



To the courteous attention of Dr Steve Crocker, Chair of the ICANN Board
Mr Cherine Chalaby, Chair of the new gTLD Program Committee Board
Mr Fadi Chehadé, CEO of ICANN
Mr Akram Atallah, COO of ICANN
In copy: Ms Heather Dryden, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee

Epernay, 26 April 2013

Object: CIVC's reaction to the GAC's communiqué on 11 April 2013 in Beijing

Dear Madam, dear Sirs,

The Comité interprofessionnel du vin de Champagne (CIVC), a trade association that represents all the grape growers and houses of Champagne, is in charge of protecting the designation of origin Champagne, a mission of public interest. As such, it would like to contribute to the open debate launched by the ICANN Board regarding the Governmental Advisory Committee's (GAC) Communiqué of 11 April 2013.

The CIVC **strongly supports the position expressed by the GAC's Communiqué in Beijing concerning the strings ".wine" and ".vin"**. It considers that the management of potential new Internet domains ".wine" and ".vin" is a very sensitive issue which must be further examined by the GAC.

CIVC is not opposed to the attribution of new gTLDs as such. Nevertheless, considering the prejudice that these two new domains may cause to the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Champagne, it would like to stress the necessity for ICANN Board to take into consideration the request of the GAC and not proceed beyond Initial Evaluation with the examination of the applications it has received.

In addition, CIVC wishes the domains ".wine" and ".vin" **to be included in Annex I "Safeguards on New gTLDs"**, until an adequate respect of GI wines IPRs - as established by article 23 of the TRIPs Agreement - and to guarantee consumer protection are being provided. In that respect, CIVC requests the implementation of a procedure that ensures that GI names cannot be reserved by third parties and a procedure, e.g. an alternative dispute resolution (ADR), that enables organisations in charge of protecting GIs to oppose the reservation of a domain name that consists of or contains the name of a GI.

We thank you in advance for taking into consideration our contribution and would welcome an open discussion on this specific issue.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Luc Barbier
General Director - CIVC