



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

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Ms Heather Dryden
Chairperson
ICANN Government Advisory Body

c/o Mr Jeremy Baele
Senior Executive Secretary
ICANN Government Advisory Body
gacsec@gac.icann.org

Div. Reference:
Reg. Reference:

13 January 2012

Dear Ms Dryden,

Re: World Trade Organization (WTO) request for observer status in the ICANN Government Advisory Committee (GAC)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, devoted primarily to the negotiation, implementation, and enforcement of legally binding rules applicable to its Member governments' international trading regimes. It was established in 1994 by the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which had been providing a forum for the regulation of international trade since 1947.

As an inter-governmental organization with a mandate focused on international trade in goods and services, as well as on trade-related aspects of intellectual property, the WTO has a strong interest in following closely the evolution of internet in general and trade through internet in particular.

GAC Operating Principle 18 provides that "Representatives of invited UN Inter-governmental Organisations, non-member public authorities and other relevant entities may attend meetings of the GAC as observers, at the discretion of the Chair."

The WTO is not part of the UN system, but it works closely with a number of United Nations specialized agencies and other entities such as WIPO or UNCTAD.

In light of the above, I would be grateful if the WTO could be granted observer status in the GAC.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain at your disposal for any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yves Renouf', written over a blue line.

Yves Renouf
Legal Counsel