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DATUM Berlin, *19.* Dezember 2014

Dear Mr Akallah,

Merck KGaA has forwarded your letter from December 11 to the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, with regard to the great importance of the delegation of the generic top level domain „merck“. According to your letter and your reasoning, the matter has gained additional urgency.

First of all, I would like to thank you for the consideration you have given to the standing of both companies and their rights to the name „Merck“ in their respective jurisdictions. However, I would like to recall the commitment to cooperation pertinent to, among others, the Independent Review of Board Actions. This review process cannot serve its purpose if it can be terminated by ICANN at will.

Having regard of this, I strongly support Merck KGaA's request for postponing the mentioned decision according to Paragraph 3 of Module 6 of the Guidebook, until the Independent Review Process has been completed.

Yours sincerely,