EURID'S QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2012

www.eurid.eu

.eu
Your European Identity

Contents

From the General Manager

At .eu, we work in the 23 official languages of the European Union and across 27 countries, so we understand the importance of being able to express yourself online in your mother tongue.

That's why in the fourth quarter we continued our work with UNESCO – begun in 2011 – to evaluate how multilingual the internet is and, in particular, how the use of domain names made up of characters from non-Latin scripts, such as Arabic, Cyrillic and Korean – called Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) – is progressing. The results, published in an Insights report titled the "EURid-UNESCO World report on IDN deployment", reveal that IDNs have a vital role to play in growing the use of
local languages online, but that there is work to be done to make it easier for end users to use IDNs.

To make life easier for our registrars, we introduced a new transfer procedure on 21 November that is more in line with the procedures used by other registries. The launch went smoothly and was one of the most successful in EURid's history.

Our registrar satisfaction survey, run shortly after the launch, revealed that 95% of the registrars who participated in the survey are "satisfied" or "extremely satisfied" with our operations and customer service – a result that is slightly higher than 2011 (93%).

Domain name renewal rates also remained high in Q4, at an average of 80%, indicating that .eu continues to mature as a top-level domain with a loyal customer base.

.eu finished the quarter, and the year, with 3.70 million registrations – a growth of 5.4% compared with one year ago. I consider an annual growth rate comparable to 2011 (5.5%) to be a notable achievement, especially against the backdrop of the on-going global economic crisis.

We intend to build on 2012's achievements by continuing to consolidate our operations, simplify operations for .eu accredited registrars and add value to our domain name product for .eu end users.

> 95% of the registrars who participated in our satisfaction survey are "satisfied" or "extremely satisfied" with our service.

Marc Van Wesemael

Update

The .eu top-level domain (TLD) and its registry, EURid, saw a variety of developments during the fourth quarter of 2012. Highlights include:

EURid-UNESCO Insights report

Once again in collaboration with UNESCO, EURid published a new Insights report on 6 November. The report, titled "The EURid-UNESCO World report on Internationalised Domain Names deployment 2012", analyses the growth of multilingualism on the internet and the factors that contribute towards that growth, including the use of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs). The full report can be downloaded at link.eurid.eu/insights.

Revised Customised Reduction Schemes for 2013

EURid announced the revised Customised Reduction Schemes (CRS) to .eu registrars on 12 November 2012. By then end of December, over 60 registrars had expressed the wish to sign up for option two (Target-based Reduction) or option three (Four-month Reduction). At the same time, EURid launched the Domain Name Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Discount, whereby registrars can enjoy EUR 0.24 discount on every new and existing registration by correctly signing it with the DNSSEC protocol.

Updated transfer procedure

A revised transfer procedure was launched on 21 November 2012 to simplify domain name transfers for .eu registrars. The revised procedure is the result of an extensive internal and external enquiry and analysis of the most effective industry practices. It is similar to the procedures used by other registries, in that it adds a year to the current registration period.

Business Continuity Exercise

To test its crisis management capabilities, EURid successfully ran an unannounced Business Continuity Plan (BCP) exercise on 12 December 2012. The exercise focused on switching the EPP, registrar extranet, registrar DAS and registrar WHOIS services from one data centre to another and back again. The impact on registrar infrastructure was minimal – a temporary interruption of approximately 15 minutes.

Extended fee reduction for ADR procedures

On 18 December EURid announced that the fee for a basic .eu Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedure would continue to be cut by 50% until the end of 2013. The average number of ADR cases filed per month had risen 80% by the end of Q4 2012, following the introduction of the reduced fee in the beginning of Q3. This increase seems to indicate that there was some sort of financial barrier that prevented certain parties from claiming their rights through .eu ADR proceedings.

Registrar meetings

The EURid team met with .eu registrars at nine events during the quarter, including the Salon des micro-entreprises (France) and EU Internet Week (United Kingdom), and organised four registrar lunch meetings in Romania, Sweden, Greece and Hungary.

About EURid and .eu

EURid is the not-for-profit organisation appointed by the European Commission to operate the .eu top-level internet domain. The first initiative to establish .eu as a European top-level domain (TLD) was taken in 1999 by the European Council. Subsequently, EURid was appointed in May 2003 as the operator of the .eu registry. The actual service contract was signed in October 2004. The .eu TLD was added to the root zone of the internet Domain Name System in May 2005. Technically speaking, .eu has been in existence since then.

Between 7 December 2005 and 6 April 2006, the .eu registry accepted applications for domain names on a limited basis. Only those individuals and organisations holding legal protection for a name within a Member State of the European Union were eligible to apply during that time. This stage of phased registration is referred to as the Sunrise Period.

On 7 April 2006, EURid opened the .eu TLD for general registration on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

The three organisations operating the national registries for Belgium, Italy and Sweden founded EURid in April 2003. Later, the organisations operating the TLDs for the Czech Republic and Slovenia also became members. The European Coordinating Council of the Internet Society (ISOC) joined EURid in 2006, followed by the BusinessEurope organisation in 2007.

EURid's head office, which is also the regional office for Western Europe, is located just outside Brussels in Diegem, Belgium. There are three other regional offices located in Pisa, Italy; Prague, the Czech Republic; and Stockholm, Sweden. Each office provides support for registrars and the general public in languages local to its region.

International

During the fourth quarter of 2012, EURid partici-pated in the following events:

- 48th CENTR General Assembly, 4-5 October, Brussels, Belgium

- Salon des Micro-entreprises, 9-11 October, Paris, France

- Eget Företag, 11-13 October, Stockholm, Sweden

- 45th ICANN meeting, 14-19 October, Toronto, Canada

- Internet Hungary, 15-17 October, Siófok, Hungary

- IAB Romania, 16 October, Bucharest, Romania

- Konferencja Secure, 22-24 October, Warsaw, Poland

- Internetdagarna, 22-24 October, Stockholm, Sweden

- Irish Web Awards, 1 October, Dublin, Ireland

- 7th IGF meeting, 6-9 November, Baku, Azerbaijan

- EU Internet Week, 12-16 November, London, United Kingdom

- Daily Web, 14 November, Bratislava, Slovakia

- Domain Forum, 15 November, Sofia, Bulgaria

- Business Start-up, 22-23 November, London, United Kingdom

- 9th CENTR Marketing workshop, 29-30 November, Florence, Italy.

The .eu registry continued to be involved with ICANN's Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) group. EURid's External Relations Manager, Giovanni Seppia, co-ordinated the "core opera-tions" sub-working group of the Country Code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO), which met on 13 October at the ICANN meeting in Toronto, Canada. Giovanni Seppia also continued to co-ordinate the work of the CENTR-IGF work-ing group.

EURid presentations were given on 8 November at the EURid-UNESCO and CENTR workshops which took place during the 7th IGF meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. Presentations were also given at the EU Internet Week in London, United Kingdom, on 12 November and at the CENTR Marketing workshop in Florence, Italy, on 29 November.

The .eu domain

During Q4 2012, the number of .eu registrations increased by 38 140 domain names, a net growth of 1.0%, to 3.70 million. The total number of .eu domain names registered at the end of Q4 represented an increase of 5.4%, or 189 137 registrations, when compared with the total number at the end of Q4 2011.

The number of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in the .eu portfolio at the end of Q4 2012 was 58 211, or 1.6% of all registrations. The number of IDNs as a percentage of new registrations is at the same level as that of other registries. The number of DNSSEC-signed names was 80 433, or 2.2% of all registrations.
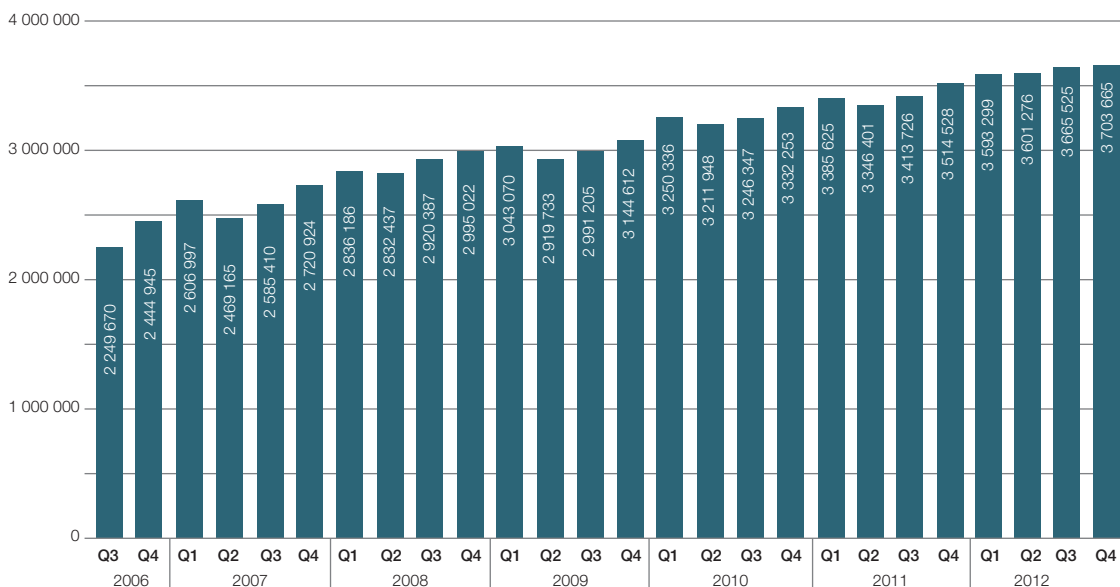
By the end of the quarter, there were a total of 787 .eu accredited registrars. The hundred regis-

trars with the most .eu registrations accounted for 83.6% of all registrations.

During the fourth quarter, the total number of .eu registrations increased in 22 of the 27 EU Member States. Bulgaria, Belgium, Slovenia, Lithuania and Finland all saw growth of more than 5%.
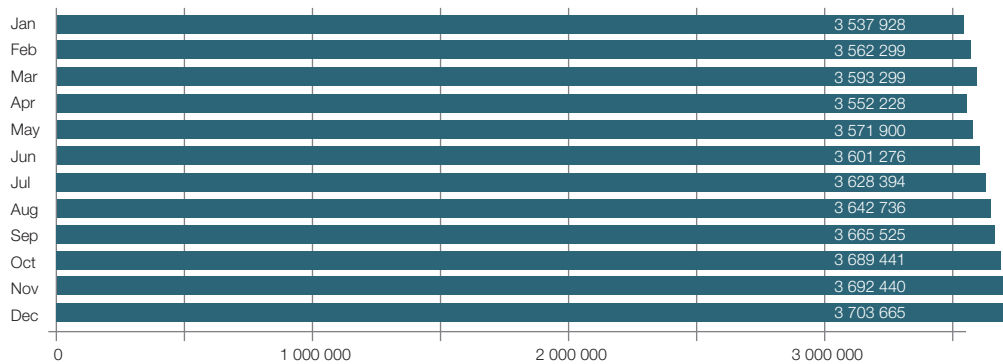
The national ccTLD market in EU countries [1] increased by 1.0% during Q4 2012, and grew by 6.2% from Q4 2011. Within the EU, the market for gTLD domain names such as .com, .net, .org, .info and .biz grew by 1.9% during Q4 2012 and by 2.3% from Q4 2011, according to statistics from Zooknic.

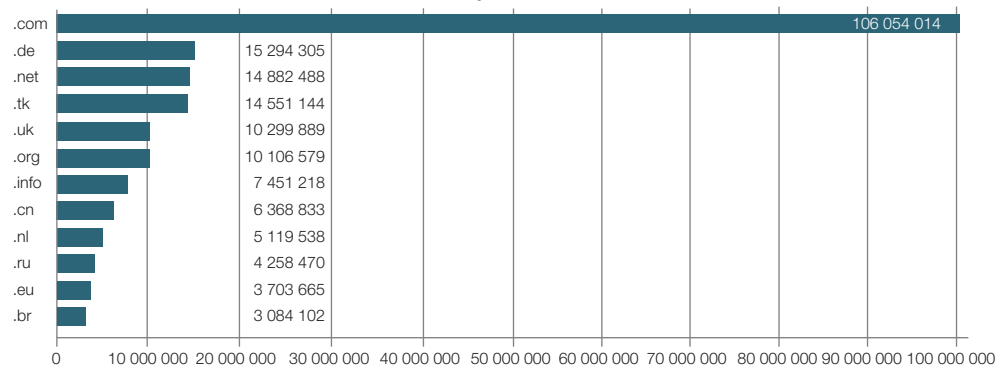## Total .eu domain name registrations by quarter

[1] Data from national registry websites was not available for Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta.

