



21 December 2007

Mr Peter Zangl
Deputy Director-General
European Commission
Information Society and Media Directorate-General
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr Zangl

Thank you for your letter of 29 October 2007, to the previous Chairman of the ICANN Board, Dr Cerf, regarding the introduction of internationalized domain names (IDNs) at the top level and the likelihood that .EU will require more than one IDN variant. Dr Cerf has forwarded your correspondence to me to respond in my capacity as the recently elected Chairman of the ICANN Board.

The introduction of IDNs is an important issue for ICANN and many efforts are currently being undertaken to ensure both the technical and policy elements associated with the implementation are sound and in a manner that ensures the continued security and stability of the Internet. Since the Sao Paulo meeting in December 2006, ICANN's Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) and its Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) have been working collaboratively with others in the ICANN community to identify and commence work on resolving issues related to the selection of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes.

On 12 September 2007, the ccNSO Council requested an Issue Report be prepared to establish whether the ccNSO should launch a policy development process (PDP) to develop the policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes. This is the first step in the process of launching a ccPDP, as outlined in Article IX, Section 6 and Appendix B of the ICANN Bylaws.

Recognizing that the ccPDP will take in excess of two years to complete and that there is a strong indication for near term demand for IDN ccTLDs in some countries, territories and areas of geographical interest or their subdivision the ccNSO, in consultation with the GAC, felt it appropriate to look at options that would enable the introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs where that near term demand is demonstrated. At the Los Angeles meeting, the ICANN Board approved the formation of an Internationalized Domain Name Working Group (IDN WG). The purpose of this working group is to develop and report on feasible methods, if any, that would enable a fast track introduction of a limited number of non-contentious IDN ccTLDs while the overall policy is being developed through the ccPDP. I have been advised that the working group is in the early stages of formation and will comprise members of the ccNSO, GAC, ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

I understand that in respect to the fast track approach some of the early discussions have advocated one IDN ccTLD per territory as a possibility. In respect to the ccPDP, I can assure you that no decision has been made with regard to the number of IDN variants which may be



created in respect of the ISO 3166-1 two letter codes or any other aspect to be considered under the ccPDP. I would also note that in terms of process, the outcomes from the ccPDP will be considered and voted upon by the ICANN Board which has the authority to endorse the policy developed by the ccNSO and subsequently request implementation.

I invite the Commission to participate actively in this work and I will forward your communication to the Chair of the ccNSO as input to their considerations and to ensure that he is aware of your concerns and the work the Commission is undertaking separately on this issue.

In addition to your letter I would like to let you know that Tina Dam has advised me of the work the EU IDN Advisory Committee (EU IDN AC) is undertaking and I fully support her continued participation on the Advisory Committee. I believe the work of the EU IDN AC will provide valuable input to ICANN's consideration of similar issues, particularly as they refer to the complex issues surrounding the use of languages and scripts.

I welcome the European Commission's interest in this area and its continued participation in the GAC.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Thrush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Dengate Thrush
Chairman

cc. Vint Cerf
cc. Paul Twomey