

ICANN

**Moderator: Gisella Gruber-White
January 21, 2015
10:00 am CT**

Woman: The recordings have now started.

Brenda Brewer: Thank you very much. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is the BC Candidates call for the position open for elections to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Gabriela Szlak as BC representative on the GNSO council.

On the call today we have Angie Graves, Cheryl Miller, Elisa Cooper, Jim Baskin, Angie Graves, Nat Cohen, Phil Corwin, Ron Andruff, and we also have apology - oh, excuse me, Mark Sloan, David Fares.

We have apologies from Laura Covington, Bob Heimbecker, Brian Huseman, Martin Sutton, and Caroline Greer. And from staff we have Glen de Saint Géry, Robert Hogarth and myself, Brenda Brewer.

Ellen Blackler: And this is Ellen Blackler with Disney. I'm on also.

Brenda Brewer: Thank you very much, Ellen. I'd like to remind everyone that for transcription purposes, please state your first and last name before speaking. I'd like to

announce the names of the nominees and also advise the BC members that the nominee qualifies according to the BC charter rules as a paid up member of the BC.

The nominee for the open seat vacancy for the GNSO council is Philip Corwin, nominated by Gabriela Szlak. Today's call will allow a discussion with the candidate, Phil Corwin. No questions have been pre-submitted.

We will continue with an open forum for members to ask questions on the call. Ballots for the selection will be sent out today, January 21, 2015. The voting period will close on January 27, 2015 at 23:59 UTC.

The results will be announced on January 28, 2015. I will now turn the call over to Glen de Saint Gery to read the discussion with the candidates. Thank you very much and over to you, Glen.

Glen de Saint G ry: Thank you very much, Brenda. Welcome all BC members on the call and welcome to Phil, the potential candidate. I am correct, I think in saying, that there are no written questions.

And if there are no written questions, I think perhaps we should ask the members on the call to ask questions to Phil directly. And Phil, I'm sure you will be able to answer the questions. But before the questions, Phil, is there something that you would like to add to your Statement of Interest?

Phil Corwin: Well, I had prepared a short one-page statement I was hoping to, you know, voice at the beginning of this. Is that permissible?

Glen de Saint G ry: Please go ahead, Phil. Yes.

Phil Corwin: Okay. This should not take more than two minutes. I just want - if we have a limited number of BC members on the call, I wanted this to be in the transcript that all members will receive. And I thank all of you who on today's call.

I know there's not a running interest sometimes when there's a single candidate for an office. This has been a rough campaign process. Stephane and I both felt that aspects of it were unfair and it was certainly unfair to BC members.

An election campaign should be focused on ability and issues, not on process technicalities and personal disputes. We need to collectively review what went amiss and undertake reforms to assure that it does not recur. I plan to contribute to that examination.

But more importantly, we all have to move forward and address the very important work before us in this critical year and on what unites us, which is much broader than any divisions within our ranks.

Stephane has a big job ahead in sharing the NomCom and we all know that he will do it very well. And I have to prepare for counselor service. Gabi has provided with a very (unintelligible) of council schedule in Singapore.

I've just downloaded the 68 page long GNSO operating procedures document and I plan to read every word before arriving in Singapore because I know how process can often determine the outcome of substance.

As your counselor, I attend to be open and accessible to every BC member, always ready to answer your questions and address your concerns. My duty is

to represent the multiplicity of diversity within the BC and to advocate for our consensus positions.

When I become counselor, I also become a member of our executive committee. I intend to be a constructive and engaged member. Our chair has just won an impressive reelection and I salute and congratulate her victory. I will contribute everything I can to make her chairmanship in 2015 a successful one that moves its constituency forward in a unified manner.

The coming eight months of my counselor service will be a critically important period in which ICANN's long term course will be set through major stakeholder decisions on the IANA sanctions transition and ICANN organizational accountability.

(In addition to withdraw) on that debate, the council will be debating - dealing with many other issues of importance to the business sector. I believe that my decades-long experience in policy development, as well as my firsthand knowledge of what's going on in Washington related to the IANA transition can make a meaningful contribution to the council's work.

My only agenda from now until Dublin is to dedicate all of my energy, experience and skills to advocating and advancing BC positions within council to oppose and propose whether they're contrary to positions and interests and to always be seeking to identify and expand the common ground on which compromised solutions are built and progress is made.

Now I'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have. I hope that your questions will focus, in particular, on how I plan to carry out counselor duties and any issues of concern that may - that are before the council or may come before it this year. Thank you very much for being on the call.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you very much, Phil. Could I start with a queue for the questions please? If you are on Adobe Connect, put up your hand, otherwise I'll take your name. Who would like to go first?

