**ICANN**
**Transcription ICANN Barcelona**
**RySG GeoTLD Group Planning Session**
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Sebastien Ducos: Hello everybody, welcome to the GeoTLD lead session here in Barcelona. I didn't quite realize we had so many friends.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: It's good to see this, it reminds of that very, very first meeting that we had in Toronto for those who were there, in a packed room that was very, very hot and it was my first ICANN, I had just flown from Melbourne to Toronto, I was fantastically jet lagged and, in the heat, couldn't keep awake, even though the conversation was obviously, genius. And the number of people in the room and the fact that this time we have only an hour and half because on Wednesday we are going to do the session with core and the Barcelona City Administration, I will skip this time the introduction, everybody talking because that takes about fifteen minutes, and we'll go directly into the agenda.

Obviously, those who do now know us, Dirk Krischenowski and I, please come afterwards and we'll introduce ourselves a little bit better and we'll have time after the meeting anyway to mingle outside this evening.

Without further ado, oh thank you, agenda, perfect. So, first one is (Ron), do you want to give us a bit of housekeeping news? Without maybe mentioning that I might be the last member not to have paid his fees?

((Crosstalk))

Ronald Schwaerzler: This is Ronald for the record, Treasurer of the GeoTLD group, you're not the only one, there is a second one but – which doesn't make it better. But membership status, so, we are on an increasing, steadily increasing group, we have additional applications coming in, so, we will be at about 34 or 35 beginning of next year.

So, if you want to join the GeoTLD group there is an application form on our Website, TLDElite.group we will not charge a membership fee for the rest of the year as we did before, so, please do not wait until 2019, the membership will have an additional meeting that year so, anyhow, but we have a very, very stable financial basis so we have 31 paying members and observers, 29 of them that really paid the other 2 are chased down by me and Sebastien who has to chase himself, as he admitted, I would not have named that.

Our activities are well financed, the latest you have seen in the giveaway back after the meeting, sort of TLD brochure which thanks to Dirk who had done most of the work on that, I really appreciate the brochures and so, I think we have additional, some additional words on that, Dirk? Yes, but it has been possible, it has been made possible as a personal effort of Dirk and the input from you all. And this is what the GEO brochure makes it special, it's not something that has been done by an editor, it's a contribution of the group, which makes it even more valuable and coming to the financial status, we are able to pay for the printing and for the placing and the giveaway so, thanks to the members who contributed and still contributes to the financials of this group. Yes, this is it for housekeeping.

Sebastien Ducos: So, just we paid for the printing I think that the putting it in the bag was a gift from Barcelona who offered to use part of the space of their sponsorship so, we're not sponsoring in there but they said if you want to add that from us it was no problem. So, thank you Barcelona, wherever they might be, I can't see them right now.

Okay, so, second topic and we'll have to race through today, I'm very sorry I'm going to have to keep everybody on the clock and shut up, so, without further ado, second topic, do you want to talk about GDPR?

Dirk Krischenowski:     Dirk Krischenowski, Vice Chair and I have a bit rusty voice today due to the last two nights.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:     But I, so, I will say not so much, can we have the next slide please? There was housekeeping, next slide please, there was a brochure.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:     Yes, and yes, the GDPR update, the main topic maybe we'll directly go into the next slide on this is the survey and thanks to you all we got 39 GOT participating in this survey about GDPR.  Was basically nine questions we could do there and I've pointed out here that we have 25 U-based registries and 14 registries outside the EU, you can discuss that Moscow is in the EU or not but that's a different thing that we divided this exactly this.  It resides where.

((Crosstalk))

Ronald Schwaerzler:  We can't discuss that, Moscow is in Europe but not in the EU.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:     Yes, not in the EU regulations, that was important to make the differentiation, the results were collected in August and September and could we have the next slide, we have quite a number of nice slides you will all get but running through all the slides once which has the results from all the

questions, discussing them in all details doesn't make sense at the moment. Just here to see one important slide is that says that most of all, except of one has changed and that's quite interesting and one who didn't change was one who was even before all the other GeoTLDs here in the market. So, we can rush through all the slides, that's quite interesting how we worked out and I have a summary at the last slide.

If Sue could go there, yes, keep running, average time, yes, that's the summary, stop, all over result was very positive and our idea was to give all the stake holders within ICANN some certainty how GDPR was implemented in registries and we are homogeneous group in this sense because we all have contacts with our governments and we need to be compliant with the EU regulations and within ICANN several rumors were going on that there should be when GDPR is introduced hundreds of thousands of requests coming to every registry and they made it – painted the devil on the wall that these results definitely show that it wasn't that case.

So, result of that study is and that was published and sent to stake holders within the ICANN community and also the EPDP group, that the EU based registries were taking this task very seriously and implemented a lot of measures to protect the citizen on end to end customer and its personal data. The number of requests was really, really low, maybe we can go four slides back, that's interesting, yes, so, no requests were from the 25 EU registries, 19 didn't get any requests since May. And may still didn't get a request, 4 got under 10 and some 2 got under – over 10 and it wasn't like the next number is 100, it wasn't 99 it was something in the 10 or so. So, for total we had let's say maximum 50 requests all together, all are registries with all over 700,000 registrations in the market.

Okay, back to the summary slide please, so, and it also shows we handled our requests really seriously and effectively answering in 1 or 2 days, most of the requests and it's important to show here that by these numbers there's no evidenced base need for that universal excess mode which is the next big

topic coming up in ICANN and I think we all don't want to have an automatic system where lawyers could search through all our personal data of all our registrants.

So, that was really, really good again, thank you and please spread the message about these results with whom you talk. Coming – any questions on this? We're coming to GDPR a bit later, there was a policy update.

Man: Sorry, I was just waving to say hello.

