



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

February 6, 2013

Norbert van den Hove
Management Team
Telecommunications Market Department
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Roelof Meijer
Director
Stichting Internet Domeinregistratie Nederland (SIDN)

Re: Last record re-delegation scenario for the .NL top-level domain

Dear Mr. van den Hove and Mr. Meijer,

Thank you for your letter dated 5th December 2012 regarding the agreement you have reached between SIDN and the Netherlands' Minister of Economic Affairs concerning “last resort” emergency management of the .NL top-level domain.

We commend you on the pro-active steps you have taken in your country to develop a responsive framework that meets the needs of your local Internet community. This work will contribute to our shared goal of ensuring the ongoing secure and stable operation of your country-code top-level domain. We agree that ensuring domain name registries continue to function properly during adverse events is fundamental to Internet stability and our respective missions. Business continuity planning has been a particular focus of ICANN’s recent work, and in the context of our ongoing new generic top-level domain program, we have identified similar risks that have resulted in a process for appointment of “emergency back-end registry operators” for generic top-level domains as a last-resort measure.

I encourage you to work with ICANN’s Root Zone Management team to identify the most appropriate ways to accommodate your proposed transition arrangements under the current root zone management framework. There are existing provisions in the root zone process, such as 24×7 emergency response for urgent changes, plus the flexibility to prioritize urgent changes based on need, that will assist in the timely implementation of any such changes. Special operating instructions, mutually agreed by SIDN and the Ministry, can also be kept on file to inform IANA processing staff on the precise steps for authorizing changes that are a product of your transition process.



With the current framework in mind, there is currently no formal policy guidance from the Country-Code Name Supporting Organization, or in the other policy documents upon which we rely that identifies specific processes relating to the appointment of temporary caretakers for a domain. We believe there is benefit in developing explicit policy guidance for ICANN concerning how locally agreed upon temporary transitional arrangements like yours are recorded and recognized operationally.

We would appreciate your thoughts, and also encourage you to engage with the broader ccTLD community on how ICANN can best facilitate these kinds of agreements in its operational practices. A common framework on how transitional frameworks should be registered with ICANN, and the process steps that should be followed when a transition is invoked, will help provide predictability and scalability to the process.

Thank you for reporting this positive development to us, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on best-practice solutions to ensuring domain name system stability.

Best Regards,

A black rectangular box containing a white, handwritten signature that reads "Stephen D. Crocker".

Stephen D. Crocker
Chairman
ICANN Board of Directors