(Andrew), I see your hand is up. Would you like to ask Phil your question? And (Jimson) has also raised his hand. And Jimson you'll be next. Anybody else - would you like to get into the queue? (Andrew), would you like to start off, please? Sorry, are you perhaps on mute, (Andrew)?

Phil Corwin: I'm seeing in the chatroom that (Andrew) wrote that he was having a phone problem. I don't know if he's back on yet.

Glen de Saint Géry: Oh, yes, yes, yes. Sorry, phone problem. Okay, shall we get into Jimson? Jimson, would you like to ask your question while Andrew is getting back onto the phone?

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you very much, Glen. This is Jimson. Everyone will most welcome. I feel I have two questions for you. (Despite your) opening statement, I would like to ask why do you really want to represent the BC, the GNSO council?

Then, two, in view of what we are seeing so far on the (unintelligible) election, how do you think you can reconcile the (backend) views and interest in the BC? Thank you.

Phil Corwin: Yes, and thank you for being on the call, Jimson and for your question. The reason I wish to be on council is fairly simple. One, I believe that the business constituency plays a very important role within ICANN and that it's - that the GNSO council is a body that makes critically important decisions for the gTLD space, policy decisions.

And I believe that my entire life experience, background and skills, as well as my personal interest, will allow me to be an effective counselor on behalf of the business constituency.

As for what has transpired in this election, I tried to address that in my opening statement and I hope that that statement is the beginning of - helps begin a process to avoid past mistakes and move forward in a unified manner. But I intend to always operate in a constructive manner to observe all the rules under the BC charter and to always work toward cooperative solutions.

I try to be a uniter and not a divider and someone who seeks consensus rather than division. So, of course, our chair leads the constituency and as I said in my statement, I want to help her have a very successful year as chair.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you very much, Phil. I see Andrew's back with us. And then after Andrew, Elisa has raised her hand. So Andrew, are you able to talk now?

Andrew Mack: Yes, can you hear me?

Glen de Saint Géry: Yes, thank you very much.

Andrew Mack: Fantastic. Sorry about that before. Yes, Phil, I wanted to pick up on what you were just saying as a (contentious) point. Rhetorically that makes perfect sense that we want to be a uniter and not a divider.

But I have also - I have been surprised by the discussions on the list and some of the (strange) remarks and accusations and things like that. In the end, regardless of how good our rules are, it is our relationships that are going to make us function well as a constituency. And especially when we have issues

that are difficult or where we have disagreements that we're going to need to sit down and work them out.

Is there anything that you can think of that we can do as a constituency to really, both lower the volume, and also increase the sense of teeming amongst the BC because as an Excomm member, that's going to be an important part of your role.

Phil Corwin: Yes, thank you again. Thank you for being on the call, Andrew and for your question. It's not an easy question to answer. I don't want to comment...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: ...answering it and not me.

Phil Corwin: What's that?

Andrew Mack: I said that's why I'm glad you're answering it and not me.

Phil Corwin: Yes, and I don't want to comment on the substance of anything that's been contained in any of the communications over the last few days because when I join the (Excom) I may have responsibility, along with other Excomm members in reviewing that and deciding what needs to be done in terms of reforms and other measures.

It wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on the substance of that. Now, I think all I can do is to operate in the way I try to operate which is to not be divisive, to not shy away from being a strong advocate but to do so in a positive way.

You know, I worked - the first six years of my professional life were working as a staff aid in the United States senate and one of the things you learn very early on when you're working at the US senate and that I've kept in mind my entire professional life is that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

And I think that's the why I hope all BC members can conduct themselves and that we can tone down some of the more strident rhetoric and, again, focus on the common concerns and objectives that we have which I think are much bigger than anything that may divide us. So I'll try to lead by example and to make sure that the BC operates in a manner that avoids anything that would insight that type of behavior.

Andrew Mack: Thanks.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you very much, Phil. There's a question from Elisa now. Elisa, over to you, please.

Elisa Cooper: Thank you, Glen. I really have more of a comment than a real question and I just, for the record, want to thank you, Phil, for your support and let you know that I'm really looking forward to working with you.

I know that you are extremely knowledgeable and you're extremely responsive and I think those are going to be really helpful traits for us to have especially on the (Excom), so thank you, Phil, and I really just wanted to make sure that people know that this is how I feel and I wanted it on the record. Thank you.

Phil Corwin: Well, I appreciate that very much, Elisa, and I look forward to being on the Excomm and, again, to supporting you and your role as chairman and to doing

everything I can to assist you in that role in any way that I can and to help you and this entire constituency have a very successful year.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you, Phil. Thank you, Elisa. I don't see any more hands raised but I'm sure there might be questions. The floor is open. If your line is muted, perhaps we can unmute you or - are there any more questions? Phil, would you like to say something else?