((Crosstalk))

Ronald Schwaerzler: Just one, not a question a comment on this, seen from the GeoTLD group we could argue we have prepared that well, that there are very little requests, let take it positive, not that there is not a demand for GDPR, it might, there might be a demand from the public persons from the registrants, but obviously, the TOs are well prepared and let me say the better ones and we should take this as a positive number. So, from my perspective, I don't say there is no need and no demand for GDPR, we prepared well, this is why you get that little requests, formulated positively.

Dirk Krischenowski: Alright, interestingly the week we came out with the results the center also published a study with 25 CCTODs from Europe responding and that study had really mixed results I found, so, our member states of the EU are handling the GDPR internally. And I would say we have done much, much better in this – okay, yes, yes, much, much better in this but it's something where we can start a discussion on.

Woman: First of all, thank you very much for doing this survey because that's very interesting at the GLTD level. The comparison with the TTLD from the center, I think it's not that relevant because there is no obligation, there's no model as the one that ICANN is asking us to implement, it's not the case for CCTLs and a lot of CCTLs have a historical experience on handling, you

know, the who is and the privacy data and stuff like that.  And this is the case for that, that's why I'm speaking about it, because we are providing an immunity to individual registrants since 2006 but that's why there's no results of the, you know, of the survey and study.  But it doesn't mean that ccTLDs are not handling GDPR, and that's – I wouldn't conclude that.

Dirk Krischenowski:    Any questions?  Then I come back to the brochure, I have 300 copies of that really high-quality run brochure, I can pass one around so everybody can look and I can send it to your office if you say how many you need, so, we have 300 so, should be with how many members were we?  26?  26 members so ten brochures could some say I only need five brochures or so, you know, and sending this let's say to foreign countries might be a bit different so we find a solution there as well.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:    Yes, but European countries are easy to send things and we will find a way to this, you can expect this in the next.

Man:              Where are you?

Dirk Krischenowski:    In Berlin, yes.

((Crosstalk))

Woman:           Yes, they are really heavy so bring them here.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:    Yes, okay, but I will send them during the next week so you have them and give them out.  And if you would need some more brochures to print, I think we could if you want to have some more you can get a PDF which you

go give to the printer and then print it out like the brochure that was in the conference bag.

Man:             Okay, so, there's two different versions of the brochure?

Dirk Krischenowski:    Yes, one for – that we have in the bag and this one.

Man:             So, which one do you have in Berlin?

Dirk Krischenowski:    This one.

Man:             Okay, the high quality one.

((Crosstalk))

Man:             How many copies?

Dirk Krischenowski:    300.

Man:             Sorry?

Dirk Krischenowski:    300.

Man:             Okay, 300 so for the government or for other stake holders which might be interested there.

((Crosstalk))

Man:             But is there some left that were in the bags?

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski:     You may ask and so, again, thank you for providing so many pictures and links and something like this we were as we said at our meeting in Strasburg, we will work on putting these pictures on a let's say a tumbler install or other accounts or our examples of domains in the world become even more visible and we have really great pictures with high resolution and so, that's absolutely fantastic.  Thank you for that.

Sebastien Ducos: Okay, can we move, yes, sorry.

Sue Schuler:        I apologize for those of you that are standing, I'm working on getting you some chairs.

Sebastien Ducos: I think we can keep on going.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: And can we.

((Crosstalk))

Man:                So, (Annie) asked me to put a little bit back into the schedule so could we switch three and four probably?

Sebastien Ducos: Yes.

((Crosstalk))

Man:                Yes, so, this is alternate?

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: We have somebody coming in to present so maybe Tony if you can take it, so, go to forward with the picture of Donna, we prefer putting a picture of Donna than (Tony) for obvious reasons.

((Crosstalk))

Tony Kirsch: I'm not sure why, it's very hurtful.

((Crosstalk))

Dirk Krischenowski: This article was also published a week ago.

Tony Kirsch: Great, hello everyone, my name is (Tony Kush), I am running the advisory business at New Star, sadly to Sebastien we are colleagues although not necessarily always in agreement, but we for some of you who may not have seen this article that we've published, I guess just as a quick background, as an organization, you know, we're a very firm believer in new top level domains, we manage over 200 of them but some as a back end and some as a front end, but more important than that we're a believer in innovation. And the innovation that we believe needs to create.

So, you know, I'm fortunate enough I get to work with some existing GOTLDs, more importantly I guess for the benefit of this room is I help a lot of CDs who would like one in the second round. And there is an increasing frustration that I think they believe and certainly I will echo, is that while the subsequent procedures and policy of work is underway, we are deeply concerned as to what looks like a ten-year gap between application rounds. And irrespective of your views on what our obligations are at a policy level, I think it's embarrassing for us as an industry to not be moving towards this and I do say that most of you in here would understand that having a second round or a next round of applications is a good thing for your projects, I don't think it's necessarily competition if another city has one for example.

But we're a firm believer that we need to at least put this proposal out to the community, we don't expect that it's perfect, we fully expect a lot of conversation and questions, so, you know, I invite you to feel free to come and grab me after this or feel free to engage either Sebastien or I on the topic.

But put simply, our proposed model for implementation supports the subsequent procedures working group, but it does talk about it more at an implementation level. And the fundamental element to that is we believe that should start as soon as possible. It is deeply concerning to us that there is no budget from ICANN to be doing a second round nor the systems that are required to do that. And I think most people would understand that at the moment this is a significant chance of being well over ten years between application rounds.

So, our proposal is designed to reduce friction and enable the board to move forward with an application round and a decision to start the implementation process as quickly as possible. So, some of that is documented in the article that you can see on the screen on circle ID. Other parts of it on here to share with you today and invite questions and comments and concerns.

So, together we can work on a model that we think is acceptable to the community to start getting this moving as quickly as possible. So, as I said, the first part of our objective was to make a situation palatable for the board to move forward as quickly as possible. And at a high level, what that means is keeping most elements of the original application process the same.

