

CNSA/LAP WORKSHOP "Spam Fighting"

OPENING SPEECH

2009/10/07

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that ANACOM welcomes the fifth joint Working Session to Lisbon. Each year, this event assembles the Contacts Network of Anti-Spam Authorities in the European Union and the organisations that make up the London Action Plan, bringing together representatives of public and private bodies from five continents.

We were delighted to prepare all the logistics associated with this event and to welcome you all to Lisbon, capital city of a country that is renowned for its strong and historic traditions of international friendship and cooperation. We are here today at Parque das Nações (The Park of Nations). This site was created especially for the Lisbon Expo in 1998 with the theme, "The oceans: a heritage for the future", and I hope that the choice of this site will be act as source of inspiration and a basis for the success of this Work Session.

As hosts we welcome all of you and we hope that your participation in this event will provide you with an extraordinary experience in the sharing of good practice and in establishing bonds of cooperation that will give impetus to our actions in combating spam.

Like you, we are fully aligned with the Seoul Declaration on the Future of the Internet Economy, and therefore share the view that the Internet Economy will enhance our ability to improve the quality of life of all our citizens.

We know that SPAM, and all the phenomena associated with SPAM, constitutes a global threat which requires a global response.

That is why, at ANACOM, with others and according to our remit, we have been committed to and have participated actively in the various fora which have the objective of contributing to the goal that the development of the Internet Economy will:

- Facilitate convergence of networks, equipment, applications and services;
- Promote creativity in the development, use and application of the Internet;
- Build confidence and security;
- Ensure that the Internet Economy is truly global.

This is how we view our participation in the Contacts Network of Anti-Spam Authorities in the European Union and how we promote, as far as we are able, the Network's close connection with the London Action Plan (LAP).

It is therefore with great pleasure that I can announce that ANACOM is in the process of joining the LAP.

We are sure that this will be a significant step for us, shaping the actions that we will undertake in this area in the future.

Because of our involvement in the preparation of the next European regulatory framework for electronic communications, we know that the powers of national regulatory authorities in matters relating to network and information security and consumer protection are expected to be strengthened.

Of course the need for us, as national regulatory authority, to cooperate at an international level will increase significantly.

This year, we are celebrating our twentieth anniversary; we are therefore a young organization that is intent on continuously developing our levels of competence and that is determined to maintain and develop: a youthful and active spirit, and an activity that is useful and effective and so well focused.

We have just held our annual conference which had the theme "Why regulate?"

The debate that took place also raised other issues, such as:

- What should our goals be?
- Which interests should we uphold and defend?
- Which interests should we oppose?
- What should the scope of our activity be?

- Who should our partners be?

The discussion was lively and broad, and it confirmed that, for us at ANACOM, the fight against unsolicited communications in its various forms and all the associated phenomena are wholly and increasingly encompassed by the remit and objectives that we pursue.

Expanding further on the question which closed the Seminar of the 20 years of ANACOM - "Regulate for whom?" – it should be added that the focus remains on the citizen, and as such, ANACOM's main objectives in the fight against spam are to increase citizen confidence in electronic communications and to protect citizens in e-commerce transactions.

Recalling the work of the OECD in this area, which resulted in the development of the "Anti-Spam Toolkit", and in which we participated actively, I would like to recount its recommendations and the need for a multidisciplinary approach with a global reach comprising several factors, including:

- Regulatory approaches,
- The repression of spam,
- Industry initiatives,
- The technical measures,
- Initiatives in terms of information and raising awareness,
- The partnership for cooperation,
- The metrics associated with Spam, and
- Global cooperation.

The event you are attending over the next three days is, we think, an exemplary case of an environment that is conducive to putting the strategy and recommendations detailed in the OECD Toolkit into effect, especially as we have representatives here from:

- Industry, including: operators and providers of electronic communications services, equipment manufacturers, software development companies and companies from other sectors including the financial sector,
- Authorities and other public bodies, including regulators, consumer protection and data protection bodies and law enforcement authorities,
- Consumers organisations,
- And other entities, such as in particular the media and international organizations.

Among the latter group, I would like to highlight the presence of representatives from the European Commission and recall the Commission's 2006 Communication on "Fighting spam, spyware and malicious software". This recognized the evolving nature of these threats and argued that success in this battle is dependent on several factors, especially:

- A strong commitment by central government to fight on-line malpractices;
- Clear organisational responsibility for enforcement activities;
- Adequate resources for the enforcement authority.

In the same Communication, it was also noted that, at least at the time, these factors were not present in all Member States.

ANACOM supports the position taken here by the European Commission and is aware that a strong commitment from central government is critical, especially as the various authorities and public bodies with expertise in this field operate with very different remits and frameworks.

It is therefore vital to clearly define the entities involved, the relationships between them and what their powers and responsibilities are. In this way, it will be possible to establish and develop an effective action plan to combat these threats.

In this sense ANACOM plans to present a proposal to the Government on a course of action in this matter which is in line with developments and good practices seen at European and international level.

In the year of its 20th anniversary, ANACOM is proud to have a team of senior staff, who are particularly capable of operating in a multidisciplinary team, to work on a strategic plan to combat spam. Being financially independent, ANACOM is also able to put in place the human and material resources necessary to perform the tasks that require forensic knowledge to investigate cases of spam.

There is unanimous acceptance that a successful action strategy requires a creative attitude and a vigorous campaign to beat those who develop cunning ways of conducting malicious activities over the Internet.

I therefore hope that together we can beat the inertia and encourage cooperation, thereby giving credibility to the use of electronic communications and contributing decisively to the future of the Internet Economy.

I wish you success in your work!