

Public Policy Rules for the .eu domain

1 Introduction

- a. CECUA has been advocating for some years now that European Citizens (both corporate and non-corporate) should be able to use the Internet safely and securely with confidence and published a proposed Bill of Rights (see www.CECUA.org) to protect European Citizens.
- b. CECUA has also been extensively involved in the informal discussion on the governance of the Internet particularly with regards to setting up of the .eu domain.
- c. CECUA sees the setting up of the .eu domain as a unique opportunity to set up an area of trust and confidence for use by European citizens and businesses. CECUA recognises that there can be little protection from domains set up under other TLDs and ccTLDs, but users must have trust and confidence when using .eu Domains.

2 Cultural Issues

- a. A major issue has been the inability to have the Domain Name in a local character set and so .eu Registrars must be obliged to use a full character set such as that used by Unicode as well as with e-mail addresses

3 Domain Names

- a. Individuals, companies and organisations must retain the right to use their own **legally** recognised names as part of their Domain Name. Cybersquatting must be banned and so must the principle of “first come, first served” allocation of names. Means must be devised to distinguish between the Domains of two persons/organisations who have the **legal right** (i.e. the name is legally registered in at least one member state of the EU) to use a particular name. A suggestion is that if a company is only registered in one member state, then the domain name must include that country code. (For example, CECUA.be.eu). Only names which are legally registered in all member states should be permitted to use the form CECUA.eu).

4 Legal Infrastructure

- a. The Registry and the Registrars must be subject to EU law
- b. Harmonisation of the legal environment
- c. All dispute resolution procedures must be under EU law
- d. All trade/commerce must be subject to EU law
- e. The provisions of the Data Protection Directive must be strictly enforced

5 Use of cookies

- a. The use of cookies and other methods of collecting user data must be subject to a strict code of practice to prevent unnecessary or illegal collection of data
- b. The use of cookies must be transparent to users

6 User involvement

- a. **ALL** parties involved in .eu must be able to play an effective role in the governance of the .eu TLD
- b. Means must be found to establish a broad and effective body to represent the interest of European Users (including consumers, citizens, SMEs etc.) CECUA has proposed the setting up of a European Internet Governance User Forum representing the user level stakeholders.

7 Contents Rating

- a. All .eu domains should be required to use a standard contents rating for the contents of their website
- b. The current ICRA scheme should be developed to include the recommendations of the INCORE project

8 Transparency

- a. The management of the Registry and Registrars must be transparent

9 Redress

- a. All consumers, users (corporate and non-corporate) must be fully protected by European Law and have redress under the provisions of European Law.