

# IE Domain Registry CLG

trading as .IE

**Policy Advisory Committee – PAC #34**  
**Minutes – 23 March 2023 Meeting**

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# Minutes of the PAC #34 Meeting held on 23 March 2023

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid meeting: on Zoom and in .IE Office in Dun Laoghaire for in-person attendees.

**Meeting Time:** Called to order at 11:00 am by the PAC Chair.

**Members and representatives present:**

Chair
CyberSafeKids
Department of Environment, Climate & Communications (DECC)
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
Irish Computer Society (ICS)
.IE Accredited Registrar (Team.Blue)
.IE Accredited Registrar (MarkMonitor)
.IE Accredited Registrar (FCR Media)
.IE Board representative
Small Firms Association (SFA)

## 1. Memberships Matters

**Apologies – Members not present:**

- Association of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys (APTMA) – pre-arranged
- Enterprise Ireland – pre-arranged
- HEAnet – pre-arranged
- .ie Accredited Registrar (Blacknight) – pre-arranged
- Law Society of Ireland – pre-arranged (& Mary Bleahane to help to identify a successor).
- Internet Service Providers Association Ireland (ISPAI) – pre-arranged
- IRISS – pre-arranged

The Chair welcomed attendees who were deputising for their absent colleagues.

## 2. Minutes from the PAC #33 meeting

The Chair confirmed that the Minutes from the 10 November 2022 PAC #33 meeting will be published online following the meeting (available here <http://www.iedr.ie/policy-development-process/> ). As there were no requested edits to the minutes, accordingly, the minutes will be digitally signed by the Chair.

The Chair reminded the PAC that the draft Minutes of today's meeting will be circulated to the membership following the meeting.

## 3. Matters arising

Matters arising, not otherwise included on the agenda, include:

### 3.1 Domain Alert System, to protect products of geographical origin and reputation

- The Registry provided an update on EU legislation concerning craft and industrial products with geographical indications (CIGIs). There were currently differing views between Parliament and Council on the proposed regulations, on whether the EUIPO might establish a Domain Name Information and Alert System (DIAS).
- The Registry indicated it was in a "wait-and-see" period, and that the proposal was entering Trilogue discussions between the European Parliament, Council of the EU, and European Commission.
- The Chair and the Registry determined that the matter would remain on the Agenda for PAC #35, but it was noted that Trilogue discussions can take time, and that an update might not be available.

## 4. Handling of online abuse which uses the .ie namespace

### 4.1 Criminal abuse - illegality online – GNCCB update

- The Registry provided an update on the Suspension Request Protocol Agreement between the Registry and the GNCCB, which established a protocol to address illegal online activity and authorise take-downs of .ie websites under certain circumstances.
- The Registry reported that they had established similar consumer protection protocols with a number of regulators and entities (CCPC, HPRA, CBI, ComReg, etc.).
- The Registry reported that it continues to discuss and refer to this protocol in its publications, reports, and stakeholder engagement. It was noted that at the Registrar Day in December 2022, the GNCCB presented to a large number of participants, with some dialling-in from abroad.
- It was noted that, at the time of the PAC meeting, there had not been a single request from GNCCB.

### 4.2 Handling of technical abuse - Netcraft service

- The Registry provided a recap of the Netcraft Monitoring Service, which launched in March 2021, in which Netcraft notifies Registrars and .ie domain holders of online technical abuse issues (e.g., websites hosting malware, phishing or botnets). Discussions and Q&A followed on the Netcraft data presented for the period from July '22 until March '23.
- It was reported that there had been positive reception and benefits for Registrars and .ie domain holders. On that basis, the .IE CIO reported that the Registry was happy to finance the renewal of the service for another year.
- The Registry's CIO noted that while, currently, there was not a large amount of data from Netcraft, in the future, accumulated metadata could help enhance security and provide actionable insights with predictive analytics.

## 5. NIS 2.0 – Directive on Security of Network & Info Systems

### 5.1 NIS 2 roadmap for legislation

- The Registry reported that NIS2 came into force on 16 January 2023, and that Member States have 21 months, until 17 October 2024, to transpose it into national law.
- The Registry was unaware of specific timelines of when NIS2 would be transposed into national law but speculated that it might be 2024 before they receive a confirmed picture of NIS2 requirements.

### 5.2 Updates from the NIS2 working group

- The WG reported it had several action items, specifically with regard to engaging stakeholders, building awareness, and informing relevant government bodies, though work still in “early stages.” Given that the KYC provisions are likely to be costly and resource intensive, this work stream is categorised as high impact. The representative from the ICS opined that third-party service providers might be engaged to provide the KYC service. It was noted cost-sharing issues will need to be considered in due course.
- A representative from the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications later reported that the Department was expecting to begin early engagement with the NIS Cooperation Group in **Q2 2023**, and begin the Legislative process on NIS2 in **Q3 2023**.

### 5.3 Key emerging issues

- The Registry illustrated a breakdown of the number of .IE accredited Registrars vs the number of .ie domains. It was noted that 96% (125) of Registrars accounted for 7% (76,098) of Domains, and that the impact of NIS2's cyber and KYC regulations on these Registrars was unknown, due to their varying degrees of sizes, resources, cyber certifications, DNS services provided and policy expertise.
- The Registry noted that it was unknown what percentage of the Registrars would be designated essential or important entities, but it was possible that all Registrars could be designated “essential” based on sector classification.

- The Registry reported that implementing KYC processes (required under Article 28, “accuracy” regulations) would likely be the key issue facing these Registrars, and that it was planned to build awareness with smaller Registrars through webinars.

#### **5.4 High impact issues**

- The Registry reported on common concerns regarding NIS2 derived from conversations with CENTR and other ccTLDs:
  - The potential difficulties and regulatory burden from Article 28 of NIS2, especially for smaller and/or cross-border Registrars who might have to implement multiple solutions for their customers in different EU countries.
  - Uncertainty about how “legitimate access seekers” would be defined for lawful and duly justified requests. Different national rules and interpretations will be especially problematic for registrars operating cross-border.
  - Uncertainty about how efforts to prevent “duplication” in collecting/maintaining data would be defined and implemented. Lawyers were already advising that risk management concerns about regulatory compliance might force registries and registrars to separately comply.
- The Registry also reported that CENTR was supporting the development of an Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) for ccTop-Level Domains, and that a separate digital ISAC was being formed for Ireland.
  - ISACs are usually non-profit organisations that provide a central resource for gathering information on cyber threats (in many cases to critical infrastructure) as well as allow two-way sharing of information between the private and the public sector about root causes, incidents and threats, as well as sharing experience, knowledge and analysis.

#### **5.5 Awareness-building for channel partners**

- The Registry noted that it had begun engaging with key stakeholders, including government and CENTR legal and CENTR tech as well as other TLDs. An initial high-level awareness pack had been distributed to IE Registrars prior to Registrar Day in December 2022. It was planned that the PAC’s working group, supported by the Secretariat, would be focusing on building awareness and preparedness for Registrars through webinar sessions in Q2.

## **6. Any Other Business**

N/A

## **7. Next Meeting**

The provisional date for the next PAC #35 meeting has been set for 25<sup>th</sup> May. Members were asked to indicate to the PAC Secretariat their availability for that date.