

## ETSI's comments to the ICANN Board Technical Relations Working Group (BTRWG) Final Report

ETSI welcomes the possibility of commenting on the BTRWG final report. The comments hereafter are made in reaction to the proposed recommendations resulting from the final report:

**Recommendation:** *ICANN should consult with the TLG's constituent bodies individually about what relationship and involvement in governance mechanisms is appropriate for the respective organization. This consultation should be undertaken by the ICANN Board or senior staff.*

ETSI welcomes this recommendation and is available to discuss with ICANN officials the best route to ensure a continuous collaboration mode between ETSI and ICANN. Mr. Francisco da Silva (Board member) and Mr. Bernardo Correia (Secretariat External Relations Officer) are the appointed ETSI representatives to the ICANN TLG for 2012.

**Recommendation:** *ICANN should not disband the TLG before it has substantially concluded these consultations. We believe that a time frame of six months should be sufficient to substantially conclude these consultations.*

ETSI agrees that it is too premature to disband the TLG without having consulted directly all stakeholders relevant to the discussion.

**Recommendation:** *ICANN should work to strengthen and better institutionalize the mechanisms for obtaining technical advice and input, including at the Board level. It is the recommendation of this Working Group that, given the ICANN Board's current mode of operation, the organization continues to need technical advice and expertise within the Board's deliberations, such as the expertise and advice that has been provided by liaisons appointed by the TLG. A decision to disband the TLG should be made only in conjunction with simultaneously addressing this issue.*

ETSI agrees that the valuable role of TLG is to connect the ICANN Board with appropriate sources of technical advice on specific matters pertinent to ICANN's activities. This role should be maintained whatever new structure or route is put in place. Effectively, the ICANN board seat allows ETSI to insert technical understanding to the board deliberations from the Telecom ecosystem perspective. Technical Liaisons have an important role to provide for that ICANN has the right balance in technical knowledge. Finally, ICANN Board Liaisons are key ambassadors for the understanding of ICANN in their own organizations.

**Recommendation:** *The Nominating Committee is designed for broad participation. The TLG provides for participants in the Nominating Committee who are connected to the broader technical community. ICANN should maintain this connection, and should continue the TLG's role of fulfilling it.*

ETSI fully agrees with this recommendation as it believes that the NOMCOM's invaluable main characteristic is of bringing together different stakeholders who contribute understanding of the

broad interests of the Internet community as a whole, and knowledge and experience of specific Internet constituencies who have appointed them. The “future TLG” should ensure that this link is maintained.

**About ETSI:**

ETSI produces globally-applicable standards for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), including fixed, mobile, radio, converged, aeronautical, broadcast and internet technologies and is officially recognized by the European Union as a European Standards Organization. ETSI is an independent, not-for-profit association whose more than 700 member companies and organizations, drawn from 62 countries across 5 continents worldwide, determine its work programme and participate directly in its work.

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