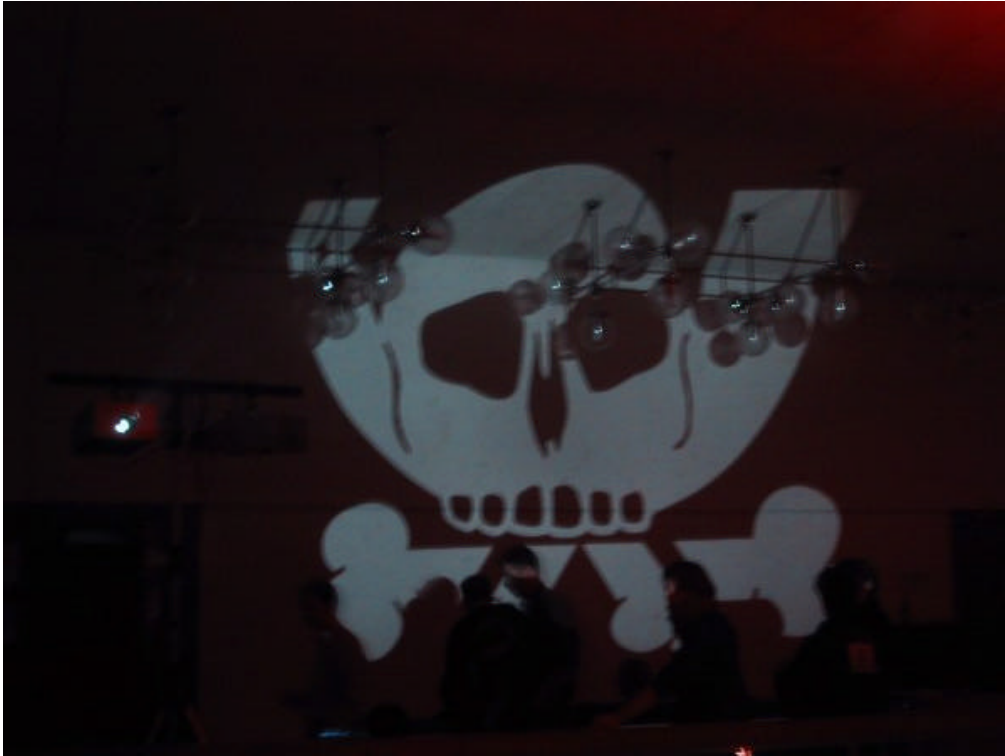


Matkaraportti: CCC 27.12.-30.12.2001

- Ville Oksanen ja Mikko Välimäki



EFFin toimintasuunnitelman mukaisesti KV-yhteistyön kehittäminen Eurooppalaisella tasolla on yksi keskeisimmistä toiminnan painopistealueista. Tämän toteuttamiseksi allekirjoittaneet ovat molemmat olleet aktiivisia Eurooppalaisen kattojärjestön perustamista valmistelevilla maililistoilla. Konkreettisenä tuloksena EFFin ehdotuksesta CCC:n konferenssin yhteydessä Berliinissä pidettiin Eurooppalaisten Electronic Civil Rights-järjestöjen tapaaminen, jonka tavoitteena oli parhaassa tapauksessa pitää jo järjestön perustamiskokous. Paikalla olivat EFFistä Ville Oksanen ja Mikko Välimäki.

Kokousta edeltänyt viestiliikenne osoitti kuitenkin perustamisen tulevan liian nopeasti tietyille järjestöille, erityisesti CCC:lle. Taustalla oli lähinnä luottamuspuola uusiin pelureihin (EFF, EFS), joiden pelättiin olevan lähinnä metsästävässä rahaa itselleen. Epävirallinen tapaaminen ennen varsinaista kokousta edeltävänä iltana vahvisti tämän käsityksen. Erityisesti Andy Mueller-Maguhn (The Man CCC:ssä, mm. Euroopan edustajana ICANNissa) teki harvinaisen selväksi, että perustaminen ei tule kyseeseen. Andy antoi myös muutenkin uskomattoman negatiivisen kuvan itsestään EFFin iskuryhmälle, joka siirtyi tässä vaiheessa suunnittelemaan strategioita hotellille.



EFFin pj Mikko Välimäki mietteliäänä.

Ilta ei ollut kuitenkaan mennyt täysin hukkaan, illallisen aikana saatiin hahmoteltua tulevan järjestön toiminnan pääpainopistealueet, joita olivat kampanjoiden koordinointi, tiedon välittäminen jäsenjärjestöjen välillä, sekä ennen kaikkea EU-lainsäädäntöön vaikuttaminen Brysselissä. Myöskin typerät ajatukset suorasta henkilöjäsenyydestä haudattiin välittömästi ja lähtökohdaksi otettiin klassinen sateenvarjomalli. Erityisesti Casper Bowden (Foundation for Information Policy Research (FIPR)) osoittautui täysammattilaiseksi lobbariksi, jonka kokemusten perusteella monet asiat saatiin ratkaistua EFFin näkökulmasta ”oikein”.

Varsinainen kokous sujui varsin leppoisissa merkeissä, melkein kaikesta muusta vallitsi yksimielisyys paitsi nimestä. Tässä kohtaan tulivat näkyviin voimakkaat ristiriidat EFF ja Eurooppalaisten, useimmiten vasemmistolaisen taustan omaavien järjestöjen välillä.



Stephane Koch miettii kuumeisesti samalla kun Caspar Bowden selittää.

Ohessa kokouksista laadittu pöytäkirja, joka antaa kohtuullisen tarkan kuvan tapahtumien kulusta:

People present

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Björn Rupp, CCC, Germany
Ville Oksanen, EFFi, Finland
Mikko Valimäki, EFFi, Finland
Julius Mittenzwei, CCC, Germany
Thomas Michlmayr, VIBE!AT, Luxembourg
Albert Köllner, VIBE!AT+EUROCAUCE, Austria
Herbert Wilfing, Quintessenz, Austria
Erich Moechel, Quintessenz, Austria
George Danezis, Quintessenz, UK
Stephane Koch, ISOC GVA, Switzerland
Caspar Bowden, FIPR, UK
Daniel Boos, SIUG, Switzerland
Igor Gilitschenski, -, Germany
Benjamin Heitmann, CCC, Germany
Holger Levsen, inferno, Germany
Wolfgang Fricker, -, Germany

Patrick Goltsch, Fitug, Germany
Till Jaeger, ifrOSS, Germany
Tom Vogt, -, Germany
Andy Müller-Maguhn, CCC, Germany
Paul Wouters, Opentap, Netherlands
Sebastian Stellingwerf, -, Netherlands
Florian Burckhardt, CCC, Germany
Marcel Lenz, -, Germany
Götz Galuba, -, Germany
Jan Suhr, -, Germany
Ann / Daniel, indymedia.de, Germany
Martine Paulet, Internet Rights Europe, France/UK
L. Koonts, -, Netherlands/USA

Sebastian Zimmermann, CCC, Germany

Pre-Meeting

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On Friday evening there was a smaller and much shorter meeting of those already present. There was concern that the Saturday meeting may not be productive because of too many / the wrong people (fortunately this concern turned out to be unfounded later). So some issues were already raised at a dinner.

Summary:

- we don't have pan-European media
- awareness through media only by national organizations, not in Brussels
- newspapers quote people (faces), not organizations
- there is not a lack of working on a national scale
- there is complete lack of international coordination
- buereau in Brussels is needed - funding?
- we need somebody who really knows about fund-raising
- we need at least four persons who will just try to coordinate people
- figure out the technology for cheap/free video conferencing
- coordinating body that has credibility
- share the knowledge
- there needs to be some structure that is easy to work in
- if people work for free they want feedback

