

Mr. Peter Dengate Thrush
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Ray, CA 90292
USA

Copenhagen, 15 May 2011

Dear Peter Dengate Thrush,

The Danish Internet Forum (DIFO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on ICANN's "Applicant Guidebook April 2011 Discussion Draft" (hereinafter *Discussion Draft*). DIFO is responsible for the Danish top-level Internet domain, .dk. Its core business is the registration of domain names and the administration and technical operation of the national domain name registry in Denmark.

DIFO has the following comments to ICANN's Discussion Draft:

DIFO acknowledges the great amount of work, which has been carried out in creating the Applicant Guidebook in general and the latest draft, the "Discussion Draft". DIFO has the following comments:

DIFO is pleased that the role of GAC in the process has been improved so that GAC is involved in "1.1.2.4 GAC Early Warning" and "1.1.2.7 Receipt of GAC Advice on New gTLDs". We hope that this will reduce possible conflicts and objections and minimize costs for all involved parties, and DIFO finds that the involvement of governments is essential to the multi-stakeholder model.

DIFO finds it important to underline that we in general are very skeptical about the idea that 1000 (or less) new TLDs will benefit the global Internet Society. We would have been more confident if the introduction of new TLDs were limited to 50 new TLDs. Furthermore, ICANN's report "Economic Considerations in the Expansion of Generic Top-Level Domain Names Phase II Report: Case Studies" did not show evidence of any incontestable benefits. The latest release of new TLDs, for example .museum, .travel, .mobi did not generate the expected amount of new domain names. ICANN has not presented a report that is able to support the expectations of the indisputable benefits of new TLDs, but on the contrary the Applicant Guidebook shows an immense amount of expenses to the applicants and potential objectors.

Besides these general remarks DIFO would like to comment on three specific issues:

Fee for filing objections

The description of the process and the fee for filing an objection is not very accurate in the Discussion draft, so it becomes uncertain what the costs of objections are. But in the explanatory memo "Discussion Draft: Exemptions to Objection Fees for Governments" a table on page 7 shows that the estimated total cost are 58,000 USD to "Community" objection and 124,000 USD to objections because of "Limited public interest". These sums are prohibitive to most organizations or communities in order to file any objections. DIFO finds it very important to have a well described and low-cost possibility to file an objection - especially as a Community.

Jurisdiction

DIFO is still concerned about jurisdiction of geographical TLDs. The Danish ccTLD .dk is operated under Danish jurisdiction, and DIFO finds it obvious that a TLD relating to a geographical name e.g. ".copenhagen" or ".jylland" (being the continental part of Denmark) should be governed by Danish law and not by other jurisdictions.

DIFO is pleased to see that ICANN has added the following text in the Discussion Draft 2.2.1.4.3, and DIFO finds the text is a compulsory part of the procedures in order to keep the trust in ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model:

"It is also possible that a government may withdraw its support for an application at a later time, including after the new gTLD has been delegated, if registry operator has deviated from the conditions of original support or nonobjection. Applicants should be aware that ICANN has committed to governments that, in the event of a dispute between a government (or public authority) and a registry operator that submitted documentation of support from that government or public authority, ICANN will comply with a legally binding order from a court in the jurisdiction of the government or public authority that has given support to an application."

Country and territory names

As for the introduction of country and territory names as new TLDs, DIFO is very pleased that these are not yet a part of the new TLD program. DIFO expects that any introduction awaits the completion of a final report from the ccNSO Study Group on Country and Territory Names.

On behalf of the Board of Danish Internet Forum

Yours sincerely,



Lise Fuhr

CEO

Danish Internet Forum