Subject: Re: Response to: Community Expertise in Community Priority Evaluation

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 3:18:43 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Olivier MJ Crepin-Leblond

To: Cherine Chalaby

CC: Olivier MJ Crepin-Leblond, ICANN At-Large Staff, Steve Crocker, Heather.Dryden Dryden, Fadi Chehade, Christine Willett, Akram Atallah, Megan Bishop, Secretary, Michelle Bright

ALAC Correspondence: AL-ALAC-CO-1013-03-00-EN

Dear Cherine,

I write on behalf of the ALAC Leadership Team (ALT – formerly known as the ALAC Executive Committee) in response to your reply on behalf of the Board New gTLD Program Committee regarding the inclusion of Community members in the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) Panels, which are or have been set-up by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Your response indicates: "The NGPC appreciates the offer made by the ALAC to provide community volunteers to serve as Panel members or advisors. However, the NGPC determined that it would not be appropriate to introduce external parties to the EIU's evaluation process."

The ALAC reminds the NGPC that "external parties" are already involved by way of ICANN contracting the EIU to evaluate community-based applications.

The ALAC also notes that in its CPE guidelines document, the EIU states: "The evaluation process will respect the principles of fairness, transparency, avoiding potential conflicts of interest, and non-discrimination. Consistency of approach in scoring Applications will be of particular importance."

The current lack of transparency regarding these panels, the punting of the responsibility to an external organisation and the recall of ICANN's past poor performance in matters relating to community applications (such as the poor publicising of the Applicant Support program) have seriously eroded the ALAC's confidence that the matter is handled with transparency, fairness and even accountability.

Since transparency is key to those panels, the ALAC requests clarification from the EIU regarding the "Community" component of the evaluation panels so that it can bear the test of community scrutiny on robustness or strength of relevant expertise. Upon review, should our community deem that the level or scope of expertise to be insufficiently robust, we request that the EIU consider including community volunteers from ICANN At-Large as either advisors or members of their panels.

Kind regards,

Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond
ALAC Chair