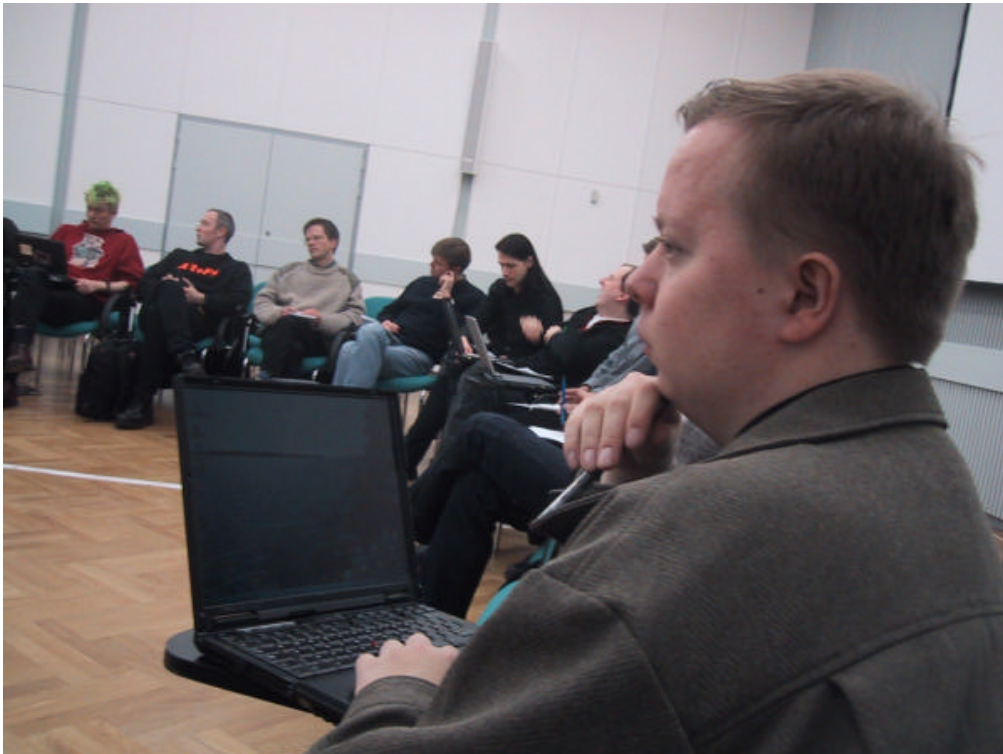
One thing that can be done already is to bring people together that are working on the same issue (such as the Cybercrime Convention). No organization is needed for that but - as a suggestion - an intelligent server in the Internet where people with logins can get on mailing lists,

find other people working on the same issue, collect and share material/arguments and so on.

- extranet, put together experts, share information, secure login, consolidate people to become known.

Caspar Bowden also raised the issue of founding one/two organizations: one that is more on a think tank level ("FIPR successful by 'being very boring' - suits, no geeks") - recognized "experts", and one that does the street activism: "geeks in black coats" - they get the media attention -, or found one organization that does both?

It was also suggested that the organization to be founded should organize a conference in Brussels in September 2002 - a conference derived from the Computer, Freedom, Privacy conferences (www.cfp.org). This conference can also be used for fund raising.



EFFin kv sihteeri Ville Oksanen seuraa keskustelua.

Finally, the voting issue was raised. When someone writes a proposal and posts it to a mailing list with 20 members and gets only 5 replies - is that a yes, a no, a don't care? Should voting be compulsory?
Immediate action: make a list of all NGOs and link to each other on each others web site.

Meeting

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[Since the meeting was not overcrowded, it was more a discussion meeting where issues were raised and no definite answers were given. However, in the end a time frame of about four weeks was given to work out possible answers to the issues. So parties that did not attend are invited to give their opinions on the issues.]

* Where we are now

After everyone present briefly introduced him-/herself, Tom gave a summary about what has happened on the EFF-Europe mailinglist between HAL and 18C3:

- set up a mailing list
- nothing substantive has happened yet
- more people are joining
- no agreement on the job and so on
- there has, however, been a considerable amount of discussion and a few issues are clearer now, while some new questions nobody ever thought of have been thrown up.

Then Andy summarized the efforts of "europe-1", a group of 7 people/NGOs that know each other personally and have been working for a longer time on this issue:

- national backbone is needed
- things must be addressed locally
- organization should be founded bottom up, not top down (such as EFF)
- mailing lists are not enough
- organize a conference (CFP - computer, freedom and privacy)
- Some funding (50.000 Euro) possibly already available
- lack of people working on the *issues*
- website about different laws / situations in each country is needed

He also announced that the group will get together on January 19th at a meeting sponsored by ACLU:

- legal framework done there, end up with office in Brussels

* Think tank or street activism?

An E-Mail from Campaign for Digital Rights (organized a number of demonstrations) was read in part:

- street level activism is needed
- it is important to attract television coverage
- from ground up by personal contacts
- no federal structure of NGOs

Since this is more the "street activism" approach, Caspar Bowden suggested

to create two groups, a think tank and a street activism group (see pre-meeting).

Andy Müller-Maguhn: Greenpeace does both

Caspar Bowden describes why he prefers two separate groups:

- privacy issues are the first news items to be dropped when some "real news" turn up
- media wants to appear to show both sides of an issue. So they invite an activist and someone from the other side (e.g. minister) for an interview. The latter just doesn't appear - the media will drop the whole thing
- a think tank consists of "experts" that know both sides, so by interviewing such an expert, the media can still appear to be objective

But:

- we need only one organization all year round, campaigning only done when there is an occasion (by networking the national organizations)

* Office in Brussels

- NGOs are underrepresented in the political process in the EU: cybercrime forum - cybercrime forum mailing list with many representatives and not a single NGO
- Commission only hires generalists, never specialists, they need expert knowledge
- permanent representation in Brussels meeting people talking face to face.
- Brussels office with spokesperson - here was a debate whether a spokesperson is needed or not (see next topic)
- we should make contacts with other groups in Brussels, then it is easy to get into informal meetings
- however, in the group nobody seemed to be wanting to move to Brussels (without compensation, at least)
- there are several consumer NGOs active in Brussels. It was mentioned that it may be wise to get in touch, maybe even link up with them since many issues (DRM-crippled CDs) are just as much an issue for them.

* Working the press

There was a debate whether a spokesperson is needed in Brussels. The argument is that there is no pan-European media and the national organizations already have good press contacts. So the better way to go is to create a network of spokespersons across Europe:

- more impact if organization of 25 countries says something than "interviewing the usual suspects".

* Funding

There was general agreement that there should be funding for a permanent office in Brussels and full-time staff. Additionally, the organization

should be able to give travel grants to volunteers that want to attend meetings on a European scale. Experts on fund-raising are needed. One way to raise funds could be conferences such as the Computer, Freedom, Privacy conference.

There was also general agreement that we will need both donations and membership fees to finance the org in question.

It was mentioned that existing orgs could collect money for the new org by adding an amount to their regular membership. In most cases, the members will have to vote on that. It would be an easy way to get some reliable flow of income going. However, not all national organizations are open for anyone to join. So the central organization should be open for people that want to give money. The central organization should therefore allow for two types of membership: for members (persons, companies), that give the money and for voting members that steer the whole organization (NGOs ?). This is legally feasible. But still, there was no final agreement on the way the money should flow - from the national organizations to the central organization or the other way around (or both as just described).

It was also questioned whether the organization should aim for the charity status. Andy argued that the organization could then depend on the government (that could revert the charity status), and that it may not be helpful to people that give money from a country other than the one that the organization is based in. However, is there something to be lost/gained when the organization has charity status? This question is passed to the law experts (see actions).

There is also funding available by the EU. However, these funds are only available when the organization is set. Additionally, EU funds are organized in such a way that only half the money for a project is given and the receiver has to chip in the other half (it doesn't have to be cash, can be staff, equipment and so on).

Start up funding (at least 200.000 Euro necessary) is partly (50%) promised. It was agreed that funding must be clear in such a way that when the first year of operation is financed the organization can get the funds for the following years by itself.

* Functions

There was also a discussion about the functions that the organization should achieve:

1. have representatives that can talk with officials in Brussels and meet officials the same way lobbyists do
2. trying to ensure the flow of information, the interface, internal coordination
3. operate in several European languages at once, translate documents and

internal information in a timely way, simultaneous release of press statements (press contact network)

4. a pool of expertise for non-cyber NGOs, such as the consumer advocacy groups already in existence.

5. street level organization, like environmentalists (loose networks)

* The name

No debate about the name at this point was wanted. However, a quick opinion poll showed that "EFF-Europe" is a name that is strongly opposed by most of the NGOs and could become a "show-stopper". Also, CLUE didn't make everyone happy. The name is something that can still be worked on (give it to marketing experts?). However, there is no reason to change the name until a better one hasn't been found.

* Actions

Legal stuff about bank accounts and billing (of membership fees) within Europe is checked by Björn Rupp and Andy Müller-Maguhn. Results in January 2002. Quintessenz, Austria, will propose a working model and set up a web page with growth program (Erich Moechel, et al.)

Database: A list of NGOs in Europe is made that is used to link to each other. (Andy, Sebastian)

Step 2: Each NGO should also name a contact person for legal matters, one for financial matters, one for press contacts.

Legal task force:

A small group of people that will work out the details until the end of January:

- find out which is the best structure, reasons for choosing structure
- work out statutes
- work out "white paper"

Core team: Tom Vogt, Björn Rupp, Ville Oksanen, Wolfgang Fricker, Patrick Goltsch

"Consultants": Caspar Bowden, Andy Müller-Maguhn, Erich Moechel

The "action groups" are open for everyone to join. Especially organizations that could not participate are invited to name a delegate. However, the person should have time to work on these issues during the following weeks.