

# IE Domain Registry CLG trading as .IE

**Policy Advisory Committee – PAC #35  
Minutes – 25 May 2023 Meeting**

## Table of Contents

1. Memberships Matters .....	3
2. Minutes from the PAC #34 meeting .....	3
3. Matters arising .....	3
4. Handling of online abuse which uses the .ie namespace .....	3
5. NIS 2.0 – Directive on Security of Network & Info Systems .....	4
6. Any Other Business .....	5
7. Next Meeting.....	5

# Minutes of the PAC #35 Meeting held on 23 March 2023

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid meeting: on Zoom and at Spencer Hotel for in-person attendees.

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

**Members and representatives present:**

Chair
Department of Environment, Climate & Communications (DECC)
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)
.IE Accredited Registrar (Black Knight)
.IE Accredited Registrar (Team.Blue)
.IE Accredited Registrar (MarkMonitor)
.IE Board representative
Small Firms Association (SFA)

## 1. Memberships Matters

**Apologies – Members not present:**

- HEAnet
- CyberSafe Kids

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

## 2. Minutes from the PAC #34 meeting

The Chair confirmed that the Minutes from the 23 March 2023 PAC #34 meeting were taken as read and published online following the meeting (available at <http://www.iedr.ie/policy-development-process/>).

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 Information & Alert System (DIAS), to protect products of geographical origin and reputation

- The Registry provided an update on the proposed EU regulations concerning geographical indicators (GI) for craft and industrial products.
- It was reported that an agreement had been reached through Trilogue Discussions that **removed** all references to a proposed Domain Alert System. The final proposed text requires ccTLDs and gTLDs to have alternate dispute resolution procedures that recognize GI as an invocable right. Additionally, the Commission would be required to carry out an evaluation after 18 months on the feasibility of an information and alert system against the abusive use of craft and industrial geographical indicators (CIGI) in the domain name system.
- The representative from DETE indicated that they expected the CIGI regulations to conclude shortly. They noted it may come into force as early as September, followed by a 24 month countdown to implement the regulation.

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

### 4.1 Criminal abuse - illegality online – Regulatory Authority Protocol Forms

- The Registry provided an update on efforts to streamline their internal processes for responding to

suspension requests from regulators (e.g., Competition & Consumer Protection Commission, Health Products Regulatory Authority, Central Bank of Ireland, etc.).

- The Registry reported that they were evaluating a centralized intake form that would include the different types of common requests (e.g., resolution, suspension, and takedown). The Registry envisioned that it would still have a separate form for the GNCCB, given the unique and potentially severe nature of their requests.
- The Registry noted that it was undecided if there would be a need for a separate intake form for Data Access Requests from regulators, or if this could be included in the centralized RAP form.

#### 4.2 Handling of technical abuse - Netcraft service

- The Registry provided an update of statistics from the Netcraft Monitoring Service. The service, which launched in March 2021, notifies Registrars and .ie domain holders of online technical abuse issues (e.g., websites hosting malware, phishing or botnets).
- It was reported that there had been **513** Netcraft Service Takedowns in 2022, and **170** Netcraft Service Takedowns in 2023 (YTD). The majority of takedowns were related to Phishing URLs.

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

### 5.1 Updates from the NIS2 working group

- The Registry reported that the NIS2 Working Group met on 18 May 2023 to discuss a proposed working plan (see 5.4) to prepare for NIS2's transposition.
- The proposed working plan was accepted by the working group, which allowed for early stage work to commence on key deliverables, such as an impact assessment of .IE's policies and procedures, and an anonymous survey for Registrars to assess their awareness and preparedness for NIS2.

### 5.2 NIS 2 roadmap for legislation

- There were no updates on the legislative timelines since last PAC Meeting. A representative from the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications reported that the Department was still undergoing early engagement in **Q2 2023**, and planning to begin drafting the Heads of Bill in **Q3 2023**.
- The representative confirmed that the NIS2 legislation would be transposed through an Act of the Oireachtas, rather than a Statutory Instrument, and that this would require multiple instances of public consultation.

### 5.3 Key emerging issues

- The Registry indicated that much of the ccTLD sector was in a wait-and-see stage regarding NIS2. It was noted that an upcoming CENTR event would be taking place in early June 2023, and there would likely be more updates and information to share with the PAC.
- One RAR Representative indicated that it would be useful to have ongoing updates from .IE about collaboration amongst CENTR members, in particular their efforts to avoid cross-border duplication. They also expressed an interest in a high-level summary of NIS2 discussions at the CENTR event. The Registry committed to providing one.
- Another RAR Representative expressed particular concern about TLDs being at a disadvantage to social media websites, if NIS2 Article 28 requirements for KYC disadvantages domain growth. It was noted, though, that the Digital Services Act also imposes KYC restrictions on social media companies.

### 5.4 NIS2 Working Plan

- The Registry provided a brief summary of the working plan that the NIS2 Working Group had approved:
  - There would be 3 workstreams: **Alignment, Advocacy, & Awareness**. The respective goals of each stream would be to align with legislation, advocate to policy makers, and raise awareness to stakeholders.

- Key deliverables included an impact report, a what-we-heard report, various consultation documents and papers, and an evergreen list of policy recommendations to respond to the legislation.
- The goal would be to ensure that .IE policies and procedures meet the requirements of NIS2 while being effective, efficient, equitable, and enforceable.
- The Registry committed to updating a Mandate Tracker at each PAC Meeting moving forward, to update the PAC on actions that have been taken to advance the 3 work streams.

## 6. Any Other Business

### 2020 – 2022 Policy Advisory Committee Recap

- The Chair expressed thanks to the Secretariat for developing a document that highlighted the achievements of the PAC from 2020 to 2022.
- This document was presented to the Board of Directors at its May 2023 meeting.
- The Board asked the .IE CEO to pass on their thanks and appreciation of the document, and the dedication of PAC Members.

## 7. Next Meeting

The provisional date for the next PAC #36 meeting has been set for September 2023. Members were asked to indicate to the PAC Secretariat their availability.