

From: Philip Du Bois

Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022

To: ICANN Accounting, Xavier Calvez

Cc: Peter Vergote, Bart Boswinkel, Alejandra Reynoso, Göran Marby

Subject: .BE Financial Contribution to ICANN - FY2023

Dear ICANN Accounting Team,

Dear Xavier,

For the last couple of years, DNS Belgium has chosen to award financial support for ICANN based on the ccNSO Guidelines for Voluntary Contributions of ccTLD's. As a result, DNS Belgium has been paying yearly amounts of 75.000 USD on a voluntary basis.

From FY2023 (ICANN's FY, not DNS Belgium's FY) onwards, DNS Belgium no longer intends to pay a voluntary financial contribution of the same amount. DNS Belgium plans to reduce its voluntary financial contribution to ICANN to a level of 25.000 USD.

Our reasoning is the following.

We feel that the ccNSO Guidelines for Voluntary Contributions of ccTLD's were agreed based on the following principles:

- ccTLD's pay their respective share for the IANA cost + overall ICANN costs for the organisation's general purposes as they are also carried out in the interest of the ccTLD's (e.g. ICANN meetings);
- ccTLD's do not pay for costs that are specifically targeted to the gTLD community or for costs that are not in line with ICANN's core mission & tasks.

We noticed however that during recent years there has been a shift in focus which is not in the benefit of ccTLD's.

ICANN has become a large corporate structure with a tendency to suffer from "mission creep" (cfr discussions in the ccNSO SOP WG). At the same time ICANN seems to fail in dealing in an appropriate way with important issues such as GDPR/privacy. It goes beyond our comprehension that ICANN and its officers don't feel any reluctance to "advise" European institutions and national governmental bodies to embrace "standards developed by the multi-stakeholder structures on international level" while at the same time it is obvious that ICANN itself has not yet mastered the implementation of important European legislation.

DNS Belgium judges it cannot longer justify to its local internet community to award a substantial amount of its financial resources in order to subsidize activities as described above.

DNS Belgium has recalculated its contribution in function of the technical support and service (IANA function) it receives from ICANN and its fair share to contribute in the core mission & tasks of ICANN. We have also benchmarked this amount with similar European ccTLDs that contribute for this same objective. We are convinced that the new amount of 25.000 USD is still above the recalculated contribution and should be sufficient as our voluntary financial support to ICANN.

Sincerely,
Cordialement,
Met vriendelijke groeten

Philip Du Bois

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The logo for dnsbelgium, featuring the word "dns" in a smaller, blue, lowercase font, followed by "belgium" in a larger, blue, lowercase font. The letters are bold and sans-serif.