

Press release

We present the cultural and linguistic domains in front of the European Parliament

A few hours before signing the new agreement with ICANN on 24th June, [puntCAT](#) presented [ECLID](#) (European Cultural and Linguistic Internet Domains) at the [European Parliament](#). This working group is made up of five politically independent non-profit organisations whose aim it is to **obtain Internet domains for their respective cultural and linguistic communities**. [.BZH](#) for Breton. [.CYM](#) for Welsh, [.EUS](#) for Basque, [.GAL](#) for Galician and [.SCOT](#) for Scottish. **Fundació puntCAT**, the management body for the only existing domain for a community of these characteristics, the **.cat** domain for Catalan-speakers, is an advisory member of ECLID and a model the members of this association hope to follow.

In his speech, Jordi Iparraguirre, Chairman of **Fundació puntCAT** emphasized the fact that that 'the growth and the facts of .cat have put an end to the duality between the ccTLD (regional domains) and the gTLD (generic domains). Language-based Internet domains are the best way to provide a denomination of origin and ensure respect for diversity in a GloCal (global-local) world'. Bertrand de la Chapelle, the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs special envoy for the Information Society, feels that 'linguistic domains help members of a specific culture to identify themselves on the Web under their own name. What's more, a cultural domain brings much more visibility to a community, something no-one knew before .cat came on the scene as the perfect paradigm for the other domains that have followed in its wake'. Far from creating borders, linguistic domains 'unite, rather than divide', in the words of Mathieu Weil, CEO for [Afnic](#) (the registry for .fr) and Chairman of [CENTR](#) (*Council of European National Top Level Domain Registries*), of which **.cat** has been an associate member since 2007.

The event sparked a lively debate between the audience, members of [ICANN](#), members of [CENTR](#), and members of the European Commission's *High Level Group on Internet Governance* and four European Members of Parliament. To judge by the impressions of people taking part in the event, these domains have gone down very well with ICANN as they represent a third type of domain, of which **.cat** is the example to follow. It's just a question of time before they are approved and come into force. Their social value is unquestioned by Internet management, who made a favourable assessment of the **important social benefits that cultural domains bring to their communities by offering their members more advanced use of the Internet**.

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Fundació puntCAT is a politically independent non-profit private foundation. It was set up on 28 December 2004. It was an initiative of the civil society and is registered in the Foundations Registry of the Generalitat de Catalunya as number 2,100. The object of the Foundation is to administer the .cat domain and help develop the Information Society in the Catalan-speaking world.

.cat is a generic domain, like .org or .com, but, like .aero, .museum or .edu, it is particularly directed at one specific community: the Catalan-speaking community. The domain is open to anyone wanting to express themselves on the Internet in Catalan, regardless of where they live or what they do. This means everyone, from multinationals to private individuals, is welcome.

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