



Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
Brussels Office

Vice President Policy Development Support

Paul Kane
Chairman of CENTR
Avenue Louise 327
B-1050 Brussels

Brussels, 18 April 2005

Dear Paul,

During the ICANN meeting 4-8 April in Mar del Plata, Argentina, you brought a number of serious issues to the attention of Vinton Cerf, Chairman of the Board of ICANN, as well as to many ccTLD managers, representatives of governments including the United States, representatives of the international press, and to myself.

The issues you raised were, if I recall your words correctly:

1. European ccTLD managers are abandoning ICANN and joining the ITU. Proof of this was, in your eyes, that a number of ccTLDs, including both .PL and .CH, had applied for membership in ITU-T and had declared their intentions to stop interacting with ICANN. Others would be considering similar actions;
2. IANA services remain to be of an unacceptable low quality and a whole range of problems persist;
3. The ccNSO is not functioning properly. An indication would be the large attendance at the wwTLD meeting on the Saturday preceding the ICANN meeting in Mar del Plata.

You then asked me for an urgent meeting of CENTR representatives with the Senior Management of ICANN to discuss these issues. I offered such a meeting in that same week subject to further details from your side so as to enable me to identify whom should attend from the side of ICANN staff. From the absence of any follow-up I assume that you were unfortunately not in a position to provide such details within the following days.

Given the seriousness of the issues that you brought to our attention and their potential impact, we have immediately investigated the matter. As a result, we must conclude that your statements are a misrepresentation of the realities at hand.

1. Neither the staff of the mentioned ccTLD registries nor representatives of any other European ccTLD have confirmed that they were abandoning ICANN. On the contrary, many, including the representatives of .CH, re-confirmed their interest to commence a bi-lateral dialogue with ICANN on an Accountability Framework. In addition, the main driver for joining ITU-T is, according to the information provided to us, the ongoing work on ENUM for which ITU-T has lead responsibility.

2. Since the last ICANN meeting in Cape Town, no European ccTLD manager has alerted IANA staff of any particular problems. Many ccTLD managers acknowledge performance increases in IANA services. This coincides with the ICANN statistics presented publicly in Mar del Plata, indicating that the IANA performance continues to improve. See <http://www.iana.org/reporting-and-stats/root-management-performance.html> for details.
3. Representatives of both members and non-members of the ccNSO have acknowledged that at the ccNSO meetings considerable progress is made on many issues of importance to the ccTLD community, in particular on Accountability Framework, on ccTLD contributions to the ICANN budget, and on the functioning of IANA-respectively. The wwTLD meetings were found to be a useful complement.

I do re-iterate ICANN's interest in receiving, from individual ccTLD managers, concrete details of any perceived problems so that ICANN can address them properly.

With regard to the functioning of IANA in particular I would suggest that the CENTR community, through the European members of the ccNSO Working Group on IANA, namely Ms. Lesley Cowley (UK) and Mr. Olivier Guillard (FR), brings any generic issues arising from perceived problems to the attention of this Working Group, which in turn should inform and discuss the problems with the IANA staff of ICANN.

I also know that the Chairman of the ccNSO, Mr. Chris Disspain, would be very interested to understand better the CENTR view that the ccNSO would not be working properly, so I suggest you seek a discussion with him on the matter.

On a related practical matter, I would like to mention your request 3 weeks ago for a meeting with Vinton Cerf, Chairman of the ICANN Board, during the Mar del Plata meeting. It is with regret that I understand you missed our email with the time and venue for the meeting and thus could not attend. I certainly offer my excuses if there was any mistake on the side of ICANN staff in this context.

Finally, I wish to stress that ICANN staff remains available for discussions with the European ccTLD managers, either individually to discuss issues of bilateral interest, or collective – if this is so desired - on any issue of importance to them.

With best regards

(signed)

Paul Verhoef

cc.: Vinton Cerf, Chairman of the ICANN Board
Paul Twomey, President and CEO
Doug Barton, General Manager IANA
Chris Disspain, Chairman of the ccNSO
Giovanni Seppia, General Manager CENTR
CENTR GA mailing list
