**Applicant Information**

**First Name:** Sebastien

**Last Name:** Ducos

**Gender:** Male

**Country of Residence:** Australia

Temporarily/midterm France due to COVID travel restrictions. Will remain in France likely for the duration of this role.

**Stakeholder Group/Constituency Affiliation:** RySG

**Please describe your qualifications with respect to the following criteria:**

1. **Understanding of the specific and limited nature of the role and ability to perform liaison duties with the necessary restraint.**

I have performed the role of Liaison for the past 2 years, as GNSO Council Liaison to the IRT on EPDP Phase I. I understand the role and believe I have performed it in an impartial manner.

While the topics discussed attract marked polarities and outcomes may significantly affect my employer or my role within it, I limit my interventions on and off the record to the Liaison role as defined in the charter given to me when I joined.

Notably, for a period of 7 months last year, I was tasked with reconciling differences on a key topic. While we were not able to resolve the differences within the IRT, I was able to bring the topic to Council and facilitate the conversation at that level, bringing all IRT views to the table. While differences were reduced at Council, a negotiated consensus was not achieved, and the matter ended up in a Council vote in January this year.

I have also been the GNSO Council Liaison the ccNSO for the last year. The role is less contentious, there are limited subjects of friction between the 2 groups.

It should be noted that the ODP is a new process and as such may require lateral thinking to resolve issues that may arise. Where these unforeseen issues will raise questions, I will bring these back to Council for guidance.

1. **Previous involvement with SubPro PDP and in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.**

I joined in January 2012, on the eve of the previous round, a Backend Registry provider (then ARI) which supported over 100 New gTLD Applications. I was instrumental in the Application development for a number of them, and successful applicants eventually became my clients, most of which I follow to this day.

I am very familiar with the Application processes, the 2012 AGB, it’s iterations and in large part with the underlying community discussions.

Further, for having guided brand applicants (my clients) through the Specification 13 negotiations, I am very familiar with it and other subsequent contract adaptations re-evaluated during SubPro. In this context I am familiar with specificities of Geographic, Community and Government applications, development, and operations.

I did not participate in SubPro per se (my name will appear on none of the transcripts) but as then Chair of the GeoTLD.group was instrumental in developing the group strategy for WT5 and followed these discussions closely.  
As part of the policy support team in my “day job” (then at Neustar) I remained informed of discussions throughout the duration of the process, supported it where required. In the last 2 years, as GNSO Councilor, was able to closely follow the reports, public comments and final reports drafting processes of the PDP. I voted his adoption in February this year.

1. **Demonstrated ability to act in a neutral manner, especially when there are divergent views within the GNSO.**

As per my answer to Question 1, I am keenly aware of the necessity of maintaining neutrality to ensure that the diversity of GNSO views are represented, and conversely that the reports a Liaison brings back to the Council are delivered in their unbiased entirety. Failure to maintain this neutrality not only discredits the Liaison, but misrepresentation or bias is bound to affect the process, generating confusion and delays.

1. **Familiarity with both the dynamics and the operations of the GNSO Council.**

I have been a GNSO Councilor for the past 2 years representing the RySG. I have been recently reelected to this position for a second mandate starting from the October ICANN AGM.

I am very familiar with the operations the GNSO. I also keenly aware of its dynamics within the Council particularly on the theme of Subsequent Procedures, and cognizant of diverging dynamics within the different SO and AC’s.

1. **Availability to devote the necessary time to this effort, including attending meetings with the ODP team upon request and providing regular updates to the Council.**

As a Councilor I am already attending all Council meetings.

I have the support of my employer to dedicate the appropriate amount of time to the role.

I operate from Western Europe, but have the flexibility to operate on Pacific time as required to meet with the ODP team.

**Additional Information:**

1. **Please list any current volunteer commitments you currently have with ICANN or expect to undertake with ICANN in the next 12 months, if applicable:**

* GNSO Councilor recently elected to a second 2-year term starting October 2021.
* Council Liaison to the IRT on EDPD Phase I.
* Councilor Liaison to the ccNSO.
* Candidate to the GNSO Council Vice Chair for the Contracted Party House (sole candidate at this stage).

All the above roles are sanctioned by my employer and I will be able to accommodate my time for these volunteer commitments as required.

1. **Do you have any type of material interest in the New gTLD Program and/or the outcomes of the SubPro ODP? If yes, please explain.**

My position at GoDaddy Registry as a provider of Backend Registry Services is directly related to the success of TLDs (cc and gTLDs, present and future). In that context, my role will benefit from the successful and prompt outcome of the ODP and the remaining work to achieve new rounds.

As a GoDaddy employee, I own stock and stock options which may be affected by the outcome of this process.