



24 April 2008

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
Deputy Secretary General
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Via email: private.office@coe.int

Dear Deputy Secretary General Boer-Buquicchio,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2008 in follow-up to our meeting at the IGF in Rio de Janeiro.

While we appreciate the strong recognition your letter conveys of ICANN, there may have been some misunderstandings about ICANN and its role and responsibilities. ICANN as an organization has a very limited mandate that is the global coordination of the Internet's unique identifier system. To best serve this role, its structure is designed to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental and international organizations (through the Governmental Advisory Committee).

In light of our discussion, and of the ICANN structure, I would appreciate some clarification of what is meant by the proposal in your letter about it being interesting for ICANN to consider "establishing an advisory group to engage in dialogue with, and to seek the advice of, experts and officials from relevant international organizations (such as the Council of Europe) on matters pertaining to international law and human rights, with regard to its action and decisions." The role of engagement of expert advice, including that of international organizations, is reflected in the current structure and ICANN's principles on transparency and accountability seek to address all areas of the organization.

As also reflected in our conversation, may I suggest that the Council of Europe may be interested to participate in the Governmental Advisory Committee, and through this mechanism, contribute its expertise on matters ICANN is addressing. It may be useful for your and my staff to have the opportunity to meet to discuss further.

I look forward to meeting you again soon.

Best regards,

Paul Twomey
CEO & President
ICANN

cc:
Ambassador Janis Karklins, Chair, GAC
Theresa Swinehart
Donna Austin