



Brussels, June 4, 2013

### **Submission from the International Video Federation on ICANN GAC Advice**

The members of the International Video Federation (IVF) are companies active in all segments of the film and audiovisual content sector in European and global markets. Their activities include the production of films and audiovisual content as well as publication thereof on digital media and in online channels.

The IVF joins a wide range of organizations representing the creative sectors worldwide, including the Coalition for Online Accountability, in urging ICANN to agree to key elements of the New gTLD Safeguard Advice from ICANN's Governmental Accountability Committee (GAC).

#### **ICANN Should Welcome Detailed Advice from the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) on New gTLDs**

- Incorporating major elements of the GAC Advice into the new gTLD program will increase the likelihood that the program will achieve the stated goals of expanding competition and enhancing consumer choice.
- ICANN should work with the GAC to clarify any ambiguities in the Advice, and with applicants and the community to integrate key elements of the advice into the remaining stages of the new gTLD process.

#### **We Commend GAC's List of "Safeguards Applicable to all New gTLDs" (pp. 7-8)**

- These safeguards could significantly reduce the risk of abusive registrations in all gTLDs. Knowing who registrants are; binding them to avoid abusive uses of the domain names they register; providing complaint channels to flag abuses, and imposing consequences when violations occur: these are common sense procedures that any responsible registry operator should be in a position to support and implement.

- These safeguards are neither unprecedented nor unanticipated. Similar features already appear in the revised Registrar Accreditation Agreement (e.g., some requirements to verify Whois data and to enforce terms of use against illegal activity by registrants that infringe the rights of others). Many new gTLD applicants have already anticipated some of these safeguards in their applications (e.g., providing complaint channels for third parties and reserving the right to suspend or delete registrations used for abusive purposes). The IVF has endorsed similar safeguards earlier on in the process, and urged ICANN, GAC, and all relevant new gTLD applicants to apply them.
- Safeguards are especially vital for TLDs at higher risk of abuse that harms consumers or the rights of others. This includes applications targeted at sectors dependent on respect for copyright, which have consistently experienced high levels of online infringement; meaningful steps to anticipate and manage these risks should be mandatory. Thus, even if not required for all new gTLDs, the GAC's six basic safeguards should be mandated for those listed as "sensitive strings" within the GAC Advice. Among the additional safeguards for these listed TLDs (pp. 8-9), #4 is especially important for giving the industries concerned a seat at the table.

We urge you to listen to the global creative sectors and businesses. We strongly believe that our perspectives will help to ensure that decisions will be made, not in the interests of speculators or unproductive "defensive" domain name registrations, but in the interests of users of the domain name system worldwide as a whole.

INTERNATIONAL VIDEO FEDERATION