Now this is controversial for many people, honestly, I'm not sure I necessarily at a personal level support all of them, but I do support the idea that any large change is going to cause delay. So, the things around applicant guidebooks, registry agreements and things which we all know are not perfect, I believe we're at sort of an interesting time in our journey and that we are better to

deal with things that are not perfect rather than risk not having another round at all for an extended period of time.

So, the key part of this that I think is relevant for this audience, in addition to just the general movement that we're trying to share with you, is that we're proposing that the next round be done in a phased approach. And our proposal is that the first phase would be restricted to brand top level domains or spec top level domains followed by six months for a round of geographic top-level domains followed by a six-month delay to an open, generic community TLD type approach.

And we believe strongly that those three phases give us the best opportunity as a community to move towards a new top-level domain program. So, I realize what room I'm in, and I do realize I just talked about having brands go second with sorry, CDs or GOs go second, so, I didn't bring a helmet but the idea of this I think is going to make it more palatable for the board. Okay, there are some TLDs in the geographic sort of cross-over with brand that are still highly contentious, the work track five group is still debating all of the elements of that and I think for a number of other reasons that I'll pause in a second and just see if there's any questions or comments around it.

The idea of having a structured three part or three phased process I think is going to be easier for the board to adapt and adopt. And I think it also creates benefits also for GOTLDs and subsequent parts of the phases. But none the less, the overarching component of the proposal as you can read in the article and we'll be doing more of this through sharing our blueprint for the strategy, is that we would do it as a guaranteed approach, six months delay if the work track five wasn't completed we would still move into the GO rounds within six months.

So, to reiterate, we're talking about a brand top-level domain phase, six-month delay to a GO phase and then a six-month delay to a generic community phase. So, I'll pause there for a second to see if there's any

questions and then if anyone is interested, I'm happy to elaborate on more details at the implementation plan.

Sebastien Ducos: So, this is Sebastien, the chair of this group and not new staff, first of all, I want to acknowledge the fact that not everybody in this room is directly impacting or wanting a next round. Some of you might represent a city, you already have your TLD you're not interested by anything else than that. We continue believing, even if that's the case for you, that the more the merrier, the more cities around the world that there are, the more pertinent your city becomes in this environment.

So, I think for me, the conversation is pertinent for everybody. The second and first question I know that you have thoughts about, but you haven't said it, when do you suggest these phases would start? How soon?

Tony Kirsch: Yes, so, the article refers to a very aggressive timeline, which would be the first round beginning in October 2019, thus requiring significant activity from ICANN to build the implementation process as quickly as possible, but because we're also keeping the process very similar to what it was in the first round, the IEA evaluation process and application, the building of the systems should not be that complicated. So, it's an aggressive timeline, so, to elaborate, it would October 2019 for brand round, I think that works out to be April 2020 for a GEO round and then obviously October 2020 would be giving enough time for the policy development. But I think it's necessary for community and open TLDs.

Ronald Schwaerzler: This is Ronald for the record, (Tony), you mentioned the one thing for us a GO brands going first, GOs coming second, suppose there is a brand named like a city, in the former rounds application guidebook 2012, there was a GO evaluation panel, as you said, both being more or less the same so, this application would be somehow put on hold and needed a governmental support letter, and so, this brand could not go through, right?

Tony Kirsch:     So, the existing objection process Ronald, would be in place.  So, if it was for example, a city and in the first phase a brand applied for a matching term to the city, they would be able to object to it and it would put that TOD on hold. So, it wouldn't go through the evaluation process, that is one of the pillars of the proposals.

So, to elaborate even further on that, there would be concerns and justifiable concerns from some people who may represent a city or interested in this process from a GOTLD perspective, I think the two risk that I've identified are what happens if there are let's exaggerate for illustration, 10,000 brands that apply, what does that mean to cities or GOs that apply as phase two, that's one concern.  And then the second one is how do we know that once the brand round occurs, that ICANN will follow through and actually deliver the second phase?

So, I think the easiest way to answer this is that the idea that we're proposing and our thoughts are that this is not about delegation timing, this is about application timing, okay?  I'll refer in a moment to why I think this is a good idea for the GOs, but just for simplicity now, what we're proposing is we know that there is going to need a prioritization rule, okay?  As there was in the first round.  Now for a variety of reasons ICANN can't see a method for them to be able to deal with, even if it's 500, there has to be some order of who does first, whether it's signing a registry agreement or delegating or so on.

What we are suggesting is that each of the phases has its own prioritization drawer.  So, let's say for illustration that there is a .phase book that is in the first phase, they magically pull out number one out of the prioritization and there is a city of Chicago who applies.  So, .Chicago they can also have a number one, so, effectively each of the three phases has its own prioritization drawer.  And the way that we built this in our proposal to make it fair for cities, is that at any point where ICANN needs to pull a number, for example, to order of a process, that if it was number 2 it would follow number 1, okay? So, even if you may not have applied for a six-month delay for .Chicago, you

would be able to enter the process of ICANN review delegation registry agreements at the relevant point where your number is.

So, if it's very difficult to draw it without a picture but the idea being that you're not disadvantaged because you were delayed, and if there are 10,000 brands, I mean, we don't know if there's going to be a group issue of a 1,000, maybe there is, maybe there isn't, but either way, there still needs to be a level of fairness and I think we own the fairness component by saying that a GO could indeed have a number 1 and go faster than brand number 2 or 3. If that's clear.

((Crosstalk))

Woman:         I'm just saying it seems to us more complexity to the whole thing, it doesn't sound clear, sorry I apologize for the way I'm saying it.

Tony Kirsch:    No, that's okay. Perhaps it might be easier if we could have a conversation afterwards and I can maybe draw a little something but I don't know if I can explain it my tired jet lagged English any better than what I did.

Man:           So, my personal feeling is it's a trade off because of the very vertical standing of the trademark holders letting them go first seems like a success to them and having a six-month delay and sort of tentative as it happens isn't a real issue to a city, especially if it's guaranteed that there is no prioritization queue, yes? So, my personal feeling is okay, the city of whoever in Vienna would apply, wouldn't have imagined trademark would be somewhere in the first of COs and then to enter whatever delegation or evaluation process. If there was a mark called fast forward and the city applies six months later it will be on the same track, on the same set or when the contention set because it has the letter of support from the government and the brand does not have so, to one application that will lose has been entered six months before. So, I don't see a real disadvantage for the COs. That is my personal view again, let us give to brands this feeling of having an advantage of having

a victory and gain that we will bid in the application phase in let's say April 2020.

It is not an opinion that we have somehow discussed on, it's my personal, but I would be willing to accept the six months being six months later I don't see a direct advantage to possible applications that would be input by me as others.

Katrin Ohlmer:    Katrin Ohlmer for the record, Berlin, I think one point what we all learned in the past few years, decades whatever, how long we are participating in ICANN that there are no guarantees and certainties at ICANN.  So, even if ICANN were to say yes, we guarantee you by whatever that there will be next round within six months, I wouldn't do any bet on that, that this guarantee is ever going to happen, right?  This is effect so, this is certainly a flaw in the model which I mean, it's great that you proposed the model and it's great that things move forward, but I don't see how we can – we can't enforce any kind of ICANN reach to do this and that, we cannot enforce that, right?

So, another topic which is probably up for debate, I mean, I know this model by what you – and this is not what – you didn't have the chance to present this whole model right now, so, I think one of the reasons to propose the brands go first is that they were not controversial and honestly, I don't agree with this kind of assumption because .Amazon and .Patagonia were the most controversial applications out there and my expectation would be from the ICANN board and organization view that let's say there will be another application like .Amazon, this will bring the whole process to a stop and then coming back to guarantees, there won't be any guarantees.  So, these are just two small examples and further down the process and I think we are supposed to talk afterwards about my kind of potential things and ideas why we as a GO group can support this proposal, there are some more down the process where there might be further disadvantages for potential GOTD applicants, not only for the applicants but also which who might have an impact on how we as GOTD upper right now and how we want new GOTDs be at the same level so that the trust and confidence and all those things

which really make up this good message of a GOTD still remain even in the next round and have this message of GOTDs being a very good example of the expansion of the internet remains unchanged.  Thank you.

Sebastien Ducos:  So, we've all addressed – sorry, question?

Neil Dundas:  Yes, Neil Dundas from DAR Africa, and I think a large portion of the support you could get for this would be the – would get ICANN to agree to unblocking the process and starting in October next year.  And you might find some compromise from different constituencies to say well, if we can achieve that we're prepared to compromise and allow the brands to go first.  I think would be from our perspective a pretty good idea.

However, if the principle of letting the brands go first is not – we're not able to achieve the October 2019 start and it's pushed out to 2020 or 2021, I think you'll get a different level of support.  I don't think in principle we would all support .brands going first but if it's a means of unblocking and getting ICANN to do something, then perhaps it's very much tied to that deadline or that start date.

Tony Kirsch:  Yes, and that's a great point Neil, the original proposal, just to give you a little bit of a sense of the history here was to have brands and GOs first.  The over riding assumption to get brands and GOs together, the over riding part of our proposal was driven by the need to go as quickly as possible.  Because we believe that as a community we have a responsibility to keep innovating and the fact that we did it once and then we waited ten years as a community, is in my opinion unacceptable.

So, I agree with what you're saying and we believe that proposal is designed to actually achieve that.  But I think if we take brands and GOs together, and say to the board we're ready to do this, because of work track five and because of .Amazon, it falls apart.

So, we didn't want to do it this way, in complete candor, we see that having through all of the permutations and ways that it can go, that this is the most palatable, low risk effort for the board to do and it helps to Ronald's point, it helps with promotion, brands obviously, will be high level of promotion and so on.

And I also think it creates visibility for a potential geographic applicant. Right now, if you're sitting at home and as a government and you're saying, we might like to apply for .Chicago. And there happens to be for example a trademark out of nowhere, let's assume there was a trademark, right now you have an objection process that if someone applies you will be able to object to them. Or you need to be in contention, and I know many clients that I've worked with have applied to protect against the possibility of contention. Because the objection process, if you look at what happens for everyone that's still going through it, it's long, it's expensive and you don't really ever get a resolution.

So, because they would be in multiple prioritization drawers, one for the brands, one for the GOs, the brand at least would be public before the opening of the application round for the GOs. So, I actually think it helps a government to sit there and say well no one applied in the brand element of the phase and we don't really want it. So, now we don't feel compelled to apply.

So, I think the visibility is one of the most important parts for our government looking to apply for a geographic TLD. If you know that the brands have gone before you, yes, they've built some publicity, I can see some arguments of the benefits of that. But you also get to see do you have a problem, right now if we pull brands and GOs together you don't have that luxury. And you will at least for some of the people I work with, feel obligated to apply to put yourself in contention when you might not really want to.

If this was nine months, twelve months, eighteen months delay I could appreciate that many people in here would say no, that's pretty hard to deal with. We're talking six months and deliberately six months, it's not that long but it's designed to be long enough to give ICANN come comfort, let the stress and the resources and all of the things that we know that are going to happen if we push forward on a fast implementation model, but have it so close that you not only get visibility and, you know, predictability, you'll be able to see how many brands there were, you'll no doubt be able to see a likely rate of delegation because let's be honest, we know it's not going to be 10,000 GOs, there probably won't be 10,000 brands but, you know, at best it might be 100 or 200.

Man:                     So, the danger we face then, sorry Sebastien, the danger we face is the fact that ICANN might cherry pick this blueprint and take certain elements out of it which sort of destroys our thinking. I think it makes sense as a – it could make sense as a collective use of the blueprint but the danger is once it's presented and they take what they want and we get some sort of consensus whenever it launches, that becomes a problem I think.

((Crosstalk))

Tony Kirsch:          And that's frankly why I'm here. I mean, this is just one, you know, group of people's opinions, we believe strongly that we need to have a model that does it. But we're also not blind to the fact that if we don't present this as a community that it will be subject to cherry picking and things like that, which is not what we want.

                          So, the reason I'm not only in this room but the reason I'm in Barcelona is to spend more time to try and work with the other SOs and ACs to see what is palatable and what's the final mode that we can put forward to the board. We need to do the board a favor, because right now they're in an impossible situation.

Sebastien Ducos: Sorry to interrupt, we've already spent fifteen minutes on this and I've got a tight schedule, Katrin and you guys wanted to make a comment.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: To Katrin first, just one, (Tony) is going to be all here week we can talk about it later also afterwards. We are going to have a discussion with the BRG, (Tony) is going to talk to the BRG and we'll have a discussion also with the BRG to try to formulate something together that words, we'd like to also to keep a united voice as much as possible, if not possible then we can't. So, those who want to be part of that conversation, come to me afterwards and we'll do that. In order to have again, the aim is to have the ball rolling on something but it needs to be something that is also palatable to us and that we can agree on.

So, Katrin.

Katrin Ohlmer: Yes, Katrin Ohlmer again, so, two points on this visibility advantage, my impression is that the visibility of geographic domain names is much higher than the one of brands. So, for a second my .Berlin hat on, we know there are 100,000 of domains of which probably half of them are in use and the geographic TODs whereas we have an extremely limited number of active brand domain names. So, I think saying that this has the visibility is probably not really correct.

Another point on the visibility you mentioned that if this brand application list will then be published and cities have six months' time to decide oh, that looks like my brand name and I'm going to pursue an application, I think I'm not sure whether cities really work that way and think that way. And even if they would do so, at least in Germany six months would be an extremely aggressive time line to get anywhere, if there's political decision process involved you might as well have years to get that through and then there might be people who change because the party is not getting voted again,

then you have new representatives and the city administration and so on and so forth.

So, I doubt that the six month period between those two application windows would be sufficient for any – for most, probably most not all, but most of the geographic applicants to be able to determine whether they are going to apply and we're not talking about a budge of 5K, we're talking about serious money and a long time invest and it's nothing which is just made in between whatever talks to determine if they are going to apply. And if they were to apply still six months period to get all the stuff together is really ambitious, right? So, I'm not sure if this also really applies to cities.

Mathieu Mlsna: Yes, thank you Katrin for reminding us of these facts that they are more GeoTLDs, so my name is Mathieu, I'm from the PVH. I just want to express a simple opinion, thank you for this proposal, but I strongly disagree with your argument, that will literally put the private interest first instead of public interest. That's a fact, so, if there are other places to discuss and because there's a long debate I don't want to get into the details here, but I just want to express that this puts private interest first. The interest of the brands and also the interest of I don't know whether it's a community or people sitting back and providing solutions so, it has to be used carefully in this community otherwise it's – we should be careful with that, thanks.

Sebastien Ducos: Okay, thank you very much. This is definitely an open debate, you will be outside the room after and we can continue that. I'm very sorry to cut a good conversation that we have going but the show must move on. Maybe just one second for (Dick) because you're the one who prepared this slide, did you want to say something about that last slide?

Dirk Krischenowski: That was exactly what Katrin was saying.

Sebastien Ducos: Okay, good. Can we move on?

((Crosstalk))

Woman:          Yes.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: Yes, so.

((Crosstalk))

Sue Schuler:     One more?

((Crosstalk))

Dirk  Krischenowski:   Yes, that was just a slide to give an impression where I compared the top ten city top level domain names and I have a graphic on one side and you see on the other side the number of names and scale and then the bottom side is the number of domain names per inhabitant.  So, that gives the impression where your TOD might be if you put all city TODs and other geographic regions and separate chart and where can it go through?  Interestingly London, NYC and Tokyo although having many domains, have not much penetration.

That is exactly in this picture it comes out how much potential they would have and how good developed like Boston or Amsterdam or Vegas or Cologne and that was just one thing I wanted to say on this.  So, then the slides.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: The slides will be under the GeoTLD but you will get high quality slides on our Website.

(Anya Elsing):     My name is (Anya Elsing), I'm representing .ruhr and first of all, I would like to introduce our TLD and .ruhr and the region to you by a very nice video and I would like (Sue) if you could type in your browser this very nice domain name, Metropola.ruhr, it's the main internet address of our local entity and they have a huge campaign internationally for the whole region and I would like to show you this, okay.  No?  It's the Metropola.  I don't think we have a universal acceptance problem here.

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     Hopefully we don't have.  So, and there you have this video on this internet, is it not working?  Okay, it's working yes?

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     On the internet.

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     Okay, when you scroll down you see the movie, watch movie.

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     Okay, so, when you scroll down you need to change the English version, okay, it's just under the .ruhr next to the yes, and when you scroll down you see, yes and there you can switch to the English version or the Chinese version but we, not Chinese, okay.

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     Okay, and if you go a little bit down you will find this, yes, there is the video.

((Crosstalk))

(Anya Elsing):     Okay, this is – okay if you can see, this region.ruhr is a very industrial region as you see on this picture, and especially you see on this region is that it combines 53 cities, so, the campaign is called the City of Cities because this region contains of 53 cities and for all the cities it's very important because we have this industrial history and a lot of space, old industrial space that is not used anymore.

For the region it's very important that they get investors from other countries to do their investment in this region. So, they decided due to this regional campaign to make a new platform for investment and you find this platform. (Sue), I'm sorry, when we do not have voice and it's not so maybe we can switch to the presentation now.

