
PANAMA – ccNSO: Members Meeting Day 1 (3 of 3)

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 – 13:30 to 14:00 EST

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DEBBIE MONAHAN:

Alright, good afternoon, everybody. Now, there's not many people in the room so clearly lunch here in Panama was far too enticing for a number of people, but I have to say what's coming up next is the most significant and important item on the whole agenda because it concerns our favorite Italian, Giovanni.

So, as you're all aware, the call went out for people to be nominated for the Europe seat on council vacated by Nigel joining the board. There's was a grand total of one nomination, that person accepting that nomination and that person therefore will be joining council at the conclusion of this particular meeting. But I still think, and everyone's agrees, that it's valuable to give people a chance to actually ask the incoming councilor from Europe some questions.

Now I'm sure a number of us read that amazing biography in email that Giovanni sent to the list. All I can say to Giovanni, that you need to talk for shorter than the email because otherwise we'll run out of time. So, with that I would like you to briefly introduce yourself and your activities and in what you want to achieve on council. I'm aware we've got one question

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already from a remote participant, and then after we've taken that I would encourage many of you to grill Giovanni, he by himself has got at least 25 minutes, so he can dedicate to this.

GIOVANNI SEPPIA:

Thank you Debbie, I was really looking forward to this moment in the agenda as you said. You know, my name is Giovanni Seppia, I'm currently in charge of external relations at EURid, which is the registry manager for dot EU and dot EU in Cyrillic, and eventually one day, I'm going to be a grandfather for the dot EU in Greek, who knows. And external relations includes different kinds of areas, registrar relations, market and communication, relations with the European Commission.

I've been in this industry since 1998 at the end, so almost 20 years at the end of this year, and my objective I accepted the nomination with pleasure, I hope that I can bring my expertise to the ccNSO council in different areas. And, I look forward to work, but above all to listen to what are the needs of this community, and work together with you for improving, refining the ccNSO and making sure that our voice and the ccTLD community voices heard at the ICANN level. I'm happy to answer any question, I was shorter than the mail as requested.

DEBBIE MONAHAN: The online question?

KIMBERLY CARLSON: The online question was from Peter Van Roste from CENTR. In your view how can we make the ccNSO and the ROs more complimentary and avoid overlap? What is the best single thing the ccNSO every accomplished? What would be your solution for the volunteer fatigue in ccTLD world?

GIOVANNI SEPPIA: So, I read this as three questions, but it's okay, I'm Italian; we can negotiate. So, I'll start from the accomplishments. I think that the ccNSO from the very start, 2004 or 2005, had to fight to make its room in the ICANN family and starting from the first changes in the ICANN bylaws, 2004 and 2005, to accommodate the ccNSO wishes to the IDN Fast Track.

Those are great accomplishments of the ccNSO as also the fact that we have regular meetings with the ICANN board and the GAC and that this community has been acknowledged many times, has been the community with the strongest and the oldest expertise in the top level domain management area. So, this to me is a great achievement and also those are great accomplishments.

In terms of the volunteer fatigue, that's indeed something that is quite predictable at some point. I think there should be an effort at the ccNSO level and we may consider possible actions in the council, how to make people more engaged, more proactive. There are many factors, cultural factors, time factors that impact on the availability of people. But there are also some good opportunities like the one we had yesterday at the end of the ccNSO SOPC meeting, that was very engaging and produced good results so I'm in favor of having this kind of interactive moments during ccNSO meetings. So, we'll see how to make this, you know, to improve the engagement of the community members.

But as I said, there are many elements to be factored when thinking about what kind of actions we can deploy. And in terms of how to make the ccNSO and the ROs, regional organizations, more complimentary, I think that as the question says they compliment each other and each regional organizations and the membership of the regional organization, brings good value to the meetings and also to the work of the ccNSO. I think that at some point in the past, there was like a competition again I don't see this competition anymore. I see the ccNSO more instrumental to make our community voice heard in the ICANN environment.

So, I think that for instance ccNSO and regional organizations can work well together and I'm happy as I've been, general manager of regional organization, I'll be happy to put my knowledge and expertise at the disposal of the council to see ways to make sure that they complement each other and that there is no competition.

DEBBIE MONAHAN: Thanks, Giovanni. Any other questions? Liz?

LIZ WILLIAM: Liz William speaking. Giovanni, I'm so thrilled that I sent you an early congratulations note and I'm now realizing that I sent it too soon, because if we don't like your answers we might not elect you. I just wondered if you could address more on the engagement of potential new members for the ccNSO based on the materials that we saw this morning in the TLD-OPS where there's that big list across the regions of people who are not members, and I think that's linked to the volunteer fatigue thing that you've just described, do you think there are things that you could do with the council that could address that imbalance or that lack, or that loss, or do something to use that as an opportunity, not something that is negative?

GIOVANNI SEPPIA:

Thank you, Liz, a very good question, I'm happy to answer. I remember the time of the IANA stewardship transition, and I remember one meeting of the ccNSO, when I was asked to moderate a panel and it was clear in the room that first of all there was little attention and little engagement, but that was also due to the fact that there was also little understanding by many community members of what's going on.

And I think there should be an effort by anybody in charge of a committee or a council or secretariat, anybody involved, to make things easy understandable, easy to grab, that you do not have to read again like for the strategy and operating plan of ICANN, more than 200 pages.

Honestly, anytime ICANN releases the strategy plan or the operating plan, and the last one was six documents, which means over 120 pages asking people to comment, you really ask people a lot because this is volunteer job, and the same was during the IANA stewardship transition when we were requested to contribute, and there were a lot of papers a lot of proposals going on.

And one of my recommendations to the secretariat was to try to produce some sort of high level summaries for community members, ccNSO community members to make things easy to grab rather than going through million of documents, especially

because I work quite often with a couple of UK lawyers and sometimes they tell me, “Giovanni, this is though stuff even for us,” and they own the language.

So, if you don’t own the language, that one actually even more difficult to grab. I think would be a good exercise, at all levels of the ccNSO, to try to see how we can make documents or materials, or exercises, or activities at working groups, more at the level of people who do not own the language, who have limited time, who may have small staff, they may have other priorities, they may come from different cultures.

So, I think it’s an exercise I would like also to, if elected. I would like to bring to the attention of the council, an exercise that can be done and I’m sure that the council already does it on a regular basis and I’ll be happy to participate in the dialog, listen to what has been done so far and eventually contribute.

DEBBIE MONAHAN: Thank you, Giovanni. Nigel?

NIGEL ROBERTS: I’d just like to give my personal thanks to Giovanni, for stepping up and allowing us to throw coconuts at you from the next three

years, thank you. And you do realize it's too late to back out now, don't you?

GIOVANNI SEPPIA: I have some room behind me.

DEBBIE MONAHAN: I think I leaked it on a post that the Europeans have got a very fine representative, oh did I just compliment you in public, must be getting soft. Any other questions for Giovanni? Oh, thank you, [inaudible].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Do you commit to bringing chocolate to every meeting?

GIOVANNI SEPPIA: Sorry, you are committing yourself to bring chocolate for me at every meeting, is that what you're saying?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'll bring one for you, you bring for all of us.

GIOVANNI SEPPIA: Okay, last time I think it was in San Juan; I promised chocolate and I brought chocolate. Took me quite a while in San Juan to find chocolate, but I made it. So, I promise at the next meeting I will bring chocolate.

DEBBIE MONAHAN: Okay, remember that Barcelona, heaps of chocolate, there'll be far more people in the room but we'll tell everybody else that's in the room that you made the promise.

Any other questions before we kind of -- you know, this is quite ironic really because we are the closest to the GAC room that we've ever been and we are finishing 10 minutes early, we would have heaps of time to walk the whole distance across the conference centre; you wait, for Barcelona, it will not work this way. So, thank you all; of course the GAC is the huge distance of next door. That'll be at two o'clock, so we'll see you all in the GAC room. Thank you.

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