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To: The Managers of ICANN

Regarding: The New gTLD Safeguard Advice from GAC

Dear Sirs,

The Bulgarian Association of Music Producers (BAMP) along with many other organizations from the creative sector, including the Coalition for Online Accountability (COA), submits this letter in support of the New gTLD Safeguard Advice from ICANN's Governmental Accountability Committee (GAC). We wish to express our opinion that ICANN should accept the key elements of the Advice in the interest of the whole creative community.

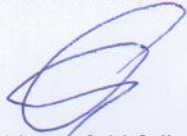
BAMP is a non-profit organization whose members are outstanding Bulgarian producers of sound recordings and music videos. We are still the only organization, representing and protecting the neighboring rights of music producers on the territory of Bulgaria. The main priority of the association is to co-operate to the competent authorities in the process of organizing and coordinating the fight against both physical and Internet music piracy. BAMP is well known for its activities to the state administration and judicial authorities in Bulgaria, entitled to enforce the IPR related legislation, to the right-holders and collective management organizations, as well as to the international organizations and the public. Since 1999 the Association is a National Group member of the International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) – the well known organization representing the recording industry worldwide with over 1300 members in 66 countries.

We wish to urge ICANN to welcome the comprehensive Advice from the GAC on New gTLDs and include its key elements into the new gTLD program. It is our belief that this will be an important step towards achieving the program's goals - to expand competition and enhance consumer choice. We also believe that the strong co-operation between ICANN and the GAC as well as with the creative sectors will help the new gTLD process adopt the spirit of the Advice from the GAC and implement its most important elements in the program on New gTLDs.

BAMP praises the GAC's list of Safeguards Applicable to all New gTLDs as we consider that these safeguards are key factors to reduce the risks of abusive registrations in all gTLDs. Visibility on registrants, binding them to avoid abusive uses of domain names they register and providing complaint channels in cases of abuses are issues of great importance for the right holders we represent. Furthermore, similar features already exist in the revised Registrar Accreditation Agreement such as requirements to verify Whois data and to enforce terms of use against illegal activity by registrants that infringe the rights of others.

We consider that even if not required for all new gTLDs, the six basic safeguards included in the GAC's Advice should be mandated with regard to the "sensitive strings" as mentioned in the GAC Advice. In our view this is important due to the fact that safeguards are crucial for gTLDs at higher risk of abuse which harms consumers or the rights of others. This notably includes applications concerning sectors that require effective copyright protection, which experience high levels of online infringement and need decisive steps to avoid those risks.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize once again the importance of introduction of the safeguards as recommended in the Advice of the GAC and urge ICANN to accept its key elements and integrate them into the remaining stages of the new gTLD process in order to ensure not only the expanded competition and enhanced consumer choice but also to eliminate the risks of abuse that harm the consumers or the rights of others.



Yours faithfully,

Ina Kileva,
Managing Director of the Bulgarian Association of Music Producers

