

Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology
attn. to: Mr. Dr. Christian Singer

by E-Mail



Vienna, 28th of March 2013

Dear Mr. Singer,

as the Secretary General of the Austrian Olympic Committee, I would like to thank you, and your colleagues at ICANN's Government Advisory Committee (GAC), for your efforts to protect the words "Olympic" and "Olympiad" (the Olympic words) from misappropriation at the top- and second-levels of ICANN's new gTLD Program.

The Olympic words are highly visible targets for cybersquatting and other unauthorized uses in the Domain Name Space, including pornography, unauthorized ticket sales, etc. We are pleased at the efforts that the GAC has taken to minimize the impact of the new gTLD program on efforts by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to address these abuses. We understand that the GAC has played a pivotal role in calling for the protection of the Olympic words on the top- and second-levels of the ICANN's New gTLD Program.

As you know, Austria has passed special legislation prohibiting the unauthorized use of the Olympic words. The Federal Law on the Protection of Olympic Emblems and Names, enacted January 10, 1992, has been provided to the Generic Names Supporting Organization Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group for the Protection of Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) for reference. We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure that ICANN policy accurately reflects this legislation.

The PDP process so far has resulted in many divergent views being expressed by ICANN constituencies including some that feel that no protection is warranted for the Olympic Movement and the other groups seeking special protection. We hope we can count on you, as our country's GAC representative, along with your colleagues, to urge the ICANN Board and the Generic Names Supporting Organization Council to grant protection for the words "Olympic" and "Olympiad" according to original GAC advice, dated September 14, 2011 (copy attached). As the GAC has recommended, we believe that ICANN-accredited Registries and Registrars should block the registration at the top- and second-levels of, at a minimum, the words "Olympic" and "Olympiad" in the six United Nations languages, plus German, Greek and Korean.

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This matter is now considered urgent, as ICANN has announced that the first gTLDs may be recommended for delegation at the end of April of this year.

Please consider this letter a confirmation of the support of the Austrian Olympic Committee for the GAC recommended protection of the words “Olympic” and “Olympiad” in the six United Nations languages, plus German, Greek and Korean on the top- and second-levels of the new gTLD program, as the work of the Generic Names Supporting Organization PDP and the ICANN Board moves toward a conclusion on the issue.

Yours sincerely,

Austrian Olympic Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Mennel', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Dr. Peter Mennel
Secretary General

CC: Heather Dryden - Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
Suzanne Radell - GAC Representative, United States of America
Mark Carvell - GAC Representative, United Kingdom
Jonathan Robinson - Chair, GNSO Council
Cherine Chalaby - Chair, ICANN Board New gTLD Committee
Fadi Chehade - CEO, ICANN
James Bikoff - Silverberg, Goldman & Bikoff, L.L.P.
Marianne Chappuis - International Olympic Committee

