The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

ICANN

15 June 2015

Mr. Martin Sutton – President, Brand Registry Group
Ms. Elisa Cooper – Chair, Business Constituency
Mr. Gregory S. Shatan – President, Intellectual Property Constituency

Re: Release of two-letter labels and country names for Specification 13 registries

Dear Mr. Sutton, Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Shatan:

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2015, regarding the release of two-letter labels and country names for ".BRAND" TLDs. We appreciate input from the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Brand Registry Group on these important topics, and we have posted your letter to the ICANN correspondence page (https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/sutton-cooper-shatan-to-crocker-14apr15-en.pdf).

In regards to two-letter labels, we acknowledge your proposal that all requests to release them made by Specification 13 registries be granted "unless there is a specific objection from a government which sets out a justification supported by a national or international law and [it is] accompanied by clear evidence of the confusion with the corresponding country code." We are currently working to develop a process for registry operators, including operators of Specification 13 registries, to address and resolve comments submitted by governments during the 60-day comment period for requests submitted using the Authorization Process for Release of Two-Character ASCII Labels. We intend to have a draft of the process by the ICANN 53 meeting in Buenos Aires (21 – 25 June 2015). To view more information and updates to the authorization process for the release of two-character ASCII labels, please visit the landing page on this topic on the ICANN website (https://www.icann.org/resources/two-character-labels).

In regards to the process for releasing country and territory names at the second level, as you may know, ICANN has received several requests from registry operators via the Registry Services Evaluation Process (RSEP). These requests have been subject to public comment, but to date, a determination has not been made as to whether to approve these requests, as the process for such approvals has not been finalized.

In its 11 February 2015 Singapore Communiqué, the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) advised the ICANN Board that:

> ICANN should work with the GAC to develop a public database to streamline the process for the release of country and territory names at the second level, as outlined in Specification 5. The database will inform whether individual GAC Members intend to agree to all requests,

Los Angeles Offices: 12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300   Los Angeles, CA 90094   USA   T +1 310 301 5800   F +1 310 823-8649

Beijing • Brussels • Istanbul • Montevideo • Singapore • Washington

http://icann.org

review them case by case, or not agree to any. The absence of input from a government will not be considered as agreement.[1]

We understand that you welcome the development of such a database, and we refer you to the 23 April 2015 letter from Thomas Schneider, Chair of the GAC, to Stephen Crocker, Chair of the ICANN Board, which indicates that the GAC has begun work on a proposal for such a database and on related aspects of the process for the release of country and territory names (https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/schneider-to-crocker-23apr15-en.pdf).

ICANN will consider your comments along with the advice from the GAC as it considers whether or not to approve the requested amendments. ICANN welcomes the community's input as it continues to develop the process for releasing country and territory names at the second level.

Thank you for your participation in ICANN's multistakeholder process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Global Domains Division leadership team.

Sincerely,

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division
ICANN

cc: Dr. Stephen Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board of Directors
    Mr. Cherine Chalaby, Chair, New gTLD Program Committee, ICANN Board of Directors

---

[1] See https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/gac-to-board-11feb15-en.pdf.