On February 24th, 2002 a report by Mr Stuart Lynn, ICANN CEO, titled ICANN - The Case for Reform was posted on the ICANN web.

This report extensively reported in the media has already caused a lot of controversy. In his report Mr Lynn reviews the history of ICANN, progress or rather lack of progress made and presents a proposal for radical restructuring of ICANN. For full report consult the ICANN web page.

Recently, CECUA, as the only Independent User Organisation, has been consulting with ICANN on user involvement and user representation. CECUA firmly believes that ICANN needs user involvement to become more successful and improve its image. However, if Mr Lynn's proposal is approved there will be no user representation on the ICANN Board. Subsequently, many of the most important Internet user issues, i.e. internationalised characters, might remain unresolved.

**CECUA statement : Internet impacts our Societies**

CECUA considers that Internet is no longer a technical accessory for researchers, techno geeks or spammers. It is increasingly becoming a strategic resource such as roads, water distribution, or the postal system. Using the Internet, professional and private life is evolving, corporations and administrations are redesigning their organisational structures, markets are extending into new territories.

Most individuals or companies, drawn into the maelstrom of change, only realise too late that critical choices were made earlier in time, when societal impacts were neither analysed nor debated. Whether those impacts resulted from technical or organisational choices, the decision process and the stakes were not understood by the community of future users or consumers. Moreover, practices adopted by users may distort substantially the objectives of the technical designers.

Domain names, used as personal or brand names, are forerunners of a growing Cyber Lang that aims to encompass every aspect of life - administrative, commercial, educational, medical, and more. Those bit fields encapsulated in various IT platforms, IP/V6, ENUM, lists and directories, certificates, wallets, or signatures, might be used somehow in undesirable ways. Customisation of search engines and database profiles result in footprints that might be perceived with most erratic meanings.

World diversity in languages, cultures, laws, societal structures or business practices, cannot be packed into a toolbox designed by and for a limited fraction of the human race. Looking at the 400 million Citizens of the European Union alone, only one in seven citizens has English as a mother tongue. And six out of seven citizens face mutilation of their Christian names and Family names going on the Internet. Getting rid of Internet name mutilation is an important user issue. The Internet has to support the lingual and cultural diversity. The Internet is a global phenomenon and it has to act responsibly.
CECUA positions: A “good” Internet Governance needs to be defined

There is an imperious need to redefine the organisational structure of the governance of the Internet which makes a clear distinction between technical management of Internet and strategic choices that have an impact on our society. But the historical legacy is preventing us from examining the situation objectively. At its inception, ICANN inherited a collection of various Internet management tasks, previously performed by multiple US government contractors. The ICANN functions were later designed as Internet governance functions. Today, this shortcut has to be reconsidered.

Facing the ICANN failure, CECUA believes that the question is no more to re-define ICANN missions but the scope of Internet governance functions themselves. In the long term, ICANN’s survival is not a real issue. The real issue is to define the appropriate structures capable of managing Internet vital and common functions. Some of them may be managed in a similar manner inside a common structure. Some others will have to be managed separately because they pose totally different problems and face different issues. It may be a role for ICANN in this emerging model. But it also may not.

Consequently, CECUA agrees in large part with the conclusion of the Case for Reform in its identification of a necessary reforming process of the Internet governance structure. Presuming to perform these tasks under the auspices of the international "Internet Community", ICANN failed in establishing either its international legitimacy or its financial independence. However, there may be a confusion about identifying the core of the debate. Today, the case is not to reform ICANN. Today, the case is to define a "good" Internet governance structure.

CECUA first position:

| CECUA recommends a detailed study of Internet governance to be directed before making any decision on ICANN’s survival. CECUA recommends this study to be exhaustive and not to be concentrated only on current ICANN’s functions. IETF, W3C and any potential future function should be also considered. This study should include an analysis and review of present and anticipated impacts of technical and organisational components of the Internet in terms of accessibility and usage. |

In addition, the fact that ICANN redefines its mission by itself is counter-productive and rig any reform willingness insofar as it is difficult to imagine that ICANN wishes to lose its position and prerogatives in these fields. On the contrary, it is easy to imagine that ICANN took the initiative of reforming itself before the initiative of reforming the Internet Governance current structure be taken from the outside;

CECUA second position

| To be neutral, CECUA recommends this study not be conducted either by ICANN or by any individual having responsibilities in the ICANN process. |

ICANN’s lack of legitimacy may stem from the "regulation-like" nature of its decisions, which have never been made with Internet users genuine participation. Recognizing its failure, ICANN is currently entering a self-reorganisation process. Unfortunately, this process is taking place in a context where Internet users, especially outside the United States, are no more involved than in the past

Users should have an opportunity to influence the way business makes use of the Internet and makes technologies evolve, that citizens should be part of the political development and exercise
their influence through improved participation. The Internet is too much about technologies and not enough about users expectations.

To ensure these expectations to be reached in regard of Internet evolution, it is high time to promote a significant users participation inside Internet governance structures.

**CECUA third position**

| Therefore, CECUA recommends that any process aiming at reforming current Internet technical governance structure should ensure that user communities, especially European user communities, are able to position themselves in the ICANN reforming process. CECUA recommends also that participating users should be positioned well enough in that process to promote their position on the allocation and management of Internet resources (names, addresses...). |

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**CECUA presentation**

CECUA has 25 years of experience as the only independent European user association. CECUA is a Confederation of 12 European Computer User Associations covering 12 countries in the European Union, the European Economic Area and European Free Trade Association representing well over half a million users at the association, enterprise and individual level.

CECUA was founded in 1982 with the support of the European Commission and has a proven track record of defending Computer User, Consumers. CECUA has worked closely with the European Commission, particularly with DGXIII and DG III. Through its effort CECUA has made major contribution toward the development of the Information Society with the user in focus.

CECUA is the of the most famous users platform in Europe because:

- CECUA deals both with citizens and businesses interests.
- Its members are national associations of a wide range of both professional and non-professional computer users.
- CECUA has a wide network of Internet users, a large number of whom were actively involved in the ICANN At Large election process held in the year 2000. These members wish to continue to be involved in this process.
- CECUA is working closely with many other European Internet users´ associations and organisations to promote user’s rights in the information society in Europe.
- CECUA is actively involved in building the users representation platform of the future European domain name (“dot eu”).
- CECUA is the most active European association defending the rights of European Internet users and working closely with Internet experts from ISOC universities.
- CECUA has proven that it has the resources to work with other associations and to reach consensus in the European environment.

CECUA is a totally independent non-profit user association and has its only income from member dues.

CECUA is a non-profit user association registered in Brussels
Postal Address Rue de Trèves 74 1040 Brussels Belgium