Annual Report

for

2014

Confederation of European Computer User Associations

Confédération Européenne des Associations d'Utilisateurs des Technologies de l'Information

CECUA Report for the year 2014

CECUA President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The year 2014 was an active year for CECUA.

In 2014 CECUA finished the transformation to a virtual organization, new Statues were introduced and new members have joined CECUA.

After and as a result of the CECUA and Partner Conferences "The Citizen and the Global Information Society" in Brussels in 1998, 2004 Paris and Riga, 2005 Namur and 2014 Liège, CECUA started to move away from the traditional paper communication and face to face meetings. CECUA was motivated to take this approach by two things, the lack of funds for meetings and the then already apparent trend towards using the Internet for communication replacing paper and face to face meetings. Over the years CECUA drifted more and more in this direction although formally it was not until 2014 that the old statues were revised to include the change. Also at the same time new categories for membership were introduced to allow for individual memberships besides association membership. Since then several new individual members have joined CECUA and also an association, the ATI of Spain. With ATI CECUA has managed to close the geopolitical gap on its southern frontier.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members, both association and individual members. Among those are Dr. Bruno Vogel and Didier Carre. Dr. Vogel, a German, an old pioneer who returned after some years otherwise engaged. Dr. Vogel was confirmed as a Director of Technology helping us to close a knowledge gap at the Board level. Also Didier Carre came on board. He is a Frenchman and his membership was very much welcomed for CECUA to be able to work closer with EIF (European Internet Forum) on an increasing number of issues. He is Vice President Extraordinaire for EIF.

CECUA continued active participation EURid (European Registry of Internet Domain Names). I myself represent CECUA at EURid including being a member of EURid Strategic Committee meeting several times per year. Approaches were

made towards ENISA (European Network and Information Security Agency).
Dr. Bruno Vogel with his broad experience in network issues has led the approach towards ENISA.

Individual CECUA projects are described in director reports.

Although time has gone by the issues remain the same or similar and CECUA continues to represent user issues at the European strategic level. This mission was published in a short document "CECUA in Brief" which is a part of this report.

One major issue is security where users, consumers and citizens are very important stakeholders. According to our definition, those three groups, although overlapping, have different interests. As users of information technology we have long-term views and strategic interests with special regard to functionality over technology and the use of data. As consumers we buy products that should be inexpensive, serve our needs and provide benefits. As citizens we are looking for general conditions of life, state protection, freedom and social values. CECUA's mission is to address and put forward the views and concerns of all those groups. In this way CECUA promotes the interests vis-à-vis citizens, politics, industry and the diversity of European Countries and regions. Therefore, we are serving the needs of users, consumers and citizens, but our special focus is on the user aspects.

We need to maintain the interest and support of our dedicated colleagues and also recruit new ones. The revised statutes with new membership categories are an important step in that direction. If we manage both successfully we will be able to sustain and continue to develop a truly unique organization that CECUA is. The first step was taken by the new Statues and it is showing results. But we need to do more.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the CECUA Executive, Board Members, Members and CECUA EIF high level expert Group for their excellent work and continued support. Also I would like to express our gratitude to our partners in EIF, EURid and others.

Prof. Dr. Jon Thorhallsson, CECUA President
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EURID   European Internet Foundation   Accredited to the WSIS
CECUA is a non-profit user association registered in Brussels
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EIF and ENISA and CECUA

In 2013 CECUA had started to participate in the preparation of the report of European Internet Forum (EIF) on the digital future of the year 2030. CECUA has contributed via commenting and participation in meetings in Brussels. Early in 2014 there was the finalization phase of the report. CECUA delivered a detailed paper with respect to the last draft before finalization. In 2014 March CECUA attended the launch of the report. Furthermore, a publication 'Digital Revolution speeds up - How will we meet the challenges? '   based on the report was published in October 2014 by 3 authors from CECUA (see www.cecua.eu).

The activity as described above fits very well to the long-term permanent involvement and contributions of CECUA to EIF and European Parliament going on since several years. Furthermore, there was some work including some contact with EIF with regard to possible follow-up activities.

The future of the governance of the internet is still a high priority issue for politicians as well as many other groups of stakeholders. Since many years CECUA has monitored the process and has devoted a lot of work to this topic. Ahead of a very important conference in September 2014 in Istanbul, CECUA finalized a general position paper 'Internet Governance - Europe hat to contribute' that was published and distributed to relevant participants from European Parliament and European Commission (see www.cecua.eu).

