



Īpašu uzdevumu ministrs elektroniskās pārvaldes lietās
Special Assignments Minister for Electronic Government Affairs

33 K.Valdemara Street, Riga, LV-1010, Latvia
Phone: +371 7114750; fax: +371 7114727; e-mail: pasts@eps.gov.lv; www.eps.gov.lv

Riga

14 February 2008

Nr. 1-3/252

Ms Suzanne R. Sene
Office of International Affairs
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4701
Washington, DC 20230

VIA EMAIL: JPAMidTermReview@ntia.doc.gov

Dear Ms. Sene,

Latvian government welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Midterm Review of the Joint Project Agreement between ICANN and the United States Department of Commerce.

Latvian government acknowledges the progress and improvements ICANN has made in many areas of its operation and administration since October 2006, and its commitment to continued evolution and encourages organization to maintain the direction. Rather than address each of the 10 Responsibilities identified in the JPA, this submission will respond to few issues which have been the focus of much of its work since October 2006, namely: transparency and accountability.

Latvia recognizes the significant effort ICANN has undertaken during the period in improving transparency and accessibility to information and define its accountability. The GAC and the ICANN Board engaged in constructive dialogue on the possible measures to improve the transparency. Practical examples of implemented improvements in transparency include the revamped website, the preparation of annual reports and the timely posting of Board agendas and corresponding minutes.

The ICANN Board sought the GAC's assistance on defining accountability in the ICANN environment, which was submitted to the Board in October 2007. Latvian government acknowledges that the accountability definitions provided to the Board have been reflected in ICANN's recently published *ICANN Accountability and Transparency Frameworks and Principles*.

Latvian government recognizes the technical and complex policy work ICANN is undertaking to introduce IDNs without compromising the security and stability of the DNS and notes the importance of IDNs as facilitators for the use of the Internet in relation to non ASCII script based language. The consideration of the complex policy issues surrounding IDNs and a request to address a need that currently exists in some territories to introduce IDN ccTLDs has challenged the ICANN community to build flexibility into the policy development process. The adoption of the 'fast track' and longer term policy development process initiated by the ccNSO to consider the deployment of IDN ccTLDs is an example of the ICANN's commitment to continuous improvement of processes in the interests of the broader Internet community. It is also further example of the productive nature of cross-constituency cooperation.

Latvia has been actively engaged in policy discussions associated with the introduction and implementation of IDN ccTLDs and encourage all ICANN constituencies working closely together to ensure the public policy aspects surrounding this matter are understood and addressed.

Latvian government is of the opinion that ICANN in consultation with Internet community worldwide should start discussions on the *modus operandi* which would be adopted after expiration of the Joint Project agreement in September 2009.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ina Gudele', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ina Gudele
Minister of Special Assignments
for Electronic Government Affairs