

7 January 2020

Zak Muscovitch, General Counsel
Internet Commerce Association

RE: Withhold Approval for Ethos Transaction and Terminate .Org Registry in Respect of any Consummated Sale Agreement

Dear Zak,

Thank you for your letter dated [15 November 2019](#). Transparency is a cornerstone of ICANN and how ICANN acts to protect the public interest while performing its role. As such, ICANN recently published a [blog](#) related to the proposed acquisition of Public Interest Registry (PIR) to clarify its process for reviewing such request, pursuant to the .ORG Registry Agreement. Additionally, ICANN org's General Counsel John Jeffrey sent a [letter](#) to both PIR and the Internet Society (ISOC) urging both organizations to provide more transparency regarding the proposed transaction.

ICANN takes its responsibility in evaluating this proposed transaction very seriously. ICANN org and the Board are working together to evaluate the proposed acquisition to ensure that the registry remains secure, reliable, and stable.

The information received will be thoroughly evaluated to ensure we have a full understanding of the proposed transaction. In accordance with the Registry Agreement, ICANN will apply a standard of reasonableness in making its determination on whether to provide or withhold its consent to the request.

Thank you for your continued input on this topic.

Sincerely,



Maarten Botterman
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors