

8 May 2020

Vinton Cerf
Former ICANN Board Chair

RE: Ethos/PIR decision

Dear Vint,

Thank you for your email dated [29 April 2020](#) regarding the proposed change of control of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital. As you may have seen, on 30 April 2020, after thorough due diligence and robust discussions, the ICANN Board [decided](#) to reject the proposed change of control and entity conversion request submitted by PIR.

ICANN values your insight, and while I recognize that you were favorable to this proposal, the Board found it both reasonable and in the public interest to withhold consent for the change of control of PIR pursuant to the terms of its Registry Agreements. Various factors created an unacceptable uncertainty over the future of the third-largest gTLD registry, and therefore the Board determined that the public interest is better served in withholding consent at this time.

The Board resolution on the proposed transaction has been [published](#) and provides for further commentary and rationale. Our community may appreciate that the Board's action is in line with ICANN's mission because ICANN has performed significant due diligence to comply with its contractual obligation to consider PIR's request, and to meet the responsibility of coordinating the unique identifiers in a responsible manner. Recognizing this unique and complex situation, ICANN appreciates your perspective and continued input.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors