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Zeichen: Lei

**Proposed Measure to Avoid Confusion –  
Registry Operator with Open Registration of "CI.RUHR", "CN.RUHR", "EG.RUHR",  
"IL.RUHR", "IN.RUHR", "IT.RUHR", "ME.RUHR", "PT.RUHR", "SG.RUHR", "TW.RUHR"**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The string .ruhr stands for the „Ruhrgebiet“, which is an area in Germany. .ruhr strengthens the expression of local identity, creates an awareness for the Ruhr metropolis and provides the Ruhr region with an online home. As such, two-character second level domain names have little to no inherent danger of confusion with country codes since the geographic region is mentioned at the top level.

**Protections**

Registry Operator understands the concern that confusion may arise, and in order to avoid such confusion is willing to offer the following:

Registry Operator will commit to:

1. investigate any reports of misuse, including misleading or deceptive conduct, including those from the respective governments, and provide a written report in response; and
2. where, in Registry Operator's sole opinion, misuse has occurred, registry operator will seek to work with the registrar and/or directly with the registrant to address the misuse.
3. In the event that misuse continues to occur, the Registry Operator may, in its sole discretion, undertake direct action up to and including suspension or deletion of the domain name.

Furthermore, contained within our Acceptable Use Policy for the .RUHR TLD will be the following text:

*The Registrant of a domain name, as recorded in the Registry Service, will be responsible for:*

- 1. the use of their domain name;*
- 2. ensuring that the use of the domain name, where that domain name is a two letter Label that corresponds to a country code described in the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 standard, avoids confusion with the corresponding country code;"*

Should a Registrant fail to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy, the domain name may be cancelled, locked, placed on hold, transferred or deleted. Thus all Registrants in the TLDs, including ourselves, have an obligation to avoid confusion with two letter country codes and we have clear penalties for any failure to do so.

Kind Regards,



Bernhard Lüders



Anja Elsing