

From: Spanish Society of Health Informatics
Date: Sunday, 26 January 2014 16:08
Subject: Safeguards for Health Domains

To:

Dr Stephen Crocker, Chair, ICANN Board
Mr Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN
Mr Cherine Chalaby, Chair, New gTLD Program Committee
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles CA 90094-2536 USA

Dear Sirs

On behalf of Spanish Society of Health Informatics I am writing to call your attention to the critical need to ensure appropriate safeguards for the health-related Internet domain names.

The Spanish Society of Health Informatics (SEIS) is a non-for-profit scientific organization, which integrates professionals that consider Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a means to improve citizens' health. SEIS mission is promoting research, development and innovation, implementation and proper use of ICT in health, for the benefit of the Society.

The SEIS is a forum for joint participation of computer science, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, psychology and other health sciences professionals, as well as students of related fields interested in directing their future career in this arena.

The Spanish Society of Health Informatics (<http://www.seis.es/>) is a member society of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI).

Health information, data, products and services have an important and unique status on the Internet. It is imperative that operators of health domains manage them for and in the public interest. In the context of allocation of the new Internet domain names, the governmental advisory group to the ICANN has proposed a set of generic safeguards for health-related names and stressed that they "may require further targeted safeguards". The safeguards are inadequate for health and do need significant revision. Strengthening them will not only address the concerns of the community, but will also enable providers and businesses to flourish in a safe and assured environment.

You have seen the many concerns expressed by the health community on .health

alone, one of the most contested names, in the form of GAC advice, public comments, community objections, and objections submitted by ICANN's independent objector. The concerns raised so far have not been sufficiently addressed, yet the applications are proceeding.

We therefore call on the ICANN Board to delay the allocation of .health and other health-related names until adequate safeguards, and baseline conditions for their implementation, are in place. Towards that end, it is essential that ICANN relies on the health community to lead the process to produce a new set of safeguards for health, to be discussed with the ICANN Board at the London ICANN meeting in June, 2014.

Best regards,

~~~~~

Luciano Saez Ayerra. President

Spanish Society of Health Informatics

Sociedad Española de Informática de la Salud

(SEIS)

C/ Enrique Larreta, 5 Bajo izqda.  
28036 MADRID. SPAIN  
Tel: 913889478 - Fax:913889479  
seis@seis.es  
lsaez@seis.es