Total .eu registrations by month, 2012

Month	Registrations
Jan	3 537 928
Feb	3 562 299
Mar	3 593 299
Apr	3 552 228
May	3 571 900
Jun	3 601 276
Jul	3 628 394
Aug	3 642 736
Sep	3 665 525
Oct	3 689 441
Nov	3 692 440
Dec	3 703 665

World top 12 TLDs

TLD	Registrations
.com	106 054 014
.de	15 294 305
.net	14 882 488
.tk	14 551 144
.uk	10 299 889
.org	10 106 579
.info	7 451 218
.cn	6 368 833
.nl	5 119 538
.ru	4 258 470
.eu	3 703 665
.br	3 084 102

During Q4, .cn became the world's eighth largest TLD. .eu is the world's eleventh largest TLD.

.eu Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs), Q4 2012

Quarter	IDNs	Percentage
Q4 2009	56 036	1.78%
Q1 2010	62 609	1.93%
Q2 2010	65 109	2.03%
Q3 2010	67 074	2.07%
Q4 2010	57 826	1.74%
Q1 2011	56 961	1.68%
Q2 2011	58 424	1.75%
Q3 2011	58 332	1.71%
Q4 2011	56 699	1.61%
Q1 2012	58 455	1.63%
Q2 2012	60 681	1.70%
Q3 2012	61 752	1.70%
Q4 2012	58 211	1.60%

Multi-year registrations (MYRs)

Since 7 April 2011 it has been possible to register .eu names with a registration period of more than one year. During Q4 2012, 7 184 new registrations with a registration period of longer than one year were made. This represented 3.2% of all new registrations in Q4.

The number of MYRs registered in May 2011 was particularly high due to the promotional offer EURid ran following the MYR launch. While the offer ran, registrars got 50% discount on .eu domain names they registered for two, five or ten years.

	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012
MYRs	22 931	5 295	6 218	6 297	5 599	4 915	7 184
Percentage	12.3%	2.8%	2.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	3.2%

By far the most common MYR registration length has been two years. 74% of the MYRs registered in Q4 have a two-year registration period.
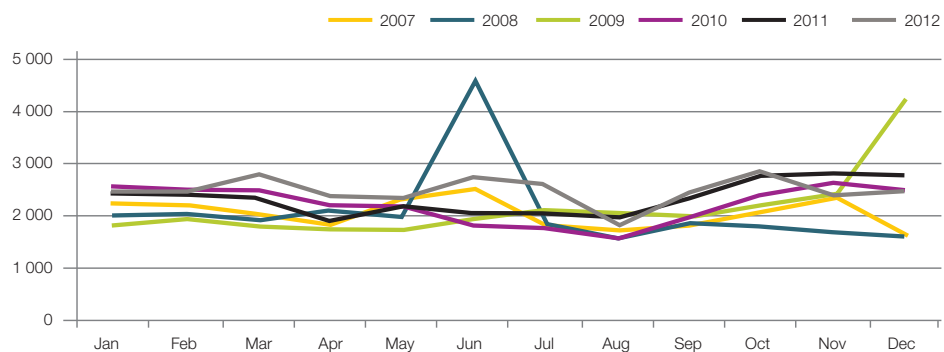
New registrations, deletions and renewals

There were 230 752 new .eu registrations in Q4 2012. The number of new registrations was 10% lower than during the same months in 2011. The high level of registrations in Q4 2011 was due to a temporary rebate campaign.

During Q4 2012, there were 192 212 deletions. A domain name headed for deletion is quarantined for 40 days after the date specified in the deletion request. It can be reactivated during that period only at the request of the former registrant.

The quarantine period is a safeguard to prevent domain names from being deleted by mistake. The deleted name becomes available for general registration after the quarantine period.

When combined, the new registrations and deletions for Q4 showed a net increase of about 400 names per day. Renewal rates stayed strong during Q4 at an average of 80%, somewhat higher than the industry average.
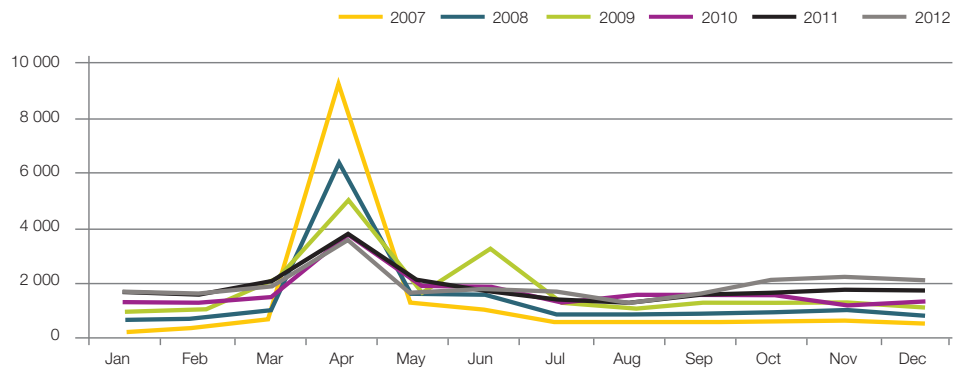
New .eu registrations per day

The number of new registrations per day was 10% lower than during the same months in 2011.
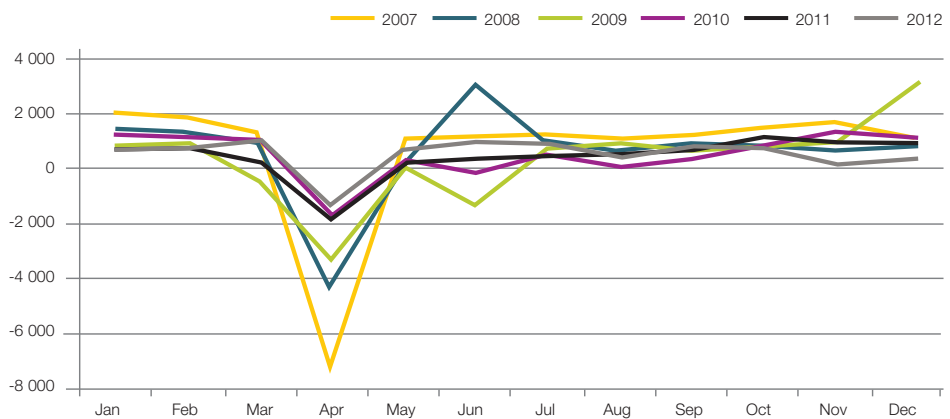
Deletions per day

Legend: 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012

The month of April sees a spike in deletions each year, as many domain names come up for renewal then. April is the month the .eu domain was officially launched.