Phil Corwin: Actually, Glen, I've said everything I had to say in that opening statement that I read. So I'm happy to answer any more questions if there are any but I have nothing more to say on my own behalf.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you. Elisa, I see your hand is still up. Is that the old hand or is a new...

Elisa Cooper: Yes. Sorry, sorry.

Glen de Saint Géry: Okay. Stephane says that he is trying to connect. So he asks - he probably wants to say something because in the chat he says, "Give me a minute. I'm trying to connect." (Unintelligible). Stephane has his hand raised. Stephane.

Stephane, can you hear us? Maybe he has connection problems. We'll see if we can call out to him. And he says he can't seem to speak. Shall we call out to Stephane? We - could you just wait for a minute please while we call out to

Woman: We're dialing out to Stephane right now. Please stand by.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you very much. While we're dialing out to Stephane, is there anybody else who would like to ask Phil a question or have Phil comment on

something? This is a very silent call. So I hope when you hear the recording you will realize that the call didn't break down but we were waiting.

Phil Corwin: Yes, I'm happy to wait for Stephane to get connected so he can make whatever - raise whatever question or make whatever comment he has.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you so much, Phil.

Stephane: Can anyone hear me now?

Glen de Saint Géry: Yes, you are very audible. Thank you, Stephane. Please go ahead.

Stephane: Oh, good, good. Sorry, Glen, sorry to - for the - I couldn't connect on the microphone on Adobe and I thought - it usually works and I don't know why it didn't work this time. So I apologize to everyone for that snafu and keeping them waiting.

I just wanted to take the opportunity - there's been further information that's come in very recently on what happened during this election. I will let all members look at the list and find out what they need to find out.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say that as far as I know from my dealings with Phil in the past and conversations that we had recently at (Namescom) together where we both attended last week, that I've always felt Phil to be a very honest person, very straightforward in his ability to express his views.

I feel we've unfortunately both been tainted by what's happened recently and I don't think that's fair for either of us. So I just wanted to make that point.

The election is now going on. I have no questions for Phil at this time but I thank you all for the opportunity to speak.

Phil Corwin: Stephane, I appreciate that and I don't believe you were on the call when I read my opening statement but I did note that I was sure that both you and I had felt that this process went amiss.

And has not been as fair as it should have been to either of us, that is was not - certainly not fair to the BC members to be caught up in the situation and that I intended to contribute to a review of what had happened to make sure that it never recurred.

And I also noted that you had a very big job ahead of you this year in chairing the NomCom and that I and everyone else on the BC are quite confident you'll do an excellent job in that role.

So I appreciate your comments and whatever's happened here, I think everyone on the BC should know that I think Stephane and I both regard each other very well and there's absolutely no - nothing that will prevent us from working constructively in the days ahead.

Stephane: Yes, that's absolutely right. Thanks, Phil.

Phil Corwin: Thank you, Stephane.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you very much, Phil. Thank you, Stephane. Is there anybody else who would like to raise a question or comment? We still have quite a lot of time. Am I hearing some indication? Would somebody really like to talk? If there are no further questions or comments, Elisa, would you like to say something in conclusion?

Elisa Cooper: Well, as always, I'd just like to thank everyone for joining this call and especially you and (Brenda). This has been a very difficult period and I think I can say that we all appreciate all of your support and (it's been a great) help to us. So thank you, Glen. Thank you, Brenda. Thank you, members on this call. And I think that's it.

Glen de Saint Géry: And for my part, thank you to all the members on the call as well, and thank you, Phil, for being at the disposal of everybody to answer their questions. And the ballots will go out in a short while. And good luck.

Phil Corwin: And if I might just close by thanking everyone who joined the call and for all of you who will be in Singapore, I look forward to seeing you there and safe travel getting there.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thank you, Phil and...

Man: Thank you. You too, Phil. Thanks Glen.

((Crosstalk))

Glen de Saint Géry: ...the call. Thank you very much.

Elisa Cooper: I'm sorry, can I thank one last person? And that is I'd like to thank Phil. Thank you for bearing with us through this process.

Phil Corwin: Well, thankfully we're past the rough patch and now all I have to do is spend the next eight months - and, yes, I'm sure there'll be no controversial issues there.

Elisa Cooper: No, I'm sure. All right, thank you Phil. And yes, thanks everyone. Bye-bye.

Glen de Saint Géry: Thanks very much. Thank you. And thank you very much, Brenda and I think you can end the call. Good bye everyone and see lots of you in Singapore.

Woman: Thank you all very much for joining and you may disconnect your lines at this time.

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