AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Proposed Review Mechanism to Address Perceived Inconsistent Expert Determinations on String Confusion Objections

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, ALAC member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and the ALAC Liaison to the GNSO, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 20 February 2014, this Statement was posted on the "At-Large Proposed Review Mechanism to Address Perceived Inconsistent Expert Determinations on String Confusion Objections Workspace."

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 28 February 2014, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement.

On 07 March 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 15 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=36928jjN9iazsFDJ4XbbWisq

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The ALAC supports the details of the process described, but recommends that it be widened to include cases such as the various .shop objections where the objected-to strings were not identical, but the results were just as inconsistent. Moreover, the ALAC notes that it has previously made statements to this effect (https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/2261148/AL-ALAC-ST-0913-04-01-EN.pdf?api=v2) and deeply regrets that it has taken ICANN so long to react to the overall situation that it must now choose to accept many of the other seemingly illogical results. One of the ALAC's prime responsibilities in ICANN is to protect the interests of individual Internet users, and the delegation of confusingly similar TLDs does not meet the needs of these users.