Net growth per day

Legend: 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012

As stated above, Q4 saw a net increase of about 400 names per day.

Renewal rates by percentage

Month	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	78%	76%	77%	78%	79%	100%
February	80%	78%	79%	78%	80%	100%
March	79%	79%	81%	79%	83%	99%
April	86%	85%	87%	84%	84%	81%
May	82%	80%	83%	80%	81%	82%
June	84%	83%	79%	69%	80%	86%
July	82%	81%	81%	80%	82%	84%
August	80%	80%	79%	81%	82%	80%
September	80%	82%	78%	79%	82%	83%
October	79%	79%	78%	78%	82%	82%
November	81%	78%	77%	79%	79%	83%
December	81%	78%	75%	79%	80%	84%
Annual average	82.9%	81.6%	81.7%	80.0%	82.6%	81.9%

Renewal rates remained strong in Q4, at an average of 80%, somewhat higher than the industry average.

Trades and transfers

A revised transfer procedure, whereby domain name holders can change registrars or pass their domain names on to other holders, was introduced on 21 November 2012. Since that date, the old trade and transfer procedure has ceased to exist.
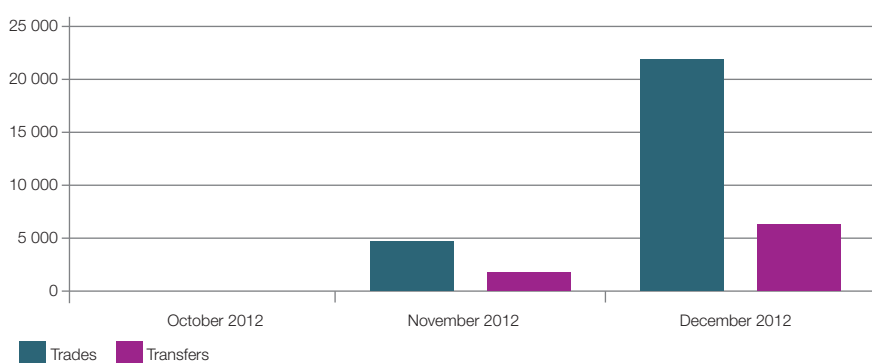
The revised procedure, which uses an authorisation code, is the result of an extensive internal and external enquiry and analysis of the most effective industry practices. It is similar to the procedures used by other registries, in that it adds a year to the current registration period.

During November, 1 800 domain name transfers and 4 824 trades were carried out using the new procedure. During December, 6 372 domain name transfers and 21 942 trades were carried out.

Comparisons with old old numbers are not meaningful since the definition of a trade (change of domain name holder) has changed.
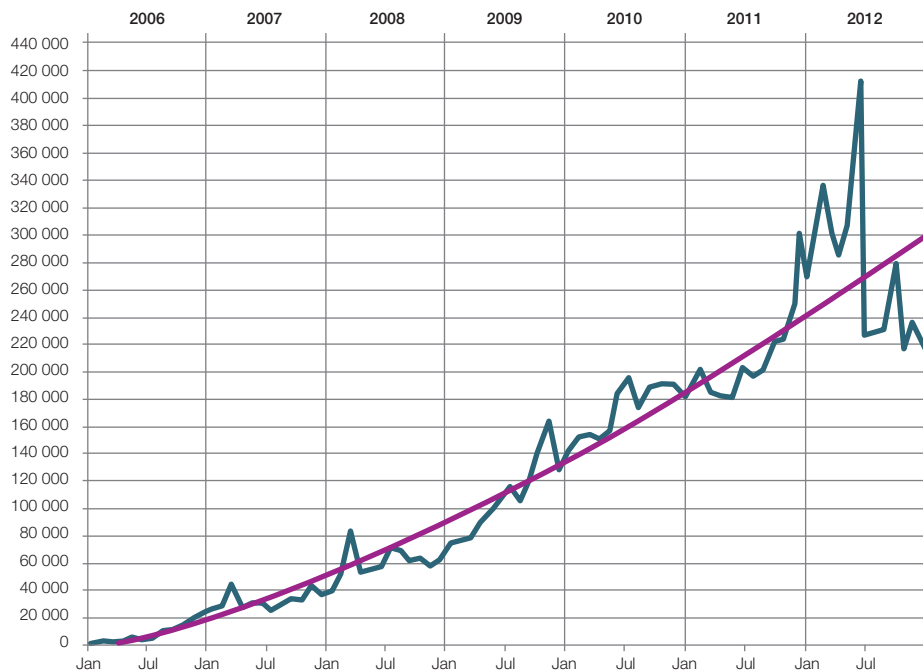
Completed trades and transfers, Q4 2012

Comparing trade and transfer numbers for November and December 2012 with October 2012 and previous quarters is not meaningful since the definition of a trade changed when the revised transfer procedure was introduced on 21 November 2012. Figures for November are low as they reflect only the trades and transfer carried after the revised procedure was introduced.

DNS queries per minute

One method of determining the actual use of .eu domain names is by measuring DNS queries to the .eu name servers. The graph shows the average number of queries per minute for each month.

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Average number of DNS queries per minute

Overall, the trend line shows a steady increase in the number of DNS queries, indicating an increased use of .eu domain names.

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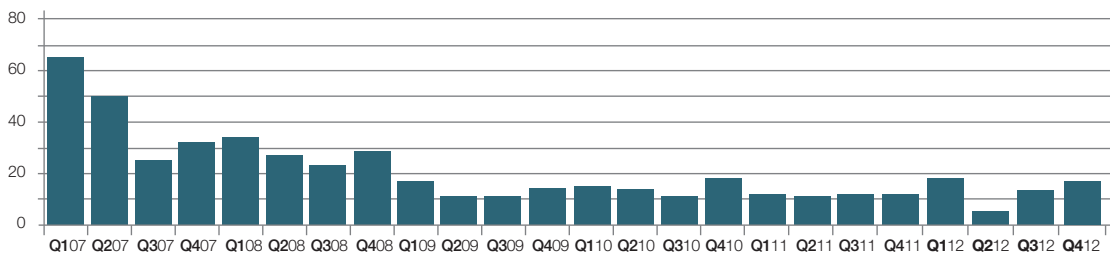
Domain name disputes

To protect intellectual property rights, an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy was established for .eu domain name disputes. This policy is described in more detail in EC Regulation 874/2004. The dispute resolution procedure is administered by the Czech Arbitration Court (CAC), an independent body offering its services in 21 EU languages.

The ADR process for .eu disputes is similar to the dispute processes offered by most major top-level domain registries.

On 27 June 2012, the CAC and EURid announced a special fee reduction to make the ADR process even more accessible to the European public. The cost of a basic proceeding was cut by 50% and the new fee structure was valid for six months, starting from 1 July 2012. This move came in response to recommendations made in an external audit of the .eu ADR service. The .eu ADR procedure is functioning well but, according to the audit, a fee reduction would further raise the visibility of the service and improve access. On 18 December 2012, EURid announced that the fee reduction would be extended until the end of 2013.
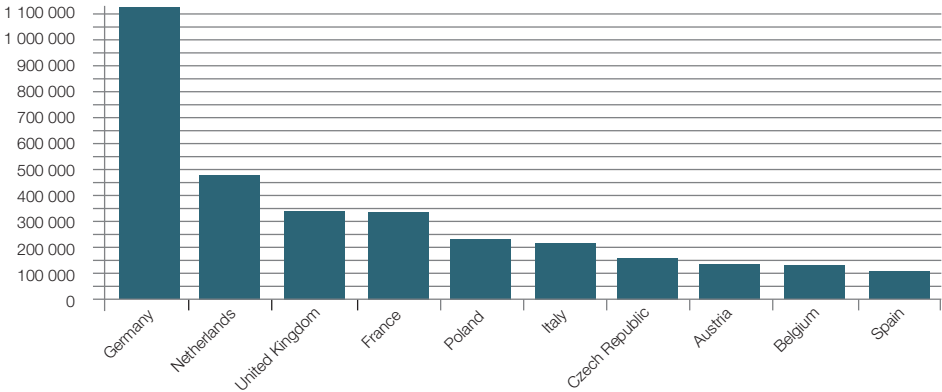
Domain name disputes filed by quarter

A total of 17 ADR cases were filed during Q4 2012, compared with 12 during Q4 2011. The Czech Arbitration Court published 12 .eu ADR decisions during Q4. Nine of these resulted in the domain name being transferred to the complainant.

The registrants

The ten countries with the most .eu registrations
(shown below), account for 89.2% of all .eu registra-
tions. German residents have by far the most .eu
domain name registrations, followed by residents
of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Top ten countries with most .eu registrations

Total number of .eu domain names by country of registrant, Q4 2012

Country	Total names
Åland Islands	2 228
Austria	125 250
Belgium	130 120
Bulgaria	21 820
Cyprus	14 135
Czech Republic	153 787
Denmark	35 738
Estonia	16 411
Finland	15 953
France	340 000
French Guiana	42
Germany	1 139 158
Gibraltar	1 533
Greece	40 120
Guadeloupe	269
Hungary	43 909
Ireland	27 623

Country	Total names
Italy	216 990
Latvia	6 359
Lithuania	21 983
Luxembourg	16 909
Malta	9 415
Martinique	155
Netherlands	481 291
Poland	237 326
Portugal	13 296
Reunion	359
Romania	27 044
Slovakia	38 247
Slovenia	11 161
Spain	105 178
Sweden	68 567
United Kingdom	341 299

The table above is based on country codes. Some EU Member State territories (such as Gibraltar, the Åland Islands and Guadeloupe) have their own country codes, which is why they are included in the list.

Popularity of .eu compared with ccTLD registrations, Q4 2012

Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000	Country	.eu/1000	ccTLD/1000
Luxembourg	33.0	141.6	Poland	6.1	40.6
Netherlands	28.9	307.4	Ireland	5.4	164.0
Malta	22.5	n/a	United Kingdom	5.2	37.7
Cyprus	17.6	n/a	Slovenia	5.0	51.0
Austria	14.9	142.1	France	4.5	62.3
Czech Republic	14.6	96.1	Hungary	3.6	40.5
Germany	13.9	187.1	Italy	3.5	33.4
Estonia	12.2	51.2	Greece	2.8	44.9
Belgium	11.9	123.2	Finland	2.8	56.0
EU average	7.4	97.8	Bulgaria	2.6	n/a
Sweden	7.3	134.0	Latvia	2.2	34.3
Slovakia	7.0	55.0	Spain	1.2	29.4
Lithuania	6.8	47.1	Romania	1.2	46.9
Denmark	6.3	62.7	Portugal	1.2	48.8

The figures above show the number of domain names per 1 000 inhabitants at the end of Q4 2012. They are based on population data from Eurostat and ccTLD information from national registries.

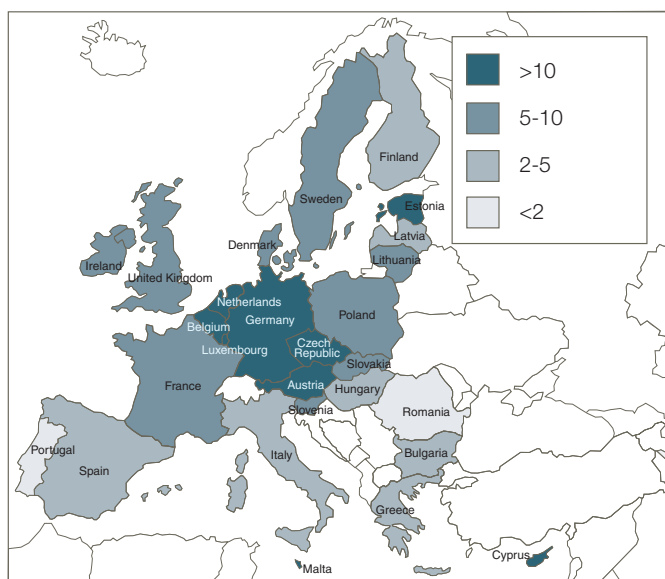**Growth by country, quarter over quarter and year over year**