So, the invest.ruhr is the first digital platform for real estate for a whole region, because all the mayors of the 53 cities, they realized okay, when I do go to other countries in order to get investors, these investors like China, they do not know about a small city like Essen, they do not know about a small city like Bohme, that is for this region.

So, they said okay, let's do the work all together, we'll make a whole platform for the whole region and if you could click (Sue), yes, this is also a video maybe if you want you can show it or look at it on YouTube, you can find it there if you type in invest.ruhr and this investment platform gives you all the numbers, all the relevant information you need in order to get a great overview about investment possibilities you have.

And if you could also click (Sue), the whole region did a very huge campaign, we have in Munich one of the biggest cities in the whole of Germany, we have this very important exposition for real estate, it's I think the largest in whole Europe and you have an impression here from how our TLD .ruhr and the Metropolis presented itself there, you can see there the headline, one Metropolis and 2000 hectors space for investment. So, in order to catch and

get the people on there exposition.  If you could click once again (Sue), please.

You can see the URL was always promoted with a QR code and if you could also click once again, they did a very huge campaign in order to get the relevant people to visit their exhibition on this, and if you could click again, you can see here the campaign and if you click again please, this was also very smart, this is in Munich and the Metropolis did a small commercial and to translate it, Munich is a small village with the prices of a huge Metropolis and then it says please meet the opposite in the Metropolis ruhr because we have a lot of space and we are much, much cheaper than the big cities and it was a very smart thing and built as one of Europe's biggest newspaper and they made a big story about it because it was really a very smart how the ruhr region did their commercial for the region in another city.

And if you could also click once again (Sue), here you have another impression of Munich, it's the (Unintelligible) Museum, very famous and you have to realize that a lot of visitors came from other countries, investors from other countries came and saw this.  And if you could click again please, I think we come to the – it's yes, I think it's done.  So, it's a very smart and a very good example how a whole region gets more and more together and how the TLD.ruhr makes a very important reunion of this big cities that are in this region because all the smaller cities, we have 53 of them, they really realized okay, if we do just commercial for our city we have a problem, we have to do something together and therefore this new platform like Metropola.ruhr or invest.ruhr is a very good sign, also what Katrin said before, that the geo-TLDs are doing a lot of commercials and they are seen in the wild and it was really, really interesting.

We have also another platform, it's called Imobilian.mac(Unintelligible).ruhr where investors can also find interesting and very good information about the whole market and the whole region.  So, thank you very much.  If you have questions, please let me know.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  For the record this is Ronald, especially this example is not – joking now yes, just to say it once – it's not just for investors, it's joking on the Bavarians, right?

((Crosstalk))

Ronald Schwaerzler:  In a Germany country.

(Anya Elsing):  But never the less, never the less.  The message is we have enough space and it's very cheap in our area.  So, just have a look there, yes.  Okay, other questions?  Thank you.

Sebastien Ducos: Thank you (Anya).  We'll go to the presentation for DSH, we have somebody coming from (unintelligible) to present the product that they were.

((Crosstalk))

Man:  Gill is already here.

Sebastien Ducos: Oh, okay, so, we'll do the DSH and then the videos, okay, so, Mathieu do you want to present your idea?

Mathieu:  Yes, it will just take a few minutes, this is actually what – this is not about domain names per say, it's not about putting emojis in domain names, so, there has been discussions and it's a no-no for now, our project at .busyday is to create an emoji for the flag of the region, for the flag of Brittany. Because our interest in representing our regional identity online and we thought that it might interest a few of you around the table.

So, we've filed an application to UNICO to the UNICO consortium, they are responsible for emerging emojis worldwide.  This application was not successful and we intend to present a new case next year and we are

thinking of putting a case of many regions at the same time because beyond UNICO is actually Google, Apple, Facebook and some other big shots like that.  So, we need to show them that there is a market, there is an interest and again, we have large communities and we think that we could have a successful – we can build a successful case with a couple of regions.

So, if you are interested in the project, you can come to me and to my colleagues and we'll be happy to share details and discuss this further. Thanks Sebastien for letting me plug this.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  Ronald for the record, it is not about creating a domain name with these emojis, it is about creating an emoji that could be used in a Facebook or in a what's up or whatever conversation, right?

((Crosstalk))

Mathieu:        Sorry, yes, it's to put an emoji in your phone, in everybody's phone.  That's the first step yes.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  And the steps in ICANN world is years and years.  The reason why I'm asking is a few of you have been in Vancouver where I presented that we have some emoji domains registered like a glass of wine, like an airplane or something, we have been forbidden that, we had to delete them last week so, without any discussions, with ICANN they said no, it has to be deleted so there is no way at the moment to get an emoji domain name but if you have the emoji we could probably together then re-approach and it will take years as we know, but this is about creating an emoji in general.

Mathieu:        Yes, and if you are interested in this topic, there is currently a working group at the CCNSO working on experiments by some CCs that they can actually use different standards than the ICANN requirements so, there is a study at the CCNSO and everything is online.

Tony Kirsch:     Just a question for everyone, has anyone done this or asked ICANN through
                an app, is anyone aware of someone that has asked ICANN about emojis in
                new TLDs?  I don't – sorry.

Man:             There was a letter not maybe year and this month, yes, the final letter that
                emojis are a bad idea, I don't remember the details but it was something
                about emojis can be IDNs but there is a set of IDNs that there's a technical
                standard, it's called IDN 2008 and this is a requirement for any ICANN
                contracted party.  So, that's why it's not possible.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  To admit that it happens to us but emojis like an airplane, so, let's say
                airplane.wein was registered or a glass of red wine.wein was registered by
                accident, obviously, there is a demand, they want to use it you could access it
                over the iPhone or however, but we were strictly enforced to have that
                deleted and we deleted it last week.  So, no discussion about hey, it's part of
                a language, no, delete it and case is closed.

Sebastien Ducos: Thank you very much, Mathieu.  So, now we'll go to the presentation by
                sorry, I didn't catch your name.

