



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Information Society and Media Directorate-General

The Deputy Director-General

Brussels, **29 X 2007**
DG INFSO/A3/EM/tm D(2007) 844173

Subject: Introduction of Internationalised Domain Names at the Top Level

Dear Mr Cerf,

First of all, I would like to express our support to ICANN for the efforts they are making to ensure the introduction of Internationalised Domain Names at the Top Level. As you will understand, the need to prioritise efforts to create a truly multilingual Internet is particularly important for a multicultural body such as the European Union.

As you already know, the GAC has a particularly important role in this area, described for example in the GAC ccTLD principles which state that "*ultimate public policy authority over the relevant ccTLD rests with the relevant government or public authority. How this authority is exercised is determined by applicable law*". Paragraph 63 of the Tunis Agenda for the World Summit on the Information Society also reinforces this principle.

For this reason, the GAC is currently working towards an effective public policy approach for the implementation of IDN variants for country-code Top Level Domains. During our discussions, the Commission representatives in the GAC have already highlighted the multicultural nature of the ".eu" Top Level Domain and that it is therefore very likely that more than one IDN variant will be necessary to reflect the multicultural requirements of the EU. Given the equal importance that the EU attaches to all its official languages, it will therefore also be necessary to introduce IDN variants of .eu with equal priority.

The European Commission is currently reflecting on the requirements for IDN variants of .eu within the European Union and will of course inform ICANN in due course of which variants we would wish to see introduced.

Mr. Vinton G. Cerf
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