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Expansion of Generic Top Level Domains

Dear Mr Beckstrom,

I refer to the recent open letter which was sent to ICANN on behalf of 34 Intergovernmental Organisations (IGO) in which concern was raised about ICANN's expansion plans and in particular to the increased potential for the misleading registration and use of IGO names and acronyms.

We would like to comment as follows:

The names and abbreviations of the European Patent Organisation (EPO) are protected pursuant to Article 6ter (1) (a) and (b) and 3(b) of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property ("Paris Convention").

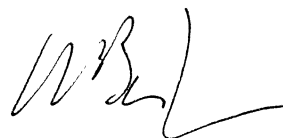
The EPO is concerned that the registration and use of these acronyms, as well as brand names and domain names consisting of this acronym, conflict with the principles contained in Article 6ter of the Paris Convention. The EPO as the European Patent granting authority has sovereign powers impacting directly on rights of citizens all over the world (e.g. patent granting, registering, payment of fees, ...) and therefore, has an imperative interest in ensuring that the abbreviation of its official name does not lose its power of identification.

Considering the above I trust you can appreciate the importance the European Patent Office (EPO) lays on the protection of its name.

I fully support the initiative by the OECD and can only reiterate their request: that ICANN makes provision for a targeted exclusion of third party registrations of the names and acronyms of IGOs both at the top and second level.

I trust we can count on your co-operation in this matter and would very much welcome your views on the subject.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benoît Battistelli