



To

ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
Maarten Botterman, Chair of the ICANN Board of Directors
Göran Marby, President & CEO
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536, USA

Berlin, 27 April 2020

RE – ICANN Accountability Concerns

Dear Maarten and Göran,

These days ICANN and its board are being confronted with requests from various stakeholders. We understand that it is a challenge to respond adequately to these pressures and high-handed debates.

Our association represents more than 1100 companies from more than 70 countries, including some 150 registries, registrars, resellers and other companies working in the domain name industry, but all of our members rely on the DNS.

ICANN plays a crucial role in the provision of a secure, reliable and resilient DNS for users globally and ICANN's own accountability is a key requirement for that.

One of the conditions established by the US Administration for the IANA Stewardship Transition to be successful in 2016 was to ensure that an accountability system is established that protects ICANN from being unduly influenced by single interest groups or individual stakeholders.

ICANN's revised bylaws enshrine processes for an Empowered Community to safeguard that ICANN sticks to its limited mandate and stress tests were developed and used to ensure that ICANN cannot be captured by individual interests. ICANN must only be accountable to its community and not do any individual stakeholder's bidding.

Further, it is essential that contracted parties and the wider community can rely on ICANN fulfilling its contractual obligations with registries and registrars in a predictable and independent fashion.

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With this letter, we would like to offer our support and encouragement to the ICANN Board to withstand individual parties' requests and follow community processes while honoring contractual requirements in an unbiased manner.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Süme'.

Oliver J. Süme
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Rickert'.

Thomas Rickert
Director Names & Numbers

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