

Nominet PAB meeting 1st October 2003

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The CoM thanks the PAB for the list of its resolutions and responds as annotated.

Automaton Template Changes

The PAB noted the interface changes described in Section 2 of the paper.

The PAB resolved to accept the interface changes described in Section 3.1 of the paper (headed tidying contact details).

The PAB noted Section 3.2 of the paper (headed 'Pull' transfer mechanism), and resolved that no move to a 'pull' system of tag changes should be instituted at this stage.

CoM response: Executive team requested to implement

The PAB noted Section 3.3 of the paper (headed 'Lock state'), and resolved that the issue of domain locking should be considered by a subcommittee. The subcommittee is to be chaired by Steve Dyer on the understanding that it be transferred to a working group should the proposals on working groups be implemented.

CoM response: Board will await further advice

Working Groups

The PAB resolved to accept the recommendations in the Working Groups paper in principle, but believed that the drafting of the rules needs further work. The PAB also believes that the following modifications should be made. Firstly, that as Nominet may require operational working groups too, then policy and operational working groups should, where possible, share the same infrastructure. Secondly, that the PAB should be responsible for the appointment of the working group chairs of policy working groups, whether a PAB member or another individual co-opted by the PAB.

CoM response: Board will await final decision on detailed rules

Ben Laurie is to chair a subcommittee to redraft the document, and Alex Bligh agreed to give assistance. The PAB resolved to request that the CoM provide executive resource to help ensure that the resultant draft was workable.

The PAB also resolved to recommend to the CoM that the executive adopt a formal policy to allow the participation of staff in working groups where appropriate.

CoM response: Managing Director was requested to organise appropriately

SLD Policy

The PAB resolved to approve the paper presented by the subcommittee, and submit it to the CoM as a response to the Request for Comments, subject to the restriction that no implication should be drawn from this resolution as to whether or not the adoption of the proposals should in fact occur at all, this decision being reserved for later in this meeting.

The PAB resolved that it is undesirable for Nominet to implement a system similar to that described in the paper (even as amended) as: it increases the expense to apply for an SLD; it does not effectively increase competition as far as the end-user is concerned; it substantially reduces accountability; it imposes an unnecessary financial burden on Nominet and its stakeholders; it removes a key policy decision from Nominet who are clearly best placed and have a duty to the stakeholder community to make that decision; and it may prevent the successful application of worthy SLD candidates.

Whilst the PAB recognised that there may be reasons why the implementation of the proposal would be pragmatically useful, it resolved (by a majority of 7 to 6) that this was outweighed by the undesirability of the policy, and recommend that the CoM should instead maintain the position that the previous policy should be retained, subject only to amendments to remedy those defects which have been identified other than those stemming from the OFT's interpretation of competition law.

CoM response: Board noted the PAB's response and will consider it together with all others received