((Crosstalk))

(Victorio Beltora):     I'm (Victorio Beltora) from Open Exchange, which is the parent company
                of Power Lines and one of the companies that is promoting ID for me.  Yes,
                no, I don't think we have slides, it was just yes, it's just I was told they have
                them for fifteen minutes that's why we decided not to have slides and just to
                summarize a little bit of the project.  I think many people maybe already heard
                about it because the ID for me project has been circulating around ICANN
                and around the domain name industry for a while now.

                And the idea basically is to well, at the same time solve one of the common
                problems of the internet user which is managing user names and passwords

and log ins. And create a driver for the sale of domain names, especially personal domain names.

So, promoting the DNS is directly for identities and not just as a directory for hosts and other technical services. So, I mean, basically this was a project, this was launched by Danica that thought the registry by one and by us, but now there is more companies joining the project and promoting it. And how it works is that basically we are creating a single sign on system much like the log in with Google, log in with Facebook that you can find almost everywhere now a days.

But differently from the services by Google, Facebook and the other big OTTs, this is meant to be open and federated. So, the idea is that you only need to implement it once and you as a Website will be able to receive log ins with identities that are released by any participating parties or any number of identify providers. And from the other side, it seems no other companies are big enough like a Google or Facebook to be able to put in their own identity system and get the Websites to support it. This is the idea that I mean, we can get the Websites which implement one more log in box, log in mechanism and support any number of identity providers from everywhere around the world.

And this would also be beneficial for the user, but in general I think that everyone agrees that some form of single sign on system which you only have one user name and password to log into any Website over the internet is desirable because now a days people have either a hundred different names and passwords and maybe some people can use password managers, but most people use the same user name and same password everywhere. Or use the log in systems by which work very well, but of course, are controlled by a single company and so they don't give you much privacy, much choice and they go through the centralization of the internet which is something we don't really like.

And so, I mean, technically speaking, this is almost just a standard open ID connector base system, I don't know if anyone is familiar with that, it's now commonly being used for shared or distributed single sign on systems, but we are adding in front a GNS based mechanism for identity discovery. So, basically, through a GNS record that has to be created, the Website can learn which provider is managing a given identity, we are using DNS self-identifiers so, as user names and through that, I mean, the Website can actually learn which identity provider is allowing that entity and then perform the normal standard of open ID connect log in process.

And we also are trying to mimic the business dynamics of the domain name industry since we have in the project some domain name people, so, we have separated the roles and in our ID for me environment, there are basically registries which we call identity authorities which are the entities that actually manage the credentials of the user and they are the only ones having access to the passwords. So, I mean, one of the advantages of such a system is that they use only the ever end of their password to affect authentication or whatever into a single place with the authority and everyone has all the Websites don't get to see it so they cannot leak it.

And, I mean, the other is the identity agents which are basically the registrars and so, they're the people that are taking care of the customer relationship and actually providing the service and managing the user information. But in the end, nothing prevents for the roles to be collapsed into a single entity.

So, what is interesting for PLDs when in general I think it's interesting for everyone that lives on selling domain names because I mean, domain names have been used mostly for Web and for email, but this could be a third driver, a third reason why you would want to have your own domain name, especially a personal one since this is going to be your identify over the internet, so, it makes sense to have it under your own name and also of course, if you own the domain name much like email for email addresses, you can port your identity between different providers so, you can do it just

with each provider if you don't like and at the same time it's a way to have your brand, or your DLD or your company name if you're a company giving identities to make it circulate by having the users use it as an identity to log in.

The project has been, as I say, experimental for almost a couple of years now, so, we now have a fully working prototype we have a library which is released and some Websites actually already implemented that will in box. So, we are in a pre-launch phase, we are looking forward to a launch possibly in Germany because of course, most of the initial participating players are in Germany, so, we're ready to have a German launch next year in the first half of next year. And then at the same time extend it to other countries. So, what we are looking now is we are looking for people and companies that are in the space and are interested in trying it and experimenting with it, giving us feedback and also possibly adopting it and maybe starting to give away identities. It is for free to promote, I mean, we are business agnostics so we will see how the market will evolve this.

We also have incorporated a profit organization in Belgium which will allow all participating parties to have a say in that development of the standard. So, if you want you can become a member and have a voice, elect a board and so.

Sebastien Ducos: Thank you very much (Victorio), any questions?

Dirk Krischenowski: Yes, Dirk Krischenowski of Berlin, I just want to add on that we are supporting this initiative started by one and one and the registrar and Danick has named partners, we are supporting this initiative this too because we think that our government in Berlin and like your governments, all are going to implement the single sign on once only lock in for the government who services at one time in the future or have experimenting a bit at the moment. And we think there's a niche for us to go in and help them based on .Berlin to create identities for the citizens of Berlin, which they also like and from your name at ID.Berlin could be the string where you log in by, your government

services and that's why we're supporting this and I think it's quite interesting to see because it's open and the difference is from other services, it's really open source or open source faced instead of being word gone like other systems.

(Victorio Beltora):     Yes, I just wanted to add that in Europe at least there are some public identity like in Europe, this is not the completion for these kinds of services because at the same time it's unlikely that global Websites will use the European public entity service for log in and at the same time, you maybe don't want to give all your verified through the identity and pieces of data to any global Website, so, maybe you want to have just a subset of data, so, there is some space for having your identities which are partly in compliance with the public entity and support the ID for me project so they can be used on any kind of Website around the globe.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  Ronald for the record, (Victorio), if I got it right, participating with my domain name in this project, getting an ID for me, a digital ID, is technically adding a text record in the DNS?

(Victorio Beltora):     Yes, basically to make a new identifier you would create a new account, you only need to create this DNS cycle of course, then someone has to manage the authority part.  So, I mean if you also want to become an authority you have to deploy basically a standard open ID connect server, which there are many of them even open source with a few modifications that are standard, but yes.

