



БӨТЕНДӨНЬЯ ТАТАР КОНГРЕССЫ
ВСЕМИРНЫЙ КОНГРЕСС ТАТАР
WORLD CONGRESS OF THE TATARS

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Исх. № 12-610 от «1st» October, 2012

На № _____

Dr. Steve Crocker
Chairman of the Board
ICANN
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

Dear Dr. Crocker,

We are writing to you on behalf of the International Union of Public Associations' "World Congress of Tatars" to share our concerns about recent comments by the Communication and Information Technology Commission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with respect of an application for new gTLD .tatar ([https:// gldcomment/icann.org/comments; feedback/ applicationcomment/ commentdetails/6026](https://gldcomment/icann.org/comments;feedback/applicationcomment/commentdetails/6026))

The World Congress of Tatars currently unites 376 communities from 39 countries of the world, this organization is officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. This year the Congress will celebrate its 20 years anniversary. The 5th Convention of the World Congress of Tatars will be held in December 2012, which will bring together 1,100 people from all over the world. According to the Congress's Charter the Convention is held once in 5 years, and is the supreme governing body of the organization. As a non-governmental organization, the World Congress of Tatars is actively cooperating with the authorities of the Republic of Tatarstan and the federal authorities of the Russian Federation. It must be underlined, that the Tatar communities around the world consider the capital of Tatarstan, Kazan, as a historical, cultural and spiritual center of the Tatar people. Naturally, the Tatars around the world

have the desire and the need to maintain close ties with their historical homeland, the center of Tatar national culture, which has been built here for many centuries. Today the Republic of Tatarstan is the only one territorial and administrative jurisdiction for the Tatars worldwide.

We believe it is necessary to provide some additional information relating to the history of the Tatar people. The first state formations in the Volga region of Eastern Europe began to appear in IX - X centuries. The ancestors of the modern Tatars in Volga Bulgaria accepted Islam as the official religion in 922. Since then, the Tatar people became an integral part of the civilization of Islam. The education, literature and culture of the Tatar people has been developed on the basic values of Islam. The place of Islam and its culture in the life of Russian Muslims can be pointed out by the fact that there are more than four thousand mosques in Russia, 1300 of which are in Tatarstan. In the Muslim community of the Russian Federation, the Tatars are the leading nationality both in numbers and in importance, as the Muslim theology was developed with efforts of such eminent scientists as Abd-un-Nasyr Kursavi, Shihab-ad-Din Al-Marjani, Ismail Gasprinsky, Alim-jan Barudi, Musa Bihiev, Riza-ad-Din Fahretdin. Today, many of these works are the integral part of the global Islamic religious reflection.

Tatar people have always maintained close ties with the Arab world, many Tatar religious figures had studied in Arab countries. A lot of Tatar Muslims commit and make the hadj to the holy places of Islam. All this is done by the help of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia, and we are grateful to His Majesty and his country for this opportunities. We are proud of the first President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev who was honored with blue ribbon of Saudi Arabia – King Faisal International Prize.

The Commission also argues that, “We do not believe that the applied-for gTLD string (“.tatar”) should be under control of one group or individual who cannot, and does not represent the multitude of Tatar communities”. If the gTLD «. tatar» is registered, it will be offensive to many people and societies for religious and cultural reasons”, then we find it necessary to announce that today, the World Congress of Tatars represents all the Tatar communities of the world and we do not know anyone else's claim to the title “Tatar”. The World Congress of Tatars was formed in 1992 to unite and to connect

representatives of the Tatar people, wherever they live. We also consider it necessary to inform you that the World Congress of Tatars is a dynamic, open social organization. Every year dozens of new communities from various countries join the Congress. Thus, the administrator of the future gTLD «. Tatar» will be the non-governmental organization "World Congress of Tatars". Undoubtedly, this fact will ensure that the right to control over the administration and operation of this domain will be at the Tatars of the Russian Federation and the world. The issue of acquisition of gTLD «. Tatar» for the Tatar community of the world was raised at the 4th Convention of the World Congress of Tatars in Kazan in 2007 on behalf of more than 1,000 delegates from all over the world. Since then the technical plan on creation of the social network "Tatar ile" as part of the global Internet was made. On October 1, 2012, the web-portal "Tatar ile", owned by the World Congress of Tatars, has been launched in pilot mode. Currently, the web-portal "Tatar ile" gathers comments and suggestions from users of the World Tatar community.

In the comments the Commission asserts that "the current applicant can not demonstrate that possesses a monopoly over the term "Tatar" nor can it demonstrate that its intended ownership of that term accepted by Tatars in the Asian region". To this we can report that in Asia the World Congress of Tatars has dozens of large organizations. In such countries as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, China, Turkey, Afghanistan there are actively working Tatar organizations uniting hundreds of thousands of people. All of them work closely with the World Congress of Tatars.

In consideration of the foregoing premises, we apply with a repeated request to carefully re-examine our arguments, and we hope that the Council will take a decision of the allocation of the gTLD «. Tatar» to the International Union of Public Associations "World Congress of Tatars". The Charter of the World Tatar Congress is available on the website: Tatarile.org/congress.

Sincerely,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of

The World Congress of Tatars

Member of Parliament of

the Republic of Tatarstan



Rinat Zakirov