

# Geographical indications and domain names – a ccTLD perspective

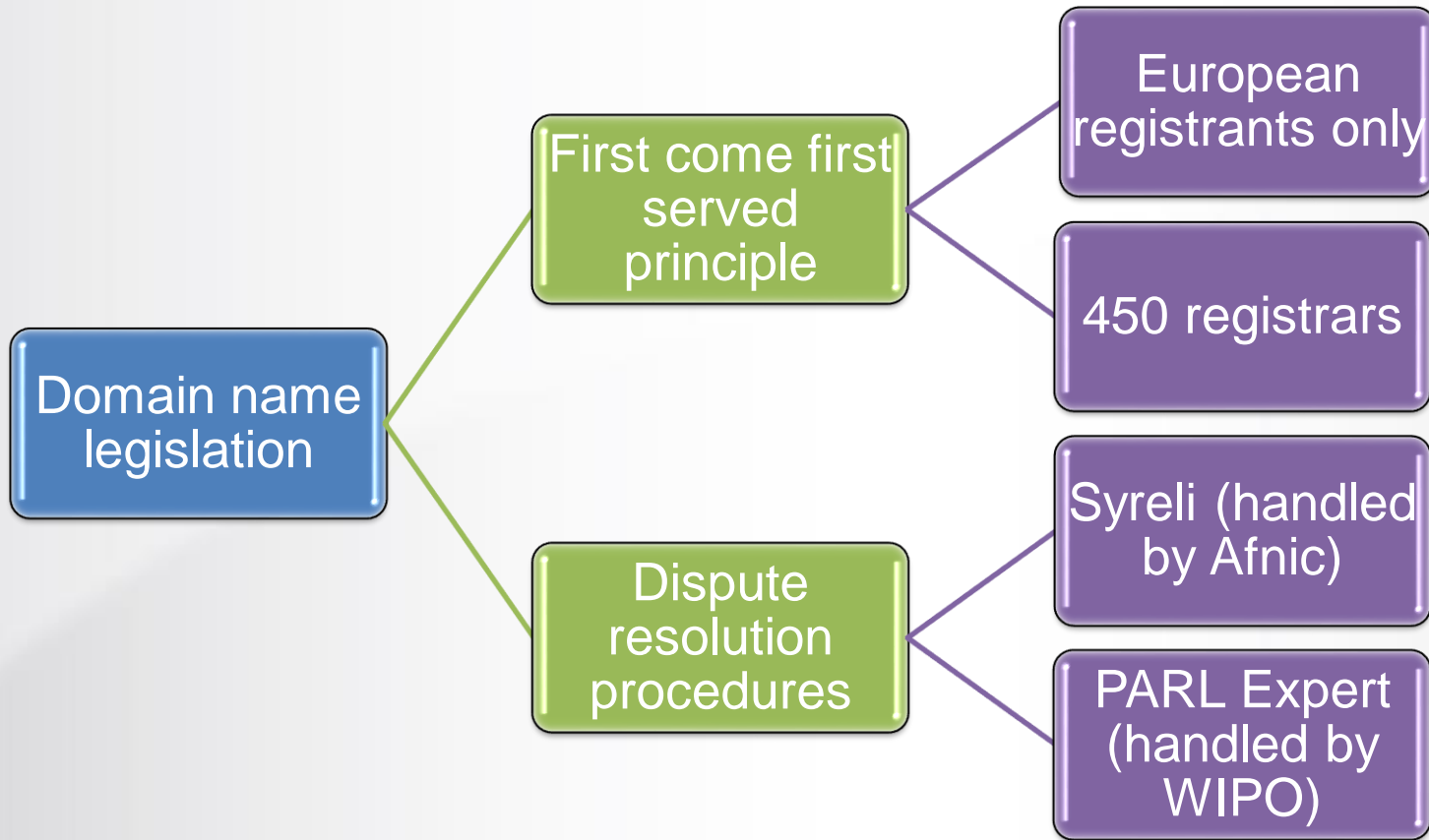
Mathieu Weill

Afnic

# Afnic overview

- **Not for profit, multistakeholder association ;**
- **80 employees located close to Paris ;**
- **ccTLD manager of .fr and 5 other French territories;**
- **Registry service provider for top-level domains such as .paris, .alsace or .snCF ;**
- **Our Mission is to support the development of an Internet that is**
  - **secure and stable,**
  - **open to innovation**
  - **and in which the French Internet community plays a key role.**

# Closeup on the .fr legal framework



# IP rights and Geographical indications

- **Dispute resolutions grounds under *.fr* :**
  - **Potential harm to public order or prejudice to rights established by Law or Constitution**
  - **Potential harm to Intellectual Property rights, unless registrant has a legitimate interest and acts in good faith**
  - **Domaine name is identical or similar to local authority or institution or public service, unless registrant has a legitimate interest and acts in good faith**
- **Local authorities well recognized, same rights as trademarks :**
  - **Recent cases include city of Vacqueyras (which is also a PGI)**
- **IP rights are not restricted to trademarks :**
  - **include geographical indications**

# Our experience since 2007 indicates...

**SIMPLE**

- Setting up dispute resolution procedures that include grounds based on Geographical Indications is simple

**FAIR**

- It does not create any prejudice to other types of IP rights (same rights – no more, no less)



**International  
Trademark  
Association**