



Landeshauptmann Günther Platter

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and
Numbers
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292-6601
USA

Telefon 0512/508-2000
Fax 0512/508-2005
landeshauptmann@tirol.gv.at

DVR:0059463

New gTLD Program; here: Batching and the Public Interest

Geschäftszahl LH-IA-10/41
Innsbruck, 30.04.2012

Dear Dr. Crocker!

The Federal Austrian State of Tirol (Tyrol) supports the application submitted by punkt Tirol GmbH for the .TIROL top-level domain. We have defined the Community for the .TIROL top-level domain in the public interest together with punkt Tirol GmbH by contractual definitions based on the natural community of the State of Tirol.

Today we write to you regarding the proposed batching procedure for the New gTLD Program. It is with great concern that we note the absence of any consideration of the public interest in this proposal for building application batches.

Presumably, many of the future gTLDs will primarily serve the interests of their applicants. On the other hand, punkt Tirol GmbH, like other geographic TLD operators, acts as a representative of the Federal Austrian State of Tirol and its 0,7 Million inhabitants.

As the guardian of the global public resource that is the Domain Name System, ICANN has a responsibility to ensure that a fair balance between public and private interests is kept. In our view, the proposed batching procedure could prevent that this balance can be maintained, bringing with it the danger that applications by applicants acting in the public interest may be excluded from the evaluation for a prolonged time. At the same time, applications without any apparent regard for the public interest seem to be favored by the "digital archery" proposal.

We are confident that you share our view that this is a problematic scenario under any standard of responsible public management.

We therefore urge ICANN to ensure that community-based public-interest geographic gTLD applications are evaluated in the first batch, or given the necessary priority to be approved within a year of the launch of the initial new gTLD application window on January 12, 2012.

Sincerely

Eduard-Wallnöfer-Platz 3, 6020 Innsbruck, ÖSTERREICH / AUSTRIA - <http://www.tirol.gv.at>

Bitte Geschäftszahl immer anführen!