

Dear Ms. Sene,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the continued transition of the technical coordination and management of the Internet's domain name and addressing system. We have always shared the view, proposed by the US Government in 1998, that this vital part of the Internet (DNS/IP addresses) should not be controlled by any one government, organization or individual.

As you may be aware, Bulgaria has been quite active within ICANN - having GAC representative since the beginning and having Veni Markovski serve on the ICANN Board between 2003 and 2006.

The Bulgarian ccTLD .bg has participated in a number of ICANN meetings (including with presentation), and so have other Bulgarian Internauts. We have been actively involved in the WSIS, and in the follow-up - WGIG, IGF Advisory Group, and the IGF itself. We have changed the legal framework in Bulgaria, to make it one of the friendliest towards the Internet in the countries - members of the European Union. The ICANN board has held a working meeting in Sofia, and Dr. Vint Cerf was awarded with the highest Bulgarian order for scientists - the St.St. Cyril and Methodius. Both he and Esther Dyson serve on the Bulgarian President's Information Technologies Advisory Committee.

Since its foundation, ICANN has progressively evolved to develop its own responsibilities in consultation with the community and is performing those in a manner that is satisfactorily and competently producing outcomes. ICANN's achievements (just since the JPA started in September 2006) run to hundreds of pages.

The early Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) by which the DoC scrutinized ICANN's performance were necessary for the organization to become stable and to develop confidence in this new model of governance, which was not known by that time. They and the current JPA have been a success. As a result we support ICANN's call to conclude the JPA.

Conclusion of the JPA would however provide the next logical step toward full transition some time in the future. It will produce the right environment to commence the debate about what should happen to ensure transition finally occurs. Without this step many may consider that after nine years of effort, participation and achievement, momentum has been lost in the process and that transition will never occur.

We are ready to provide you with expertise in the field of management of DNS/IP addresses, and with our experience in the creation of the Bulgarian legal framework, which puts in the foundation the self-management of these resources, with full participation of all interested parties - government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, academic networks, users.

Yours,

Nelly Stoyanova,
Director of Information Society and IT Directorate
State Agency for IT and Communications
GAC representative for Bulgaria