & Innovation and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research). For this project, known as PiVOT, Afnic

will act as the French coordinator, working with the CITI academic laboratory associated with INSA Lyon and Inria. These three years of future collaboration aim to take account of the problems of confidentiality and security of the IoT by relying in particular on identifiers that respect privacy.

Continuation, with our Swedish counterparts, of Zonemaster, a tool used by ICANN and available to all.

ID4me, a Franco-German project for verifying digital identity (alternative to Google or Facebook Connect).

### Other activities: French Overseas Territories, gTLDs, advice, training, etc.

The same growth trend driven by the needs of an accelerated digital transformation was also seen with the French overseas domains.

Two Board visits to important clients (Carrefour and Crédit Agricole) showed that Afnic's expertise could be recognised beyond our immediate circle. It also illustrated the attractions of a partnership approach with our registrars, who have often provided joint services with us.

Lastly, the non-.fr activities, driven by advisory services and French overseas TLDs, progressed despite an unfavourable context for the development of new generic TLDs. With the exception of the .paris TLD, the other geographic TLDs continued to make progress. Sales operations were launched for the .paris TLD, which allowed us to hold the stock steady from one year to the next.

Afnic switched its brand TLDs to its new system and prepared the switch of the geographic TLDs. The project continues this year with preparation for the migration of the .fr TLD.

### Social responsibility at Afnic

Numerous components of corporate social responsibility (CSR) are in evidence daily at Afnic, starting with our governance model, which ensures that all stakeholders in naming and in the French Internet are listened to, represented and collaborated with.

Labour relations and working conditions have also always been at the centre of our concerns and of exchanges with personnel representatives and the competent authorities since the creation of the Association in 1998. Work-life balance, to name just one example, formed part of the first agreements on working time in 1999.

We also attach great importance to listening to and defending the interests of holders of .fr domain names, particularly by way of our 24/7 support and our **SYRELI** dispute resolution procedure. In accordance with **its mission**, Afnic has always sought to be exemplary, equitable and transparent in its relations with its clients, suppliers and partners in order to ensure the resilience and security of the .fr TLD but also to promote and develop its use.

We also work on local development through our partnerships, our training actions and our involvement with numerous bodies and schools, particularly in the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines employment and training cluster in which Afnic is established.

As for environmental matters, we have committed to evaluating our carbon footprint and publishing the results of our carbon balance sheet every three years. The first diagnosis was carried out in 2013 for 2012 and Afnic set itself reduction targets aligned with the Kyoto Protocol, the results of which were visible in the carbon balance sheets for 2015 and 2018.

The creation of the **Afnic Foundation** for Digital Solidarity in 2015 also represented an essential milestone in the development of our vision of CSR. Our social commitment is also seen in the cooperation, co-development and skills transfer actions of our International College.

CSR has been one of the axes of our **multi-year strategy** since 2019. We therefore worked on mapping the components of CSR at Afnic in 2020 and on formalising a process that will enable us to put in place a medium-term CSR management system.

## The Afnic Foundation

**Afnic allocates 90% of the profits generated by its activity as Registry Operator of the .fr TLD to the Foundation. Since 2012, Afnic has donated more than €11.6 million to the Foundation**

In the context of the health crisis and lockdown measures, the **Afnic Foundation** naturally contributed its support to local initiatives aimed at reducing the digital divide and re-establishing social ties. The Afnic Foundation financed the purchase of computers for pupils of the La Courtille school in Saint-Denis to help them follow their courses online. It took part in the project of the Les Chemins de l'Espérance association aimed at equipping its twenty senior residences with sound systems and connected microphones and speakers so that residents could follow and take part in the various activities provided in order to maintain the human relations that are at the heart of the support project. La Cravate Solidaire also received support from the Afnic Foundation in organising seven hours of online support with volunteers for 150 job-seekers by preparing them for their interviews.

In 2020, the Foundation dedicated a call for projects to the themes of education and training on digital matters, which have been increasing constantly for the last five years. The other themes were addressed in the second call for projects. In all, 68 projects were adopted for a total amount of more than €1 million, of which €321,000 for workshops to accompany the public in its digital apprenticeship.

### **A new resource for project leaders**

In 2020, the Afnic Foundation opened a "Resource Centre" on its website to help project leaders develop and structure their projects. This dedicated space offers a variety of services: a list of the training sessions and services available, a heading that brings together various documents such as the legal provisions and new government directives, access to all the projects supported by the Foundation, with a detailed description of the project's progress by the winner, the obstacles encountered, the solutions implemented, and offering the possibility of networking with a view to exchanging ideas.

## 3.4. Presentation of the 2020 annual accounts

Caroline Duval-Favre presented the association's 2020 annual accounts.

### Revenues

For 2020, Afnic posted growth of 6.3% in its total revenues, which amounted to €19,069,087.

This growth was driven by that of the .fr domain, which grew by 6.4% relative to 2019, amounting to €17,374,995. This revenue growth is in line with the annual growth in its stock of 7.0%, with 3,670,372 domain names registered at 31 December 2020. This growth in revenues was brought about in particular by domain name create operations (+14%), renewals (+4.4%), current transfer type operations (+18%) and specific products associated with the .fr TLD (+15%).

Revenues from French overseas TLDs, amounting to €268,348, was up by 10.1% on 2019. The total stock of domain names increased by 12%, standing at 49,358 at 31 December 2020.

The number of gTLDs was fairly stable from 2019 to 2020. The 3.3% growth in revenues from gTLDs and Advisory Services, which amounted to €1,425,744, was driven by the Consulting & Training activity which turned in a fine performance with the completion of two assignments and revenues of €61,933, up by 726% compared with 2019.

### Operating expenses

Operating expenses increased at the same rate as revenues, +6.3%. Operating expenses amounted to €15,836,316 in 2020.

These expenses reflect the actions undertaken in 2020, notably ambitious promotional actions such as the televisual campaign at the end of 2020 and the continuation of the Avenir project. Fixed costs were kept well under control.

### Operating profit and net profit

Operating profit before tax and allocation to the Foundation was up by 5.1% compared to 2019. It amounted to €3.62 million (19.0% of revenues), reflecting the good operating performance of Afnic.

Net profit came to €605,000 after deduction of profit sharing, taxes and allocation to the Foundation.

Focus on activities

- FR: +5.6% growth in operating profit (vs. 2019)
- Other than FR: +5.8% growth in operating profit (vs. 2019)
- Third year in a row of near break-even for the gTLD business.

## Workforce

The year 2020 ended with a workforce of 85, up by 3.6% compared with the end of 2019 (13 arrivals and 10 departures). This reflects well on Afnic's ability to incorporate 13 employees in 2020 in the context of the health crisis and the resulting conditions, notably teleworking. The strategic positions were all replaced.

## Accumulated surplus

At €9,375,000 the accumulated surplus at year-end 2020 is sufficient to cover around 13 months of personnel costs and rentals for hosting (Datacentre) and premises.

To conclude, the very good results for 2020 allow us to consolidate the accumulated surplus and to maintain Afnic's strategic objectives, and more particularly for 2021 to be able to support the online presence and digital autonomy of VSEs/SMEs with the .fr domain; to present the best candidacy for Registry Operator for the .fr domain and consolidate the Back-end Registry Operator offering to new gTLDs and to adopt a CSR action plan and integrate it fully into our Quality approach.

Godefroy Beauvallet, as Chair of the association, and Sébastien Bachollet, as trustee chairing the finance committee of the Board of Trustees, thanked Caroline Duval-Favre for her clear presentation and explanations of the financial statements, which show real progress and an informative approach giving the Board of Trustees a clear view of what is going on.

## 3.5. Auditor's reports

Olivier Souillard, statutory auditor, addressed the elements of the **auditor's general report on the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020** which had been uploaded to the Afnic members' dedicated area.

The statutory auditor certified that the annual accounts for 2020 were in order and gave a true and fair view of the results of the operations for the financial year last ended and of the assets and financial position of Afnic at the end of that year.

Following the specific checks required by law, the auditor had no observations to make on the truthfulness and consistency with the annual accounts of the information given in the activity report of the Board of Trustees and the other documents sent to members on the financial position and annual accounts.

The annual accounts were certified without qualification.

Olivier Souillard informed the General Meeting of the conclusions **of the Auditor's special report on regulated agreements** for the past financial year in application of the provisions of Article L612-5 of the French Commercial Code.

#### Trustee compensation

The Extraordinary General Meeting of 20 November 2019 had decided that the elected trustees would receive compensation for the duties entrusted to them and within the limits set annually by the General Meeting. In accordance with Article 14 of the articles of association and Article 2.1.5 of the internal regulations, this compensation, which must be requested by the trustees, is paid quarterly.

In respect of financial year 2020, the following amounts were paid to the following trustees: Mr Sébastien Bachollet €10,500, Mr Benjamin Louis €10,500, Mr Frédéric Guillemaut €10,500, Mr Éric Lantonnet in respect of the first half of the year €5,250, Mr Arnaud Franquinet in respect of the second half of the year €5,250 and Mr Souleymane Oumtanaga €10,500.