Ronald Schwaerzler:  But this will be in addition, having our customers, our registrants are the ones who buy for example .wein domain names, having the possibility to have a digital ID, they need some registrar who basically puts a text record in the DNS and there will be no additional – unless they want to do some additional things like having an owner authorization server or whatever you call it, and would have to do nothing but have an additional selling argument to let's say Viennese people, you can have your email if you're by a .wein,

domain name pointing to the city where you live, you can have your Website pointing to the city where you live and you can have your digital ID. So, it would give them a third reason, at least a third reason, to have a domain name.

I don't think personally I don't think that we will have another source of income because it's technically it's really just adding a text record. It is probably an additional income for a registrar if it can sell it as an addition to free DNS services and a fifth email address or whatever, but for the registry it's another selling argument and the thing that (Dick) just said, if the city of Berlin for example, for its public interest service, if you have a .Berlin email address you will have access by using this kind of ID, digital ID. It would be advantageous for us to have let's say a promotional or yes, not a selling argument, yes.

(Victorio Beltora): Yes, I agree, this is, I mean, I think in general this is the main reason why we see people in this space doing it.

Sebastien Ducos: Thank you very much, I really feel bad for stopping good conversations here again, but (Victorio), you'll be around this week, we'll be able to catch you. We have ten minutes left and some policy items that we wanted to talk about, particularly given the fact that we still have a week to go and discuss this with our peers. And so, I'll pass the mic to Katrin if you want to start.

Katrin Ohlmer: Thanks Sebastien, so, (Sue) can you – perfect, thank you. So, okay, so, anyway, I gave this policy update in Strasbourg and since then some things happened, so, I want to give you a brief update on what happened since we – since September, right? So, that's one month.

We filed the comment on the initial report on the new GDT procedures policy or process and thanks to (Trafnick) and thanks to Sebastien for putting this comment together. That was really helpful, yes, so, we filed the comment on September 26th together with many others, now the working group divided in

three new working groups to get through all the comments. I'm proud of all three working groups and we can try to find common denominators and differences between all the comments we received. The work will start next week, we will have in each group one-hour calls per week until the end of February and the work is supposed to end in June, July with the final report on the work group one to four.

So, that's one track where we have this update that things are really moving forward. Work track five about the geo names, still not a lot of movement especially due to these debates on the .Amazon Patagonia cases, where we have those two different parties or positions how to handle geographic names. Still the initial report is supposed to be published end of November roughly, then we will have the 40-day comment period meaning that we'll have until the beginning of January to file comments which we will necessarily have to do, so, I start drafting as I'm participating in the work track 5 sessions since it's initiation, but any volunteers there, someone who is participating right now or October, that would be really appreciated, just send me an email if you have some hours between end of November and early 2019 to draft our comments for the group.

And with this, I'm handing over to Sebastien.

Sebastien Ducos: Okay, thank you. So, you started saying you presented this in Strasbourg and have news since, well I presented mine in Strasbourg and have no news since. So, as you may know, there is a EPDP going on for exactly a year in order to resolve not GDPR but the way we implement the GDPR, we are under temporary measures right now that need to be resolved by if not completely wrong, end of June next year.

We've got seven, eight months to resolve this issue, the issue basically is who is, who can access, who can – who holds the data, who's responsible, who access it and etcetera. It's discussions that have been had for ten years

and didn't find resolution and its discussions that we need now to resolve in a few months.

We were – I was asked and representing the GeoTLDs to be a shadow member of the Registries Stakeholder group team. There are three members of the Registries Stakeholder group that are members of that team that can speak, I'm a silent partner, almost waiting for somebody to follow or throw this out, do we need to revive you?

((Crosstalk))

Man:                You said you were a silent member.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: And the reality is I have very little to report in the sense that these are discussions that are going in circles, these are discussions with people that have very, very strong views that don't match, these are discussions that I fail honestly to see how we're going to resolve in so few months. I think that there is a massive problem with not understanding what consensus looks like or how consensus is reached and people that have had these discussions for so long that they've grown absolutely used and comfortable into arguing for the sake of arguing. But that's my own personal view, again, I'm a silent partner so, I can't present that to the room but it's absolutely maddening, it's hours of discussions per week, it's hours of reading stuff per week just to be able to keep up. Our job here is just to be on standby and ready to jump in when or if somebody can't do it anymore on the team.

And it's an excruciating process, the day I have news I'll share it but today, very little. This gives me four minutes to close and I wanted to close with an invitation, more than an invitation, be there, Wednesday afternoon there's a whole afternoon dedicated to GOTLDs, organized by core, organized with the city of Barcelona, organized with us, not sure how we fit in let's say, there will

be a round table, there will be presentations, you will be presenting, I'll be conducting a round table with a few of you, there will be another round table, I know that Lori Ann, you're also presenting, you're presenting to a number of us are presenting all of you should be there. It should be interesting, we're trying to raise again, awareness for what we're doing, awareness for the need in front of public about the cities, interested parties, people that want to partake in this in the future and we need to make it sound great, it is great, so, let's explain it, that's it.

Thank you very much, thank you very much for everybody accepting to play the clock here in getting us arriving on time. We've got three minutes left so, mingle amongst yourself and see you on Wednesday. Thank you.

((Crosstalk))

Sebastien Ducos: Sorry, one last thing we have a traditional group photo, Norma had the idea and brought a drone to take an aerial picture of us, sadly enough we're not in North America where rights and restrictions on flights and things like that are very different, here, it's absolutely impossible to do it, but we still can all line up and try to do a picture. I think that wall will be easiest but we've got the sun in the back so it's probably not the best sort of picture. But I'll let the photographers direct us.

Sue Schuler: And because there are so many of us in the room, if a few people want to come down in the front I will try and get up on a chair to get a better – so I can get everybody's face.

END