

**Governmental Advisory Committee
Chairman**



Dr. Paul Twomey
CEO and President
ICANN

RE: Correspondence between ICANN and Governments

Paris, 15 January 2009

Dear Paul,

Following recent correspondence from you to various Ministers, the Governmental Advisory Committee would like to provide some guidance to ICANN on the matter of corresponding with governments.

Members of the Governmental Advisory Committee provide advice to the ICANN Board, and equally, bring back information from ICANN to their respective administrations. In order to ensure that the GAC is able to do this as effectively as possible, the GAC would ask that ICANN first consult with the relevant GAC representative before issuing correspondence to their respective government or Minister. It would also be helpful to copy the GAC member on any such correspondence.

Following this practice would better ensure a timely and considered response to deadlines and requests for information.

It would further be helpful to establish that a letter to a Minister is indeed warranted -- in a majority of cases it is the direct task of the GAC representative to brief colleagues on issues related to ICANN. In other cases, it might be useful to send a letter, but not necessarily to a Minister.

In the event that a letter is to be sent to a Minister, it is essential that the letter be sent to the correct Minister. GAC Members should advise on this, particularly as arrangements for representation to the GAC differ.

The GAC would appreciate your careful attention to such matters. It would certainly assist the GAC in carrying out its tasks, contributing to the overall work of ICANN.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janis Karklins", written over a horizontal line.

Janis Karklins
Chairman of the Governmental Advisory Committee
Ambassador of Latvia to France