

Letter of Motivation

My name is Vinzenz Heussler. I'm researcher at the Centre for Computers and Law which is integrated in the Department of European, International and Comparative Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Vienna. In my job, I legally consult projects particularly from the Austrian Security Research Program (KIRAS) which is a research program funded by the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology that supports national research projects whose results contribute to the security of all members of society. Therefore, I have detailed knowledge about various IT-security matters and the relevant potentially applicable laws. Moreover, my daily involvement with project partners from different, mainly technical backgrounds taught me how to work efficiently across disciplines.

Apart thereof, I'm interested in Internet governance and the future of the Internet in general, which is why I applied for the NextGen@ICANN initiative. Taking part as a "NextGener" at the ICANN 54 Meeting (October 18-22 in Dublin), I enjoyed the great opportunity to learn about how the Internet is governed and meet incredibly engaging people. In the course of the NextGen program, I delivered a presentation on the Trademark Clearinghouse.

Although it is still hard to grasp the variety of ICANN's work, I realized that it is a vivid, inspiring and fascinating community of people who work hard to govern the ever since evolving Internet. This positive experience led to the wish to contribute to ICANN's work and participate in the ICANN community one day.

During the NextGen program, I had the opportunity to talk to lots of people and to participate in many different sessions. Thereby, I gained knowledge of ICANN and its working practices and culture and I'm not totally unfamiliar with the multistakeholder model and procedures.

Currently, I'm at the commencement of pursuing a PhD in law at the University of Vienna. My favored topic would be the Right Protection Mechanisms in regard to the New gTLD Program. Accordingly, I read a lot of (particularly international) papers about and studied the New gTLD Program and RPMs and bring deep knowledge about the issues in regard thereto.

Already during my studies, I focused on technology law and chose deepening lectures in intellectual property law. Moreover, I studied law at the Santa Clara University, California (USA), where I took classes in IP-, IT- and arbitration law. Consequently, I have a good overview on European as well as US IP- and IT-law.

Besides my current job, I gained further practical experiences in technology law too. For instance I took part in the conferences of the United Nations Committee and Legal Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) at the United Nations Office in Vienna where I experienced international negotiations on technology law. Furthermore, I did an internship at an international law firm in the practice group IP/IT with regard to consumer protection as well as competition and anti-trust law. Additionally, I had to deal with consumer protection matters during my eight months internship at various Austrian courts.

Concluding, I have a strong personal and academic interest in serving on the Review Team.

Since I'm a newcomer (NextGener) in the ICANN community, I'm not a representative of a Supporting Organization or Advisory Committee. However, I am about to become member of the "Vienna Centre for Computers and Law" which recently applied to be part of the At-Large Structure (ALS) in EURALO. Thus, I could be involved with ALAC soon.

