**Guidance on .eu top level domain name registrations in the**

**event of a ‘no deal’ EU exit**

These guidelines replace those published on 5 March 2019.

0.1 Introduction

This guidance is for those who have existing domain name registrations under .eu or have

an interest in registering a domain name under .eu. This includes UK individuals, companies

or organisations.

This guidance has been updated to reflect information published by EURid, the registry for

the .eu top level domain, on 24 January and 22 March 2019. It has also been updated to provide guidance for UK holders of domains registered under EU Member States’ country codes.

**Please** **note that EURid has confirmed that it has placed on hold any plans regarding domain names registered to individuals and undertakings in the UK and Gibraltar, whilst it awaits instructions from the European Commission. This is, following the European Council’s decision to extend the Article 50 period.**

**However, we recommend that UK registrants continue to prepare for a no deal scenario and consider the steps set out below, including seeking advice from your registrar.**

0.2 What you need to do:

Check eligibility.

* Undertakings, organisations and individuals to check if they are still eligible to hold a .eu Top Level Domain, as set out in Article 4(2)(b):

The Registry shall:

(b) register domain names in the .eu TLD through any accredited .eu Registrar requested by any:

(i) undertaking having its registered office, central administration or principal place of business within the Community, or

(ii) organisation established within the Community without prejudice to the application of national law, or

(iii) natural person resident within the Community;

You may still satisfy the eligibility criteria if you have your registered office, central

administration, or principal place of business within the European Economic Area (EEA) or

are otherwise established within the EEA, or are a natural person resident in the EEA.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria after EU exit day:

* please read this guidance document.

In its notice to stakeholders on 28 March 2018, the European Commission confirmed that in

the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, the EU regulatory framework for the .eu

Top Level Domain will no longer apply to the UK as from the withdrawal date.

The notice explains that undertakings and organisations that are established in the UK but

not in the EU, and individuals who reside in the UK, will no longer be eligible to register .eu

domain names or, if they are .eu registrants, to renew .eu domain names registered before

the withdrawal date. The notice is accessible at: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/notice-stakeholders-withdrawal-united-kingdom-and-eu-rules-eu-domain-names>

EURid, the registry for .eu which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the .eu Top

Level Domain, published a notice in January 2019 in consultation with the European Commission to provide further clarification for prospective and existing UK registrants of .eu domains:

i. in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal and;

ii. in the event of the UK leaving the EU following a planned transitional period on 31

December 2020 or at a later date.

**This notice is currently on hold whilst EURid awaits instructions from the Commission, following the European Council’s decision to extend the Article 50 period. However, we recommend that UK registrants of .eu domains should take note of the content of both notices.**

The notice is accessible at https://eurid.eu/en/register-a-eu-domain/brexit-notice/.

0.3 Existing UK registrants of .eu domains

EURid has yet to update their notice to stakeholders following the European Council’s decision to extend the Article 50 period. However, the notice to stakeholders published on 28 March, included that:

* UK registrants would receive an email notification from EURid ahead of the withdrawal date informing them that their domain name is not compliant with the .eu regulatory framework.
* There would be a grace period of two months after the date of the UK’s exit from the EU, following which those domain names will be withdrawn. This would give UK registrants an opportunity to demonstrate their compliance with the .eu regulatory framework (e.g. by notifying EURid that they have a legally established entity in the European Economic Area (EEA), or updating residence).
* These .eu domain names would then be withdrawn and will become inoperable. This would mean you may not be able to access your .eu websites or email.
* EURid would not make these domains available to any other entity for a further ten months. In this time, UK registrants could have their .eu domain reactivated if the eligibility criteria can be demonstrated to be satisfied.
* A year from the date of exit, if the UK registrants cannot demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria, their domains would be revoked and would become available to potential Registrants.

If you currently hold a .eu registration you should discuss whether you should consider transferring your registration to another top level domain with your local domain name registrar. Examples of other top level domains include .com, .co.uk, .net or .org.

You may also wish to seek advice from your local domain name registrar on whether the

terms of your contractual agreement provide for any recourse in the event of withdrawal or

revocation of a .eu registration. You may also want to seek legal advice.

0.4 Future registrations

If you are a UK resident, company or organisation planning to acquire an internet domain registration under .eu, you may no longer be eligible to acquire and register a .eu domain. If the UK exits the EU without a deal, you should check whether you remain eligible after EU exit day.

In line with EURid’s notice, we anticipate that EURid will not allow the registration of any new domain name where the registrant country code is either GB/GI following EU Exit in a no deal scenario.

0.5 Future changes to the eligibility criteria

In April 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a new EU regulation concerning the .eu Top Level Domain. The new regulation came into force on 29 March 2019.

The new regulation expands the current eligibility criteria to allow EEA citizens to register a .eu domain name independently of their place of residence. This will apply from 19 October 2019. EEA citizens who are resident in the UK may therefore meet the rules once this change takes effect.

**0.6 If you are a holder of a domain registered to another Member State’s Country Code Top Level Domain (e.g. .fr/.it)**

Similar eligibility restrictions may apply to European Member State Country Code Top Level Domains.

You should check with your registrar whether in the event of no deal you are still eligible to retain the use of that domain.