

8 May 2020

Dr. Rudolf Gridl  
Head of Division, Internet Governance and International Digital Dialogues  
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Wolfram von Heynitz  
Head of Division, Cyber Foreign Policy and Cyber Security Coordination Staff  
Federal Foreign Office

**RE: Proposed Ethos Capital Takeover of .ORG Registry**

Dear Dr. Gridl and Mr. von Heynitz

Thank you for your warm words regarding our support to IGF2019. We have been impressed by the German hospitality and support for this event. We appreciate your outreach to ICANN in your letter dated [24 April 2020](#) regarding the proposed change of control of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital. We acknowledge the perspectives you shared and have considered your letter as well as additional letters provided from the global community. On 30 April 2020, after thorough due diligence and robust discussions, the ICANN Board [decided](#) to reject the proposed change of control and entity conversion request submitted by PIR.

While further detail about the decision can be found in the corresponding [ICANN Board resolution](#), including criteria used and processes followed, the ICANN Board found it both reasonable and in the public interest to withhold consent for the change of control of PIR pursuant to the terms of its Registry Agreements.

ICANN has performed significant due diligence to comply with its contractual obligation to consider PIR's request and to meet the responsibility of coordinating the unique identifiers in a responsible manner. In addition, hundreds of pages of documentation and responses provided by PIR, ISOC, and Ethos Capital were reviewed to arrive at this decision. As you can appreciate, ICANN was presented with a unique and complex situation where the collective Board devoted countless hours to prepare for this decision.

ICANN has attempted to provide maximum transparency throughout this process and we thank you, the global community, and stakeholders for the engagement in this topic.

Sincerely,



Maarten Boterman  
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors