



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

18 June 2014

Mr. Michael Menis
SVP, Digital & Voice Web Channels
InterContinental Hotels Group
Three Ravinia Drive - Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30346-2149

Re: Community Objections filed by Hotel Consumer Protection Coalition

Dear Mr. Michael Menis:

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2014, regarding the Community Objections filed by the Hotel Consumer Protection Coalition. We have posted the letter to the New gTLD correspondence page (<http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/menis-to-chehade-crocker-24mar14-en.pdf>).

We take note of your comments and expressed concerns regarding the new gTLD objections and dispute resolution procedures. However, the objection and dispute resolution procedures were developed over several years of community input as part of the development of the Applicant Guidebook. The objection proceedings have been administered in accordance with the procedures that were developed through the multi-stakeholder process and agreed to by the wider community.

In regards to your concern about the proposed registration policies of the applications to which the Hotel Consumer Protection Coalition filed objections, please note that all registry operators are required to sign Specification 11 of the Registry Agreement, which in its current standard form prohibits operators of TLDs representing “generic strings” (as defined in Specification 11, Section 3(d) of the Registry Agreement) from imposing eligibility criteria for registering names in the TLD that limit registrations exclusively to a single person or entity and/or that person’s or entity’s affiliates. Currently, there is no provision under the New gTLD Program that provides an exemption to Specification 11. Any allegations that a registry operator is violating its obligations under Specification 11 could be addressed through ICANN’s Public Interest Commitments Dispute Resolution Procedure (PICDRP) or by ICANN’s Contractual Compliance team. For more information on this topic, please review the Applicant Advisory on the implementation of GAC Category 2 Advice (<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/advisories/gac-cat2-advice-19mar14-en>) and the



Complaint Submission page of the ICANN website
(<http://www.icann.org/en/resources/compliance/complaints>).

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the New gTLD Customer Service Center at newgtld@icann.org.

Sincerely,

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

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division
ICANN