Olivier Souillard thanked Laurence Clément, Caroline Duval-Favre and Pierre Bonis for their welcome and availability during the audit assignment.

## 3.6. Approval of the accounts for the 2020 financial year and allocation of earnings

Godefroy Beauvallet proposed, in accordance with the articles of association, that the general meeting should vote with a simple majority of the members present or represented on the two resolutions concerning approval of the 2020 accounts and the allocation of earnings.

At the time of voting on the resolutions, 43 members were present or represented, 38 of whom had the right to vote. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

#### Approval of the accounts for the 2020 financial year

Having heard the report of the statutory auditor and the additional explanations provided orally, the General Meeting approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 as presented.

The General Meeting gave discharge to the trustees for the performance of their duties during the previous financial year.

Allocation to the "other reserves and working capital" account

At the proposal of the Board of Trustees, the General Meeting resolved to allocate the accounting surplus for the year of €605,311.35 to the "other reserves and working capital" account.

### **3.7. Vote on the 2022 overall budget allocated to trustee compensation**

Godefroy Beauvallet reminded members that in accordance with the articles of association, the General Meeting must vote each year on the amount to be made available for elected trustee compensation, and reminded them that this concerned only the five elected trustee, not all trustees.

There was no change in amount compared with previous years.

At the time of voting on the resolutions, 46 members were present or represented, 41 of whom had the right to vote. The following resolution was passed unanimously:

Setting of a maximum annual budget to cover trustees' compensation for 2022

Having taken due note of the documents provided and following additional oral explanations, the General Meeting set the maximum budget for the compensation of elected trustees so requesting at €52,500 excl. tax for the year 2022.

The amount is to be equitably distributed among the trustees so requesting and subject to their diligence.

None of the five elected trustees may receive more than one fifth of this budgeted amount.

### **3.8. Overview of current state of Internet governance**

At the proposal of Sébastien Bachollet and Godefroy Beauvallet, Lucien Castex presented an overview of the current state of play in Internet governance. This sharing of information and some time for exchanges with the members on this subject had seemed all the more important after nearly a year and a half of meetings held exclusively online. Despite the time differences, numerous persons (Afnic employees, trustees and members) had continued to follow the international exchanges.

Lucien Castex recalled that this move of exchanges to 100% online had entailed increased participation of certain regions/persons who had to travel less, but that there was nevertheless a general feeling that the model had run its course and that participants wanted to meet face to face once again.

To introduce Internet governance it had appeared useful to clear up some ambiguities and tensions that might exist:

- Internet governance and technical Internet governance.
- What ambitions: at the crossroads of governance and regulation.
- Growing interest of the United Nations and increased participation of certain States.
- Tensions with the multi-actor model.

### Discussions under way within ICANN:

- **EPDP** on the temporary specification for gTLD registration data
  - Implementation of the GDPR
  - Phase 2A of the EPDP
  - Preparation of the initial report on two subjects: the differentiation of legal vs. natural persons' registration data and the feasibility of unique contacts to have a uniform anonymised email address
  - Question of the accuracy of WHOIS data (GAC): finalisation of policy in progress
  - Implementation of SSAD
- **ATRT3**
  - Transparency of ICANN
  - Recommendations, one of them for a new transversal review of ICANN (the last general review was in 2002).
  - Implementation: experiments with queries of start-up date
  - What diversity of all ICANN stakeholders: board, ccNSO, ASO, etc. Key question of linguistic and cultural diversity
- **New gTLDs: pending**
  - Discussion on the fight against online abuse
  - Priority of the GAC: mitigation of malicious use of the DNS
- **EPDP on internationalised domain names**
  - EPDP launched on the advice of the GNSO
  - Level of the operational track
- **An approach to digital sovereignty**
  - Two plenary meetings of the IGLC
  - From strategic autonomy to an industrial technical policy



## Discussions under way in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF):

- **15th World Forum 2020 entirely online: vIGF 2020**

- Internet for human resilience and solidarity
- 2 to 17 November 2020, 6,149 participants + UN TV (>15,000 participants)
- Four themes: data, environment, inclusion, trust
- Parliamentary session made a permanent feature
- Active participation of Afnic

- **16th World Forum 2021 in hybrid format: “Internet United”**

- from 6 to 10 December in Katowice, Poland. 300+ proposals in the session
- Rising profile of the IGF
- Digital cooperation action plan: application of recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (2020 A/74/821)
- Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology
- Stocktaking and open consultation on the IGF
- Multistakeholder High-level Body (MHLB): 14 June 2021
- Points for reflection: question of language; will to collaborate with national and regional IGFs

- **French Internet Governance Forum**

- 2020 edition: plenary opening on 27 October under the title “Governing the Internet in the age of polarisation”, followed by a workshop on abuse as part of the Afnic Forum for a trustworthy Internet
- A 2020 edition punctuated by thematic workshops
  - Workshop “Territories, Digital and New fragilities” (February) co-organised by the CINOV Numérique and Afnic
  - Workshop “Must we make usages a lever for digital sobriety?” (March) co-organised by CNNum and Renaissance Numérique
  - Workshop “French Internet: between resilience and cybersecurity stakes” (May) co-organised by the ARCEP (telecommunications regulator) and Afnic
  - Next workshop 1 July: “Experimenting with Internet governance” (ISOC France)
- A 2021 edition after the holidays in hybrid format

## International News

- **from .ORG (PIR/ISOC) on the takeover of Afilias by Donuts and of Donuts by Ethos Capital**

- **The Christchurch Call (FR/NZ)**

- Reform of the structure and governance of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). inaugural Executive Director, Nicholas Rasmussen.
- Setting up of working groups within the GIFCT
- Christchurch Call Advisory Network
- Shared crisis management protocol common to States and businesses put in place
- Anniversary summit 14/15 May 2021

- **The Paris Call for trust and security in cyberspace**

- Launched in 2018 at the Paris IGF and the PPF
- Gradual establishment of working groups
- **G7 (UK), G20 (Italy). “Data Free Flow with Trust” (Japan)**
- **UN: Open-Ended Working Group and Group of Governmental Experts**
- **Numerous initiatives: contract for the web, GCSC, RightsCon, Global**
- **Forum on cyberexpertise...**
- **ITU: “New IP” proposal (ITU-T). Opening or relocation of the Internet?**
- **UNESCO:**
  - Preparation of a Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence.
  - Work on Internet Universality Indicators
- **OECD:**
  - An agreement on international taxation (worldwide corporation tax rate, G7 agreement)
  - Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)
- **WSIS +25**

Pierre Bonis opened the debate with members.

Laurent Toutain, Chair of Afnic’s Scientific Council, noted that another proposal is emerging in other bodies such as ETSI, namely: “No IP”, from the same actors as “New IP”.

Sébastien Bachollet encouraged members participating in ICANN to join forces around ATRT3 so that a transversal review of ICANN can take place quickly. He also indicated that it was the mobilisation of the community that would make it possible to shake off the exclusively American-centred model in the ICANN board as well as having better account taken of participants’ various languages when organising meetings.

Sébastien Bachollet highlighted the dichotomy between ICANN, which seemed to want to occupy itself solely with the technical side, and the IGF, which was increasingly concerning itself with content.

On behalf of economic actors using domain names whether registries or registrars, Frédéric Guillemaut returned to the subject of the slow decision making at ICANN and the endless discussions that led nowhere and were still blocking a second round of new gTLDs, all of which ended up damaging the credibility of ICANN which in fact was not playing its role of regulator.

## 3.9. Election of a trustee representing the Registrars

Godefroy Beauvallet reminded members that this year registrar members had to elect a representative to the association’s Board of Trustees following the resignation of Frédéric Guillemaut. The new trustee’s term of office was one year, coinciding with the end of Frédéric Guillemaut’s term of office.

Three candidates presented themselves: CSC represented by Patrick Hauss, Nameshield represented by Arnaud Wittersheim and OVHCloud represented by Emma Caner.

Candidates’ manifestos and declarations of interests, their addresses on video and the report of the Nomination Validation Committee had been available since May in the members’ area.

A special election meeting of the consultative committee was held on 27 May to allow registrar members to converse with the candidates.

The first round of voting was entirely electronic via a secured platform from 2 to 9 June 2021. At the end of this first round one of the candidates had obtained the majority of the votes, so it had not been necessary to hold a second round on the day of the General Meeting.

Godefroy Beauvallet announced the results of the elections:

For the Registrars’ college, NAMESHIELD, represented by Arnaud Wittersheim, was elected in the first round for a term of office of one year with 12 of the 23 votes.

He welcomed the newly elected trustee and invited him to take the floor.

Godefroy Beauvallet and Pierre Bonis thanked Frédéric Guillemaut for his work and dedication on the Board of Trustees and its committees.

There being no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Drawn up in Paris on 11 June 2021

The Chair	The Scrutineer	The Recording Secretary
Godefroy Beauvallet	Sophie Canac	Clémence Davoust