

IANA Report on the Delegation of the .eu Top-Level Domain

Subject: Request of the European Registry for Internet Domains (EURid) for the .eu Top-Level Domain

Date: March 2005

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (the IANA), as part of the administrative functions associated with management of the domain-name system root, is responsible for receiving requests for delegation and redelegation of top-level domains, investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and reporting on the requests. This report gives the findings and conclusions of the IANA on its investigation of a request for the delegation of the .eu (European Union) country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

Factual and Procedural Background

In August of 1999 the two-letter code “eu” was and is set forth on the [ISO 3166-1 list](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html) (<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html>) maintained by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) as the approved alpha-2 code for the European Union.

On 22 April 2002, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted Regulation 733/2002 on the implementation of the .eu TLD, which entered into force upon publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities on 30 April 2002.

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/ecommerce/all_about/todays_framework/public_resources/names_addresses/eu_creation/background/index_en.htm

On 21 May 2003, the European Commission, in consultation with the Member States, designated the European Registry for Internet Domains (EURid) as the appropriate

registry operator for the .eu top level domain (published in the Official Journal on 24 May 2003, edition L 128). EURid is a not for profit organization built around the Belgian, Italian and Swedish ccTLD registries.

The .eu ccTLD will not replace the existing national ccTLDs in the European Union. It will give users the additional option of a pan-European Internet identity for their websites and e-mail addresses.

EURid indicated a willingness to enter into a framework of accountability with ICANN which recognizes ICANN's role in coordinating the DNS to preserve global interoperability, and formally requested the delegation of the .eu ccTLD. The contacts as listed in the template received by IANA are Marc Van Wesemael as Administrative Contact and Peter Janssen as the Technical Contact.

On 21 March 2005 the ICANN Board of Directors authorized the President to enter into an agreement with EURid and complete the delegation process of the .eu ccTLD.

Evaluation

This report is being provided under the [contract for performance of the IANA function \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm) between the United States Government and ICANN. Under that contract, ICANN performs the IANA function, which [includes receiving delegation and redelegation requests concerning ccTLDs \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2), investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

In acting on delegation and redelegation requests, the IANA currently follows the practices summarized in “Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation.” (ICP-1, <http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm>) ICP-1 represents an update of the portions of [RFC 1591 \(http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt\)](http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt) which was issued in March 1994) dealing with ccTLDs, and reflects subsequent documents and evolution of the policies followed by the IANA through May 1999. Relevant guidance is also provided in the GAC Principles.

In considering delegation or redelegation of a ccTLD, the IANA seeks input from persons significantly affected by the transfer, particularly those within the nation or territory which the ccTLD has been established to benefit. As [noted in ICP-1 \(http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a\)](http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a), the parties affected include especially the relevant government or public authority: “The desires of the government of a country with regard to delegation of a ccTLD are taken very seriously. The IANA will make them a major consideration in any TLD delegation/transfer discussions.”

Based on the materials submitted and the IANA's evaluation of the circumstances, EURid qualifies as an appropriate manager for the .eu registry, with support from the European Union community, including the relevant Governments.

The GAC Principles serve as “best practices” to guide governments in assuming proper roles with respect to the Internet's naming system, which the GAC has observed is “a

public resource . . . administered in the public or common interest.” (<http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.3>) In general, they recognize that each government has the ultimate responsibility within its territory for its national public-policy objectives, but also that ICANN has the responsibility for ensuring that the Internet domain-name system continues to provide an effective and interoperable global naming system. The GAC Principles recommend that governments and ICANN pursue their respective roles by creating a framework for accountability memorialized in communications with each other and with the ccTLD manager (see [clause 2, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2)). The GAC Principles guide governments on how to responsibly structure their relations with ccTLD managers (see [clauses 5.5, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5) and [clause 9, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9)). Among these specific principles, the best practices contemplate that governments will assist in ensuring that the ccTLD manager complies with ICANN policies related to global coordination of the Internet DNS ([clauses 9.1.7 and 9.1.8, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7)).

The proposed delegation will promote service to the local Internet community and will help assure continued Internet interoperability through the global technical coordination that ICANN was created to provide. In this regard, the recognition contained in the European Union's discussion of the need for close coordination between ICANN and the European Union is particularly noteworthy.

Conclusion

The structure created by the European Union is to have EURid undertake management of the .eu ccTLD under appropriate oversight by the European Union. EURid and the European Union also acknowledge and support ICANN's responsibility for coordinating management of the DNS, including the .eu ccTLD, to safeguard global technical-coordination interests. In reviewing the request, in light of the European Union's endorsement of EURid and Marc Van Wesemael as the appropriate all inclusive caretaker, the IANA concludes that the .eu ccTLD should be delegated to EURid and Marc Van Wesemael.