



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

1 March 2012

Andrea Enria  
Chairperson for the Board of Supervisors  
European Banking Authority  
Tower 42  
25 Old Broad Street  
London EC2N 1 HQ  
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Enria:

Thank you for your communication of 20 February 2012.

While the New gTLD Program does not specifically bar the top-level domain names you have mentioned in your letter, the Program does provide multiple avenues for objection. Parties with standing can have their objections considered by a panel of qualified experts. There are four types of formal objections to a new gTLD application which trigger a dispute resolution proceeding:

- 1- String Confusion Objection
- 2- Legal Rights Objection
- 3- Limited Public Interest Objection
- 4- Community Objection

Each gTLD applicant accepts the applicability of this gTLD dispute resolution process and similarly, an objector accepts the applicability of this gTLD dispute resolution process when filing an objection. Additional information about these objection processes is available in the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook which can be found at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>.

Two additional processes are available through ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC):

- 1- GAC Early Warning
- 2- GAC Advice

The GAC Early Warning process allows governments (through the GAC) to provide a notice directly to an applicant that an applied-for string might be sensitive or controversial, and provides for a larger fee refund if the applicant quickly withdraws the application as a result of the GAC Early Warning. The GAC Advice process allows the GAC to provide advice directly to the

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ICANN Board that a certain application should not be approved. These processes are described in Modules 1 and 3 of the Applicant Guidebook (see <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>).

It is not known at this time which applications will be submitted to ICANN during the application submission period (closing on 12 April 2012). Following the close of the application submission period, application data will be publicly posted on ICANN's website. Therefore we strongly encourage the European Banking Authority (EBA) to actively monitor the ICANN website and consider what actions to take, as appropriate. Further, ICANN encourages the EBA to work closely with any known potential applicants for .BANK or .FIN to address any issues/concerns with regards to the use of these particular strings.

Please take time to review the procedures highlighted above. If there are additional questions, please contact the gTLD Customer Service Center at [newgtld@icann.org](mailto:newgtld@icann.org).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Akram Atallah", written in a cursive style.

Akram Atallah  
COO

Cc: Barbara Clay

Cc: Kurt Pritz

Cc: Michael Salazar