

ICANN Structural Conflict of Interest

Dear colleagues and community,

Comments below address the question: Do you agree that the CCWG-Accountability proposal enhances ICANN's accountability?

The proposal is incomplete. In order to truly enhance ICANN's accountability a serious conflict of interest needs to be addressed and removed ahead of any transition. ICANN's commercial operations must be completely separated from its multi-stakeholder policy development functions. In particular the community must be guarded against undue influence of the Global Domains Division (GDD) in policy matters especially contractual compliance. Organizational and budget documents appear to show that ICANN compliance reports to the GDD president and only indirectly to the CEO.

ICANN needs to (1) publicly clarify the current and historical role of the GDD president in compliance affairs, (2) remove any oversight from the commercial side in compliance matters, and (3) adhere to the earlier ATRT2 Recommendations to specifically have the compliance department "report directly and solely to a sub-committee of the ICANN Board."

It is only by creating a "firewall" between the domain business and policy enforcement. The relationship and direction has been too cosy for too long. As long as GDD has an interest in compliance functions there will be a structural conflict of interest at ICANN.

Thank you, Garth Bruen