



28 October 2008

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

Dear Janis

I refer to your letter of 10 July 2008, regarding the possibility of ICANN providing assistance to enable the translation of GAC meetings, ICANN policy updates, as well as GAC documents prepared for ICANN meetings and travel assistance for GAC meetings.

Translations

With regard to the ICANN policy updates, I can advise that arrangements are already in place to have these updates available in the six UN languages. The August and September editions have been translated into French and Spanish and can be found at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/policy/>

With regard to the translation of GAC documents, this should be arranged through ICANN's liaison to the GAC, Donna Austin. In terms of expectations for enabling the translations, there is a one to two week turnaround period; however, in the weeks leading up to an ICANN meeting it will take longer. Documents can be translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian. Other languages are also available upon request, but may take longer to produce, namely: Japanese, Korean, German, Italian and Portuguese.

You may be aware that as part of a comprehensive consultation process from October 2006 to January 2008, translation principles were developed and approved by the Board¹. Those principles were used to develop a translation framework for the organization through a series of workshops at ICANN's San Juan, Los Angeles, New Delhi and Paris meetings. The overarching principle of the translation framework is that ICANN will provide timely and accurate translations, and move from an organisation that provides translation of texts to one that is capable of communicating comfortably with a range of different languages.

I believe it would be useful for the GAC to receive a briefing from Kieren McCarthy, ICANN's General Manager of Public Participation, on a number of initiatives being undertaken by ICANN to improve the availability of information in other languages. It would also provide Kieren with an opportunity to discuss and develop an understanding of the GAC's requirements and potentially assist with identifying solutions. ICANN will commence the budget input process for the FY2010 in February 2008, and I would welcome the GAC's participation in that process to ensure that the GAC's request for assistance can be addressed.

Travel assistance

I understand Doug Brent wrote to you on 14 August 2008, regarding the Community Travel Support Procedure for FY 2009, and noted that the document acknowledged your comments from the Paris meeting and your formal request for travel support. I reiterate Doug's advice, that the GAC is welcome to participate in the FY2010 budget input process, and anticipated review of the travel procedure, which will commence in February 2010.

¹ <http://www.icann.org/en/transparency/>



I would encourage the GAC to develop an outline of the travel assistance required for members from developing and least developed countries, particularly as this in addition to the assistance available under ICANN's Fellowship Program. It would also be useful for the outline to include some background on the GAC's rationale for the request.

As this is a topic of discussion by the GAC and the Board in Cairo, I think it would be beneficial for the Board to hear some of the rationale for the request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D Twomey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Twomey
CEO and President
ICANN