

*Christopher Wilkinson*

*CCT-RT application, 26 October 2015*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Belgium

26 October 2015

Mr Steve Crocker  
Chairman of the Board, ICANN

Mr Thomas Schneider  
Chairman, Governmental  
Advisory Committee, ICANN

Dear Steve Crocker, Dear Thomas Schneider:

**Re: Letter of Motivation:**

Further to the recent announcement seeking volunteers to join the Competition and Consumer Trust Review Team (CCT-RT) please accept the present communication and the attached Resumé and Statement of Interests as my application.

I shall structure my motivation in line with the principal criteria outlined in the call for volunteers, in the attached check-list.

Thankyou for your attention

Yours sincerely

-/- signed -/-

Christopher Wilkinson

Attachments:      1. Replies to the criteria  
                         2. Curriculum Vitae  
                         3. Statement of Interests.

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## **Replies to the Criteria**

### *Knowledge and Experience*

- *Knowledge of ICANN and its working practices and culture, including the New gTLD Program;*

I have been closely associated at a senior level with the initiation, creation and development of ICANN since 1997. I have followed closely the first round of additional gTLDs. I was instrumental in the conception and adoption of the .EU ccTLD.

I have become thoroughly aware of the new gTLD program both through general reading of ICANN documents, including external commentaries, and more recently through participation in the IAG-CCT which was set up to prepare the data sets and metrics that ICANN would collect, including economic studies and analysis for the purposes of this Review.

- *Familiarity with the multistakeholder model and procedures;*

I initiated and convened the first Internet multistakeholder forum; the European Community Panel of Participants (EC-POP) which was instrumental in organising the original European participation in ICANN, its Supporting Organisations and its initial Board of Directors.

- *Expertise in consumer protection matters;*

As a trained and practicing economist, I have been – and still am – very well aware of the consumer protection aspects of products and services on local and global markets.

I do not have direct experience working with a consumer protection organisation, as such.

- *Understanding of the New gTLD rights application processes and protection mechanisms;*

Yes. I read the Application Guidelines (several versions) and participated in policy discussion of the new gTLD program as far back as ICANN 34, Mexico City, 2009.

- *Expertise in or knowledge of mitigating DNS and potential security threats;*

Yes, some knowledge.

- *Experience in evaluating competition and market forces in the gTLD space or in other industries;*

Yes. A significant part of training in economics relates to competition policy. In the course of a long career, I have become familiar with competition policy issues related to domestic and international trade in the steel industry, the electronics industries, telecommunications manufacturers and service providers and the Internet. In the gTLD space, I was familiar with the initial arguments for a cap on the dominant operator and on the principles of Registry-Registrar separation. Government regulation and subsidies are also relevant in this context.

- *Expertise in quantitative analysis and information systems;*

I have sufficient experience in quantitative analysis both in the sciences and in economics, to be able

to handle any matters arising in the CCT-RT, particularly as I participated thoroughly throughout the work of the IAG-CCT, which developed and refined the data metrics which ICANN is collecting for the purpose of this Review, including designing the economic studies.

- *Expertise in or knowledge of intellectual property rights protection;*

Although I am not a qualified lawyer, I have been exposed to and learnt about most aspects of IPR which may be relevant to the Review. I participated in the initial development and adoption of the UDRP.

- *Knowledge of competition, consumer choice and consumer trust in the domain name or other marketplaces;*

Here I would just refer to the work of the IAG-CCT which identified most aspects of consumer choice and consumer trust in the new gTLD markets. I have already spent several months working on the economic aspects of the CCT-RT's future work.

- *Capacity to draw fact-based conclusions and feasible and useful recommendations.*

Bearing in mind that the outcome of the CCT-RT should be a collective, team-effort, I would expect to be able to contribute effectively to that effect in the light of my extensive training and experience in economics and policy development.

- *Geographic diversity;*

Although I may not appear at first sight to contribute to geographic diversity, I am fluent in three languages and my professional and personal experiences span most regions of the world, including Africa.

- *Broad representation of communities impacted by new gTLDs;*

Although this application to volunteer relates in the first instance to At Large, at different times in the past, I have been associated with the GAC and the ccTLD community. Through earlier work with the IAHC and the Policy Oversight Committee (POC), I became very conscious of the issues surrounding new gTLDs, most of which remain germane today.

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