Country	Q4 2012 vs Q3 2012	Q4 2012 vs Q4 2011
Austria	2.5%	15.3%
Belgium	8.2%	14.4%
Bulgaria	10.8%	2.5%
Cyprus	-6.1%	-8.1%
Czech Republic	0.6%	14.5%
Denmark	0.0%	-0.8%
Estonia	4.5%	12.3%
Finland	5.1%	9.8%
France	0.5%	7.6%
Germany	0.3%	5.0%
Greece	0.9%	13.2%
Hungary	-1.4%	2.9%
Ireland	1.1%	-46.0%
Italy	0.2%	4.8%

Country	Q4 2012 vs Q3 2012	Q4 2012 vs Q4 2011
Latvia	1.0%	-1.3%
Lithuania	5.7%	19.5%
Luxembourg	1.6%	-8.1%
Malta	2.6%	27.6%
Netherlands	1.0%	1.7%
Poland	-1.4%	5.3%
Portugal	2.4%	3.0%
Romania	2.9%	-5.9%
Slovakia	4.9%	23.2%
Slovenia	7.9%	23.9%
Spain	3.6%	12.2%
Sweden	-0.7%	-4.1%
United Kingdom	1.7%	7.0%

By the end of Q4 2012, .eu domain name registrations had increased in 22 EU countries. As shown above, the .eu domain became especially popular in Bulgaria, Belgium and Slovenia.
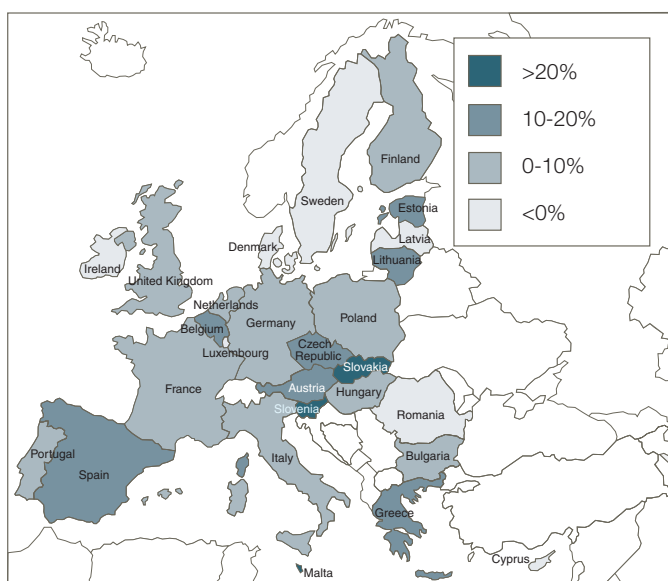
.eu domain names per 1 000 inhabitants, Q4 2012

The number of .eu registrations per
1 000 inhabitants varies from a high of 33
in Luxembourg to 29 in the Netherlands
and around 1 in Portugal and Romania. In
general, countries with a large number of
ccTLDs per inhabitant also have a large
number of .eu registrations per inhabitant.

Growth by country, Q4 2012 vs Q4 2011

The countries with the fastest relative
growth year over year were Malta (28%),
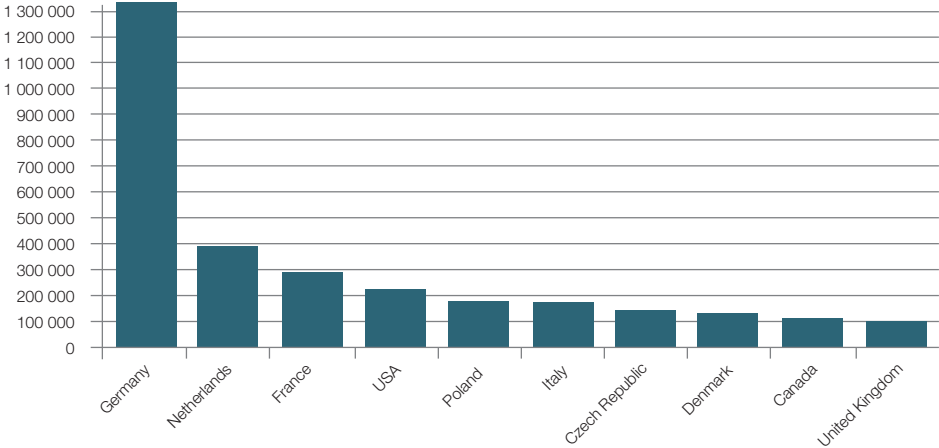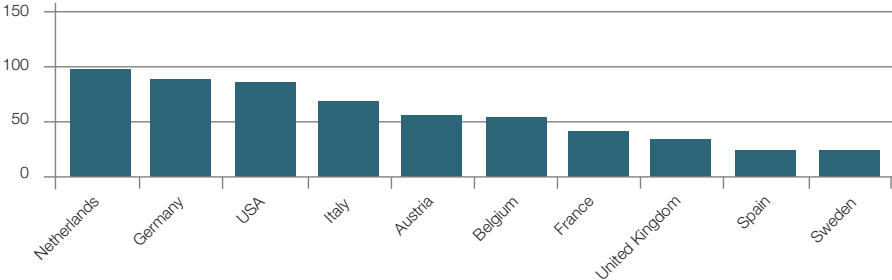Slovenia (24%) and Slovakia (23%).

The registrars

.eu registrars can be located outside the EU. Categorising registrations by country of registrar shows many similarities with the categorisation by country of registrant (see graph 'Top ten countries with most .eu registrations'). The main difference is that the USA, Canada and Denmark are in the top ten list based on country of registrar but not based on country of registrant, while the opposite holds true for Belgium, Austria and Spain. In Q4 2012, the countries in the top ten list of registrations based on country of registrar accounted for 83.9% of all .eu registrations.

Top ten countries based on registrations by country of registrar

Top ten countries by number of .eu registrars
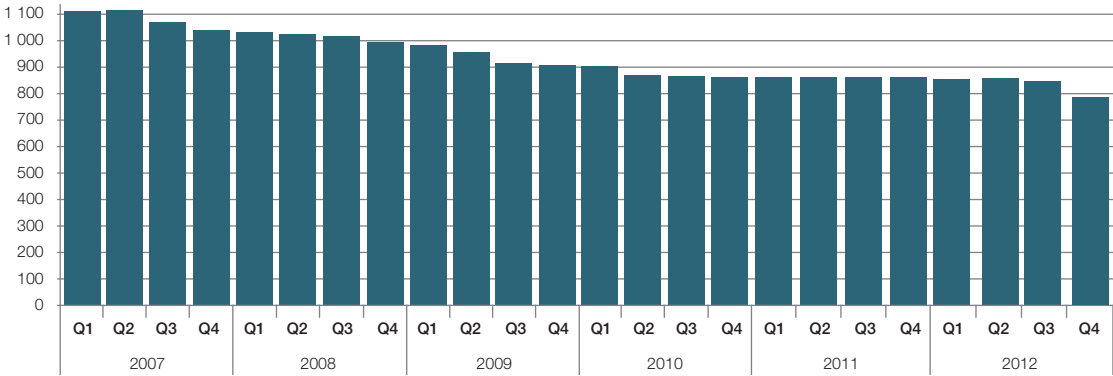
.eu registrations by country of registrar, Q4 2012

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Anguilla	289	1
Australia	18 595	9
Austria	61 741	55
Bahamas	12 662	1
Barbados	303	1
Belgium	77 888	53
Bulgaria	724	2
Canada	119 845	23
Cayman Islands	122	2
China	1 011	5
Croatia	721	1
Cyprus	13 218	2
Czech Republic	142 200	16
Denmark	131 033	16
Estonia	10 296	2
Finland	4 231	6
France	291 564	41
Germany	1 346 568	90
Greece	36 690	15
Hong Kong	0	1
Hungary	28 403	24
Ireland	8 685	6
Israel	667	3
Italy	181 169	69
Japan	266	2

Country	Names managed	Number of registrars
Korea	725	3
Latvia	1 137	3
Liechtenstein	220	1
Lithuania	17 632	5
Luxembourg	36 175	3
Malaysia	166	1
Malta	84	1
Monaco	10 351	1
Netherlands	392 192	98
Norway	38 493	4
Poland	185 041	14
Portugal	970	4
Romania	12 299	10
Russia	0	1
Seychelles	71 831	1
Singapore	372	1
Slovakia	18 157	12
Slovenia	2 260	2
Spain	47 073	25
Sweden	47 229	25
Switzerland	12 781	3
Taiwan	157	1
United Kingdom	100 920	36
USA	224 816	86

The average .eu accredited registrar managed 4 706 .eu domain names during Q4.
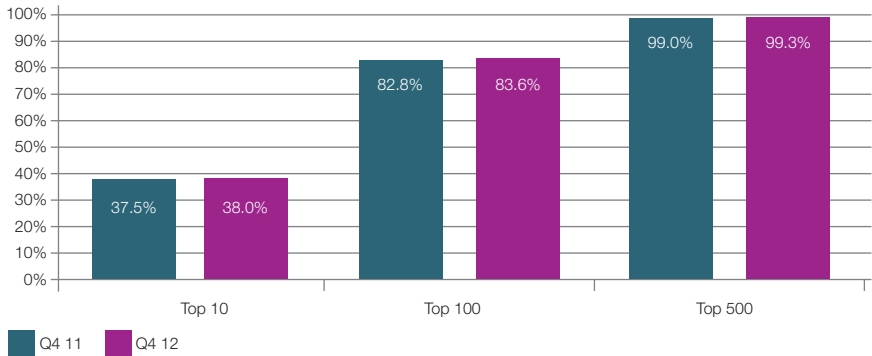
Total number of .eu accredited registrars by quarter

At the end of Q4, there were 787 .eu accredited registrars.

Market share of top 10, top 100 and top 500 registrars

The top 100 .eu accredited registrars manage about 84% of all registrations, which means that many registrars are small businesses. Compared with the previous year, the market share of the top 10, 100 and 500 registrars has increased somewhat.

Environmental responsibility

.eu's operations are the most environmentally responsible of any TLD in Europe. On 23 May 2012, EURid became the first European TLD registry to be registered by the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

EMAS is a voluntary management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. This scheme helps companies optimise their production processes, reduce environmental impacts and use resources more efficiently. EURid's EMAS registration number is BE-VL-000016.

Objectives

EURid's environmental policy is based on the principle of "reduce, reuse and recycle" and provides a framework for making sustainable choices. The EMAS registration formalises this approach and demonstrates our public commitment to further improving .eu's environmental footprint.

Operating .eu in a sustainable manner is guided by the following objectives:

• Reduce carbon footprint by cutting greenhouse gas emissions through selecting green suppliers

• Minimise waste and the impact of its disposal

• Adopt energy and water-saving measures

• Implement a green corporate car policy

• Use products and materials more efficiently

• Communicate, both externally and internally, environmental goals and the measures being taken to achieve them

• Disclose environmental best practice to other Internet industry stakeholders.

"Internet-related companies like EURid must look after the environment and compensate for their environmental impact as much as possible."

Q4 2012 activities

On 2 November EURid sponsored and partici-
pated in the planting of 500 rare Service Tree
saplings on unused farmland in Calden, Germany.
This action was developed in partnership with
Naturefund – a German NGO involved in environ-
mental projects – and allowed the .eu registry not
only to contribute to the environment within the
EMAS registration scheme, but to demonstrate
that internet-related companies must look after
the environment and compensate for their envi-
ronmental impact as much as possible.

Also in Q4, as in previous quarters, the .eu team
applied criteria from the United Nations Environ-
ment Programme (UNEP) meeting guide when
organising conferences and events for .eu regis-
trars or participating in industry trade fairs. These
criteria ensure that the events, and associated
travel, are as environmentally sound as possible.

EURid is the first, and currently only, registry in
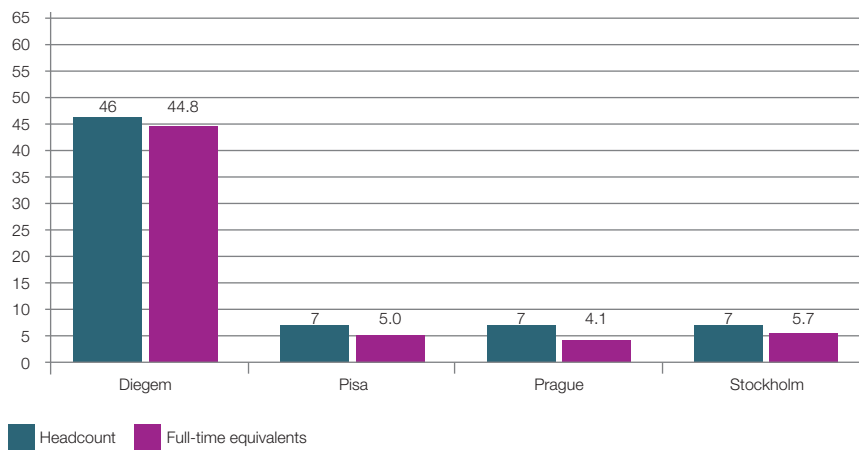Europe with a publicly certified environmental
scheme.

