

FULD TALE

Arrangement:	Åbningen af ICANN58	27. februar 2013
Åbent eller lukket:	Lukket	
Dato og klokkeslæt:	13. marts 2017	
Sted:	Bella Center Center Blvd. 5, 2300 København S	
Taletid:	10-15 minutter	
Forv. Antal deltagere:	2000 internationale gæster, hovedsageligt interessenter på internetområdet, primært på policy og advocacy-niveau.	
Evt. andre forhold ministeren bør være opmærksom på:	Åbningsceremonien begynder kl. 9. Ministeren taler 9.15-9.30 efter Steve Crocker, bestyrelsesformand i ICANN. Ceremonien er slut ca. 10.10 Se i øvrigt vedlagte program.	
Kontaktperson:	Finn Petersen, Erhvervsstyrelsen, FinPet@erst.dk, tlf.: 3529 1013	

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen!

I am delighted to welcome you to Copenhagen and to ICANN58. It is an honor for me to be your host and set the stage for the important work of the ICANN community.

[Danmarks digitalisering]

This is the 58th meeting in ICANN, but it is the organization's first meeting in Denmark.

I think it is about time we invited you – the digital frontrunners – because we see ourselves in Denmark as being among the most digitized countries in the world.

Denmark tops the Digital Economy and Society Index in the European Union and is in the top 10 of the UN ICT development index.

We are early and very enthusiastic adopters of new technology.

Danish citizens are the most advanced in the use of Internet in the European Union and we are leading the way in terms of adopting tablets and smartphones.

We do also have a strong scene for tech companies in Denmark. Copenhagen ranks high on the lists for digital scale-ups and startups on the European Digital City Index 2016. This is because we both have a healthy business environment and access to skills and capital.

A lot of this is due to the digital awareness and entrepreneurial spirit in the private sector. But the public sector has also played an important role.

The digitization of the Danish society did not just happen by coincidence overnight. It has been promoted by political dedication to a long-term strategy and a strong cooperation between the public sector and private business.

Over the past 15 years, Denmark has undergone a unique transition to digital public administration, communication and services. And a lot of the digital solutions originating from previous digital strategies have now become part of our everyday life.

Today you can do your tax return or register a new company on your smartphone using your secure digital ID. We have even digitized a lot of our cultural heritages which I am particularly proud of as the Minister for Culture.

I could hope that the online access to Danish culture would make one of our great icons like Hans Christian Anderson the most trending topic on Google here in Denmark.

Well it's not. In 2016 the most trending word on Google in Denmark was another major cultural phenomenon: It was Pokemon Go. But this does not disappoint me at all. It tells me that the internet opens our eyes and minds for the world around us.

And I think the lesson of Pokemon Go shows us the internet's potential for tying the world together.

[Arbejdet i regi af ICANN]

Although Denmark has come a long way in the digital transition, we have in reality only just started on a very long journey towards making Denmark a part of a truly global internet community. That's why we see it as a very important step to host the ICANN58 conference.

A lot of work still lies ahead. The further transition of the Danish society as well as the entire global society will strongly depend on the functions of a free and open internet.

That's why I would like to underline the important and critical role you all play in coordinating and developing the Domain Name System.

You carry out this mission for the benefit of the Internet community as a global whole.

And you do it through open and transparent processes that enable competition and open entry in Internet-related markets. At least this is the wording in ICANN's bylaws!

But seriously - the IANA-transition only happened because the whole ICANN community – that is you - was able to work together and to develop proposals that received a very broad support.

It was indeed a masterpiece and showcase for how the multi-stakeholder-model can function and deliver sustainable results.

The enhanced accountability of ICANN has also been an important issue for Denmark, and we are very pleased with the outcome. In this process we particularly paid attention to ensure adequate checks and balances between the Board and the Community. We wanted effective redress procedures and to ensure that no single group is able to capture ICANN.

It was also important for us that the new set-up had been stress tested before the transition took place last year – the stability of ICANN and the Internet is without saying a key point.

For Denmark it has also been important that the governments' should still play an advisory role in the ICANN eco-system. Governments should actively contribute to solve any disagreements between the ICANN Board and the Community through dialogue in the new Empowered Community.

Self-regulation is very near and dear to my heart. And we were pleased to see that the new accountability mechanism could be accommodated under California law, so that there was no need to consider another jurisdiction – but of course ICANN would be most welcome in Denmark!

It is important that the ICANN community continues to work on accountability issues and conclude with the 9 areas that remain to be discussed and agreed, among others the question of diversity.

Here there is still quite some way to go - be it gender representation, geographical representation, or age. This is an issue that must be solved in order to secure that there is no doubt about ICANN's legitimacy as a true global multi-stakeholder organization.

I commend the work of all those who have devoted so much of their time and energy to engage with the multi-stakeholder processes. Denmark firmly supports this model of Internet governance.

I wish you all well in your deliberations here in Copenhagen and with your stay in Denmark.

And as Minister for Culture I cannot help urging you to get an opportunity to see some of Copenhagen and Denmark. Not only should you visit some of the many Danish restaurants with Michelin stars, but also try out our cool street food places. And get a taste of the cultural institutions in Denmark as well.

And – why not – go to the castle of Elsinore – Kronborg
– where Shakespeare’s Hamlet takes place.

On that note I want to twist the words in Hamlet just a
bit and assure you that nothing is “rotten in the state of
Denmark”!

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen!