



Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety

Evidence to the EU Hearing on Internet Governance
Brussels, 6th May, 2009

CHIS regrets it is unable to send a representative to this important meeting in Brussels. However we would like to make the following observations.

In April, 2009, the UK's Internet Watch Foundation published its annual report. The report

"...highlights the fact that 74% of child sexual abuse domains traced by IWF are commercial operations selling indecent images of children, and 75% of these (some 850 unique domains) are registered with just 10 domain name registries. This underlines the importance of recent international efforts with domain name registries to get the site names delisted, and will remain a focus of IWF attention going forward."

See <http://www.iwf.org.uk/media/news.258.htm>

These numbers speak of a regulatory failure by ICANN. It hardly inspires confidence in them across a wider range of headings.

Much more needs to be done by ICANN to get individual registries to know more about their customers and, in particular, there should be a rigorous global policy both of banning the use of any domain names which advertise, suggest or imply that child pornography is available on that site, and subsequently of enforcing such a ban. An obvious place to start would be with that comparatively small number of registries referred to by the IWF.

John Carr
Secretary

www.chis.org.uk