



Governmental Advisory Committee

9 September 2013

Dr. Stephen Crocker
Chairman, ICANN Board

Dear Steve,

As you are aware, the GAC agreed in Durban to set a firm deadline for providing a potential safeguard advice regarding .wine and .vin.

That deadline has now expired and I write to you in order to inform the ICANN Board about the outcome of the GAC deliberations on this matter.

The GAC set a deadline of 30 days for its consideration of possible additional safeguard advice for .wine and .vin. With reference to Module 3.1.1 of the Applicant Guidebook and the Durban Communiqué 2.a regarding .wine and .vin., **the GAC advises the ICANN Board that** the GAC has finalized its consideration of the strings .wine and .vin and **further advises** that the applications should proceed through the normal evaluation process.

While there is no GAC consensus advice on specific safeguards, it deserves to be noted that the crux of the matter relates to the handling of geographical indications, for which there is a range of views among the GAC membership. Some members support referencing geographical indications while others are opposed. There is no international agreement among governments about how to treat geographical indications and, as a consequence, no basis for an agreement in the GAC on safeguards that would offer additional protections.

The GAC or its members may communicate further details to the Board as to the nature of the differences in views.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Dryden', written in a cursive style.

Heather Dryden
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee
Senior Advisor to the Government of Canada