For more information about .eu's sustainable
operations, visit http://link.eurid.eu/green.

EMAS
Verified
environmental
management
REG.NO. BE-VL-000016

Human resources

In terms of human resources, there were a total of 67 employees working at EURid's four offices at the end of Q4 2012.

Headcount per office, Q4 2012

	Diegem	Pisa	Prague	Stockholm
Headcount	46	7	7	7
Full-time equivalents	44.8	5.0	4.1	5.7

The management team

Marc Van Wesemael
General Manager
Marc Van Wesemael has worked in the telecom and software industries as a consultant and as a manager in software engineering, general sales and marketing. For ten years he was the Managing Director of not-for-profit DNS Belgium, the registry for .be. He has an MBA from Lessius Management School (Antwerp) in collaboration with Northwestern University (USA) and a degree in electronic engineering from the University of Ghent.

Bart Foutrel
Finance Manager
Bart Foutrel worked as an advisor on Global Compliance Service at PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining EURid in early 2008. He has a masters degree in business sciences from Lessius Hogeschool, where he focused on finance and insurance plus accountancy and tax law.

Peter Janssen
Technical Manager
Before Peter Janssen joined EURid, he was technical director for the Belgian registry .be. He was responsible for that domain's liberalisation in December 2000. He has a masters degree in computer science from the University of Leuven.

Giovanni Seppia
External Relations Manager
Giovanni Seppia previously worked at ICANN as European Regional Liaison. Prior to that, he was General Manager at CENTR. He has also served as head of external relations for the Italian Registry (ITT CNR) and has three years' experience in various roles at the European Commission.

Geo Van Langenhove
Legal Manager
Geo Van Langenhove joined EURid as Legal Manager in January 2011. Previously he worked for companies in various technology fields, such as Nuance Communications, EuroFiber and IMEC, where his practice focused on intellectual property, contracts and litigation. He graduated from the Universities of Brussels and Leuven, College of Law. He also holds an advanced masters degree in intellectual property rights from the University of Brussels.

Els Verstappen
Human Resources Manager
Els Verstappen held a variety of HR roles at Scarlet, a telecommunications company, before joining EURid. Most recently, as HR Business Advisor, she was responsible for HR support for line management, selection and recruitment, among other things. Before working at Scarlet, she was employed at KPN Belgium and at a European non-governmental organisation.

The board and strategic committee

Pierre Verbaeten
Chairman of the Board

Pierre Verbaeten was professor of the Computer Science department at the University of Leuven until October 2010. For more than ten years he was chairman of this department, the largest in Belgium with more than 30 professors and 170 researchers. He led the DistriNet research group, which conducts basic and applied research in computer networks, security, middleware, multi-agent systems and embedded systems; the group numbers more than 70 researchers. In 1989 Prof Verbaeten became the first manager of the .be registry, which was transferred to the not-for-profit organisation DNS Belgium on 1 January 2000.

Marko Bonač
Director of the Board

Marko Bonač received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics (1981) and a masters in computer science (1988) from the University of Ljubljana. Between 1981 and 1992 he worked as a researcher and project leader in the field of computer networks. Since 1992 he has been the Director of Arnes, the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia, which is also the registry for the Slovenian top-level domain, .si.

Christopher Wilkinson
Director of the Board

Christopher Wilkinson is the Chairman of the Internet Society European Coordinating Council. He has degrees in natural sciences and economics and experience in international affairs. His working life spans several international organisations and the European Union. He was closely associated with the creation of ICANN and the GAC. He initiated the .eu top-level domain.

Tomáš Maršálek
Director of the Board

Mr Maršálek is an independent IT consultant and member of the CZ.NIC collegium, a body associated with CZ.NIC, the registry for the .cz top-level domain. Previously he was a chairman of CZ.NIC and the Managing Director of the Czech Neutral Internet eXchange node (NIX.CZ). After graduating from the Czech Technical University in Prague with a masters degree in radio electronic science, he began his professional career at AT&T. Mr Maršálek is a cofounder of GTS, the biggest alternative telecommunications operator in the Czech Republic. He also helped establish the IP network in Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of British Telecom.

Domenico Laforenza
Director of the Board

Dr Domenico Laforenza is the Director of the Institute for Informatics and Telematics of the Italian National Research Council in Pisa. He is also the head of nic.it, the registry for Italy's .it TLD. In June 2011 he was nominated as the Vice-President of the European Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM). Dr Laforenza also serves in the "Future Internet Forum of the Member and Associate States" as Italian representative appointed by the Italian Ministry of Research, Education and University. He holds a doctoral degree in Computer Science from the University of Pisa.

Danny Aerts
Member of the Strategic Committee
Danny Aerts is the Managing Director of the Swedish Internet Infrastructure Foundation (IIS), the registry for the .se top-level domain. A native of the Netherlands, Mr Aerts moved to Sweden in the mid 1990s. In 2006 he left his position as CEO at Swedish web portal Spray to join IIS. Mr Aerts has also been employed at several telecom companies, including Unisource Mobile, Telia and PTT Telecom. He graduated cum laude from Utrecht University, where he studied economic geography.

Philippe de Buck
Member of the Strategic Committee
Philippe de Buck received a doctorate in law from the University of Leuven. After a post-graduate course in tax studies at the Ecole Supérieure de Sciences Fiscales (ICHEC) in Brussels, he joined Agoria, the Belgian multi-sectoral federation for the technology industry. There he filled various functions until 2001, when he left the CEO position at the federation to join Business Europe in the role of Secretary General. Mr de Buck is also a member of the board of directors for both ING Belgium and BASF Antwerp and sits on the advisory board of the European Policy Centre.

www.eurid.eu

.eu
Your European Identity

EURid
The European Registry of Internet Domain Names