

August 12, 2014

Mr. Cherine Chalaby
Chair
ICANN New gTLD Program Committee

RE: Status of Proposed Review Mechanism to Address Inconsistent Expert Determinations

Dear Mr. Chalaby:

On behalf of United TLD Holdco, Ltd., trading as Rightside Registry, one of three applicants for the .CAM new gTLD, I write to request an update on the status of the New gTLD Program Committee's (NGPC) consideration of ICANN's proposed Review Mechanism to Address Inconsistent Expert Determinations on String Confusion Objections (the "Review Mechanism").

Exactly six months ago, on March 12, 2014, the Public Comment period closed on the proposed Review Mechanism. In April and May, the NGPC had placed the discussion of the Review Mechanism on its monthly meeting agenda but the matter was tabled both times. Since then it has not reappeared on any meeting agenda despite the fact that during the last meeting only one topic was on the agenda.¹ From our perspective, it appears as if the importance of the Review Mechanism has been ignored or forgotten.

We are most interested in knowing whether the NGPC is waiting for a report or recommendation from ICANN Legal or ICANN staff or whether the decision currently rests with the NGPC to make a final determination and approve the formation of the "Panel of Last Resort." In addition, a timeline for when this review process would begin would be helpful as we are currently in the dark as to what is happening.

I realize that the NGPC has many issues to address and that this one affects a relatively small number of applicants. However, for those impacted, the "limbo" is extremely costly and frustrating. The applicants affected have no idea of where this matter stands or how much longer they have to wait to learn the fate of their applications. With ICANN auctions beginning in earnest in September, we need to know where .CAM/.COM might ultimately fit into this schedule following a review of the expert decisions.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Statton Hammock
Vice-President, Business & Legal Affairs
United TLD Holdco Ltd. t/a Rightside Registry

¹ <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/agenda-new-gtld-2014-07-30-en>