With regard to security users, consumers and citizens have very important interests. CECUA is a voice of these groups. Therefore, CECUA looks at the work of the related institution of the European Union (ENISA - European Union Agency for Network and Information Security). Following some informal contact CECUA submitted in December 2014 an application for membership to the 'Permanent Stakeholders Group' of ENISA. For 2015 ENISA will stay on the agenda of CECUA.

Dr. Bruno Vogel

CECUA Director Technology

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Strong focus on EIF

I joined CECUA in 2014 and later same year was appointed Vice President Extraordinaire to EIF (European Internet Forum), to replace Mr. Alain Moscowitz, incapacitated for medical reason to represent CECUA at the EIF. Here, I could build on the solid foundation Mr. Alain Moscowitz had established for the relationship between CECUA and EIF.

My activities included attending two of the last events organized by EIF in 2014.

"Can Privacy and Security Survive in an Age where Data Rules? Protecting our Digital Information and Infrastructure" had contributed to the debate on Cyber Security in the context of the European Cyber-Security Month. Hosted by MEP Andreas Schwab, with the participation of Director Paul Timmers, responsible for Sustainable and Secure Society, DG CONNECT, and Symantec's Senior Vice-President for EMEA, Matt Allard.

The second one was the Welcome Reception for Members of the new European Parliament. The Digital World 2030 issued earlier in 2014 was presented.

Also, Eurolinc, Semantis and CECUA, non-profit organizations, and Le Monde des Possibles had invited on October the 17th, 2014 in Liege (Belgium) experts to share their views and make proposals for an Internet respecting the dignity of citizens. For details see Internet Citizen Colloquium "Tous anim'acteurs" Nommage, multilinguisme et sécurité on Cecua website.

Finally to ensure long-term confidence and trust of our citizens in the Information Society and in the frame of European values, Didier Carre, in the name of CECUA, has launched a broad consultation for the update the "Bill of Rights for the citizen in the global information society".

Didier Carre CECUA Vice President,
Vice President Extraordinaire to the EIF

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Government and professional relations

The main event in 2014 was my participation in the "National IT Summit" of the Federal Government of Germany with the Chancellor and 8 federal ministers on "Invitation from Federal Minister of Economy and Energy "on 21 Oct. 2014 in the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

After the opening of the plenary by the Chancellor and several speeches by important personalities from the world of IT in Germany, the participants split up into 8 working groups / forums in accordance with the participating Federal Minister.

I took part in the Working Group 4 under the direction of the Federal Minister of the Interior, Dr. Thomas de Maizière, entitled: "Trust, privacy and security on the Internet".

The Minister of Interior and Head of the Working Group 4, Dr. Walter Schlebusch, Managing Director of Giesecke u. Devrient, presented in detail "Innovative IT offers by the State". Through those Germany is positioned to be at the forefront of E–Governments in Europe.

Actually my report begins in 2013, because the last days of this year had not been considered in my report for 2013. To this end the conference http://events.ccc.de/congress/2013/Fahrplan/schedule/0.html where I participated for 4 days as CECUA representative on 27 12 2013 to 30.12.2013:

1. Day; https://events.ccc.de/congress/2013/Fahrplan/events/5377.html

Lecture: Monitoring and language / How to do things with words

Day 2; https://events.ccc.de/congress/2013/Fahrplan/events/5601.html

Lecture: EUDataP: State of the Union

Day 3; https://events.ccc.de/congress/2013/Fahrplan/events/5543.html

Lecture: ID cards in China: Your Worst Nightmare in China, Your ID Card Knows Everything

Day 4; https://events.ccc.de/congress/2013/Fahrplan/events/5278.html

Lecture: The philosophy of hacking Contemplations on the essence of hacking and its implications on hacker ethics.

All lectures were followed by extensive discussions, where I participated actively from CECUA point of view.

During the year 2014, I participated regularly in the EU - wide operating EDRI-gram fortnightly newsletter about digital civil rights in Europe, see:
https://edri.org/edri-gram/13-19/

Priority theme for 2014 was e.g. Internet neutrality and the effects of TTIP on European data security as well as many other things to which I have contributed my opinion.

1. Unclear "Net Neutrality" proposal returns to European Parliament

2. Finland: New Law Threatens surveillance Fundamental Rights

3. CCC campaigns to Provide Internet access to refugees in Germany

4. Fifteen years late, Safe Harbor hits the rocks

5. Netherlands: New proposals for dragnet surveillance underway

6. EU Commission: IT companies to fix "terrorist use of the Internet"

7. EU Commission: IT companies to fix "hate speech on the Internet"

Also in 2015 I will participate from December 27 to 30 December, when the Chaos Communication Congress takes place in Hamburg again
https://events.ccc.de/congress/2015/Fahrplan/schedule/0.html

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