



## The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

19 February 2013

Abolghasem Tahmasebi  
Deputy Secretary General  
Economic Cooperation Organization  
No. 1, Golbou Alley  
Kamranieh St.  
Tehran  
Iran

Dear Abolghasem Tahmasebi:

On behalf of Steve Crocker, Fadi Chehadé, and Heather Dryden, thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2013, regarding the applications for .ECO. We appreciate that you took the time to write to us, and we have posted your letter to the New gTLD correspondence page at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/correspondence/tahmasebi-to-crocker-chehade-et-al-13feb13-en.pdf>.

The New gTLD Program is intended to open up the top level of the Internet's namespace to foster diversity, encourage competition, and enhance the utility of the Domain Name System. While all applications to the New gTLD Program are reviewed by third-party evaluators, the program provides avenues to raise formal objections and other safeguards. Parties with standing have the option to have their objections considered before a panel of qualified experts. Section 3.2.2 of the Applicant Guidebook describes four types of objections: (1) String Confusion Objection, (2) Legal Rights Objection, (3) Limited Public Interest Objection, and (4) Community Objection. A formal objection will be handled by a dispute resolution process. For more information about the objection and dispute resolution process, see <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/odr> and Module 3 of the Applicant Guidebook. The deadline to file an objection is 13 March 2013.

The New gTLD Program also provides a forum for members of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to provide advice and voice concerns regarding names that might be objectionable or sensitive. The GAC's key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements. The New gTLD Program includes two processes, the GAC "Early Warning" and "Advice" processes. These processes are intended to address concerns and protect interests such as the ones raised in your letter. The Early Warning process allows members of the GAC to provide a notice to an applicant that an applied-for TLD might be sensitive or controversial. The Advice process allows the GAC to provide advice to the ICANN Board of Directors that a certain application should be rejected. These processes are described in Modules 1 and 3 of the Applicant Guidebook. GAC Early Warnings were issued on 20 November 2012, and can be viewed at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/GAC+Early+Warnings>. GAC Advice has not yet been issued. If you feel that GAC Advice should be issued for the applications for .ECO, please contact a GAC representative. Contact information can be found at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/GAC+Representatives>.

For more information about the GAC Early Warning and Advice processes, visit <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/gac-early-warning>. To view the Applicant Guidebook, visit

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<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>>. Thank you for your communication and your interest in the New gTLD Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine A. Willett".

Christine A. Willett  
Vice President, gTLD Operations