

From: Xavier Calvez

Date: Tuesday, 9 August 2022

To: Philip Du Bois, ICANN Accounting

Cc: Peter Vergote, DNS Belgium Finance, Bart Boswinkel, Alejandra Reynoso, Goran Marby, Chris Mondini, Elena Plexida

Subject: .BE Financial Contribution to ICANN - FY2023

Cher Philip,

Thank you for DNS Belgium's past financial contributions and for confirming the intended level of contribution of DNS Belgium going forward.

As the financial contribution is entirely voluntary, any ccTLD has full latitude, as you know, to contribute financially or not to ICANN and to independently define the level of such contribution. Many different factors lead any ccTLD to determine their contribution, and to change the level of their contribution, at their own discretion. We do appreciate any amount of contribution, and also that the ability for any ccTLD to contribute varies over time, including based on economic circumstances. We do understand that the reduction of DNS Belgium's contribution from US\$75,000 to US\$25,000 represents a significant and meaningful reduction of costs for DNS Belgium.

Separately and independently from any discussion of what your or other ccTLD's rationale is to define a financial contribution to ICANN, we wish to share the following views:

Regarding GDPR, ICANN Org supports the community's work to develop a global approach to comply with a proliferation of data protection laws around the world. Developing global, multi stakeholder consensus is hard, and often slow, particularly with the uncertainties that pertain to the application of such laws - including direct conflict of laws between national jurisdictions. In addition, ICANN org consistently advocates for the multi stakeholder model that enables a resilient and expanding global Internet. We believe this requires that we continually re-affirm the commitment of policy makers to "the multi-stakeholder structures on an international level" and helps mitigate the risk that governments develop legislative proposals that have negative effects on the governance of the internet, including on ccTLDs, their registrants, and their communities. For an explanation of how we interact with governmental bodies, I refer you to ICANN Org's published [charter](#) on this topic.

My colleagues Chris Mondini, VP Global Stakeholder Engagement for Europe and Managing Director of the ICANN Brussels Office and Elena Plexida, VP for Government Engagement are both based in Brussels and would be glad to speak further with you on these matters, as we value your opinion.

Regarding ICANN's scope of activities, ICANN's mission has been redefined, with an effect of narrowing it down, as a result of the IANA Stewardship transition effective in 2016. This is reflected in the Strategic and Operating plans of ICANN produced since then, which reflect such

consistent confinement of ICANN's activities to its redefined mission, as has been acknowledged and commented on by the ccNSO SOPC over the past years.

As a separate note, in the interest of transparency, ICANN publishes the correspondence that it receives as well as the responses it provides. While your email below did not suggest to make it a public correspondence, we would suggest that we publish it and this response on ICANN.org (Correspondence page), if you would agree. You can simply let me know by responding to this email.

We value and look forward to the participation of all and any ccTLD to ICANN's governance of the unique identifiers and appreciate the increasing involvement of many ccTLDs in technical and policy making work and discussions over the past years. We also greatly value your many years of active participation at ICANN and look forward to further discussions on these and other topics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Xavier

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