GNSO PDP Working Group
'Review of all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs'
http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/rpm

Thomas Schneider
Chair, Governmental Advisory Committee

Wednesday 25 May 2016

Re: Request for Input

Dear Thomas,

We write as the Co-Chairs of the GNSO's Review of all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs PDP Working Group (WG).

As you may be aware, the GNSO Council recently initiated a Policy Development Process (PDP) on the Review of all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The relevant Issue Report can be found here. As you know, RPMs are concerned with those policies and processes, developed in consultation with the ICANN community, which are aimed at combatting cyber-squatting and providing workable mechanisms for trademark owners to either prevent or remedy certain illegitimate uses of their trademarks in the DNS while giving domain owners a fair opportunity to defend their accused domains.

This has lead to the formation of this Working Group which, by its Charter, has been tasked with assessing the effectiveness of the relevant RPMs and to study whether or not all the RPMs collectively fulfill the purposes for which they were created. A more detailed background is available online on the WG's Wiki.

This work will be conducted in two phases. In Phase One (expected to run through January of 2018), the WG will study only:

- the Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedures (PDDRPs);
- the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH) and the associated availability through the TMCH of Sunrise periods and the Trademark Claims notification service; and
- the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS)

After completion of Phase One, the WG will move on to Phase Two in which it will study the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP).

To successfully complete our task we need as much input as possible from all interested persons and organizations. Please note that many specific questions have already been set out at page 5

of the Charter in list entitled "List Of Potential Issues For Consideration In This PDP" but there may be additional items which are specific to your work and which have not yet been listed. Please respond even if your concerns are included in the "List of Potential Issues". It is important that we all know not only the questions but the number of those who find them important. As part of its efforts to obtain broad input from the ICANN Community at an early stage of its deliberations, the Working Group would very much appreciate receiving your views and input. We invite you to respond particularly to the following questions:

Question 1:
What are your general views, concerns, and questions on the RPMs listed in Phase One?

Question 2:
What issues, concerning the Phase One RPMs are most relevant to your work and what do you feel it is essential that our WG be aware of or focus on as it proceeds in its tasks?

Finally, the WG is planning a data gathering effort aimed at the TMCH (relating to such issues as sunrise and trademark claims) and then at the URS.

Question 3:
What questions and specific data points would you advise the WG to pursue in this data gathering effort?

Any provision of input or information you or members of your respective communities may have (either on the charter questions or any other issue that may help inform our WG's deliberations) would be very welcome. Please send these to the GNSO Secretariat (gnso-secs@icann.org) who will forward these to the WG.

If possible, please forward your comments to us **prior to ICANN56** but no later than 5 July 2016. Ideally we would like to consider community feedback during our face-to-face session in Helsinki. Please note, if the GAC cannot submit by 5 July deadline, but you would like to contribute, please let us know when we can expect to receive your contribution so we can plan accordingly.

Your input will be very much appreciated.

With best regards,

Philip Corwin, J. Scott Evans & Kathy Kleiman (WG Co-Chairs)