Towards a more democratic Net
Official Press Release after the ICANN ROME 2004 meeting

One of most important decisions was to offer the opportunity to register domains with non-Latin characters– since March 1st in Germany as many as 600,000 applications for domain names with diereses – and the establishment of a special agency for the development of national domains, the Country Code Name Supporting Organisation (ccNSO). The organisers, Register.it and Istituto di Informatica e Telematica at the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL were satisfied: with over 700 delegates from all over the wrold, it was the most successful meeting in ICANN's history

The international meeting of ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), the international agency appointed by the US Government to run the Internet, closed in Rome on March 6th, 2004. The event, which took place in Italy for the very first time, organised by Register.it, Gruppo DADA and Istituto di Informatica e Telematica at the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, was attended by a record-breaking number of delegates: over 700, in 27 different forums, including representatives from the European Community and from the governments of every continent, Internet users and telecommunication operators from many countries, including Japan, Brazil, India and Australia.

An important decision announced just before closing the meeting was the establishment of the Country Code Name Supporting Organisation (ccNSO), an international agency that is going to bring together all ccTLDs (country code Top Level Domains), i.e. country extensions (for instance, .it for Italy or .fr for France). It is a great step forward, in the attempt to build more international consensus on issues that have been debated for over six years and to give an increasingly global definition to ICANN's identity, one that may go beyond its US origin. This new agency will help develop common standard procedures for all ccTLDs, remove bureaucratic hindrances and generally support the development of country domains, along with such more "American" gTLD (generic Top Level Domain) extensions as .com, .net. and .org.

In the same attempt to move towards wider democratisation, they also decided to offer the opportunity to register domains with characters other than the Latin alphabet (Cyrillic, Arab as well as German because of its "umlaut" or dieresis), while only A to Z characters had been allowed so far. And it is Germany that shows how successful this new opportunity has been so far: 600,000 applications for domains with diereses have already been submitted.

As to the appointment of a new .net domain registry operator to replace Verisign, the current .net registry operator, it was decided that ICANN should open a formal procedure to appoint such successor by June 30th 2004 and that Verisign itself can be re-elected.
In addition, the controversy between ICANN, Verisign and other domain operators regarding the legitimacy of the Waiting List Service (WLS), the service developed by Verisign to put on a waiting list (for a fee) those users who are interested to register any domain that should not be renewed by their holders on their expiration, is heading to a close. In this respect, ICANN's Board of Directors approved the results of negotiations with Verisign on the development of the Waiting List Service.

The illustrious guests of the meeting included Lucio Stanca, Minister of Innovation and Technology, who, on addressing the participants and the organisers at the Public Forum, recognised, on behalf of the Italian Government, the role that ICANN plays in the development and in the growth of the Internet, with special reference to the vital task of guaranteeing its technical stability.

Register.it S.p.A. (http://we.register.it), leader in Italia nella gestione dei nomi a dominio con oltre 180.000 domini registrati, ha sedi a Bergamo e Firenze e opera con uno staff di 50 professionisti. Controllata da DADA S.p.A. (DA.MI), Register.it è diventata centro di eccellenza del Gruppo per la gestione dell'identità online e offre a persone ed aziende i servizi aggiuntivi al nome a dominio necessari per una efficace presenza in rete. Register.it ha stipulato contratti con tutte le Registration Authorities europee ed è il primo operatore italiano accreditato presso ICANN.

L'Istituto di Informatica e Telematica (IIT-CNR) e' il risultato dell'accorpamento dell'Istituto per le Applicazioni telematiche (IAT) e dell'Istituto di Matematica Computazionale (IMC) in seguito al riordinamento della rete scientifica del CNR. L'Istituto svolge attività di ricerca, valorizzazione e trasferimento tecnologico e di formazione nel settore delle tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione e nel settore delle scienze computazionali.
Lo IIT-CNR e' responsabile della gestione del registro del ccTLD "it". Questo ruolo e' stato riconosciuto al CNR da IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) sin dal Dicembre 1987 grazie alla capacita' tecnico-scientifica acquisita nel campo delle reti telematiche. Al momento il registro conta oltre 800.000 nomi a dominio registrati sotto il ccTLD "it" e oltre 2.300 contratti firmati con provider/maintainer di tutto il mondo.

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