

At-Large ALAC Demarche to ICANN Workspace

Comment Close Date	Statement Name	Status	Assignee (s) and RALO(s)	Call for Comments	Call for Comments Close	Vote Announcement	Vote Open	Vote Reminder	Vote Close	Date of Submission	Staff Contact and Email	Statement Number
n/a	ALAC Demarche to ICANN	Submitted	Olivier Crepin-Leblond (EURALO)	11.12.2012	14.12.2012	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	03.01.2012	n/a	AL/ALAC/CO /1212/1

FINAL VERSION TO BE SENT AS AN EMAIL

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[ALAC Demarche to ICANN.pdf](#)

FINAL DRAFT VERSION (Consensus call on 20 December 2012 ALAC monthly call)

Dear Mr. Chehadé,

As you know, a number of people who intended to participate at the ICANN 45 meeting in Toronto experienced visa problems, and some of them missed the meeting altogether. Of course, the granting of visas is the sovereign right of the host country, and there is very little ICANN can do when such problems come to light, which is typically very close to the meeting.

However, with its three annual meetings a core activity, ICANN should be highly concerned about this problem, particularly when its essential structures and their bylaws-mandated compositional balance are affected. This is what happened in Toronto when three of five ALAC-appointed members of the 2013 Nominating Committee were not able to participate at the committee's kick-off meeting. Representatives came from Sudan (representing Africa), Moldova (representing Europe), and Armenia (representing the Asia-Pacific). A fourth NomCom member, a Kenyan representative of the GNSO business community, received his visa at the last moment and barely made it to Toronto. The lack of understanding from the host country, Canada, was truly surprising.

ICANN's globalization and its endeavor to be inclusive and representative of all regions of the world should not be held hostage by the whims of host country visa policies and bureaucratic implementation delays. We would like to highlight the example of Wikimedia, which also conducts global annual meetings – the Wikimania - an event that is hosted each year by a chapter in a different country. Wikimedia has managed to hold its meetings with full participation even in countries with severe visa conditions (e.g., US, Europe and Israel) by making the earliest arrangements possible with the host country representatives and authorities. These arrangements typically take place at least one year in advance.

The ALAC respectfully suggests that, as part of the selection process for future meeting venues, ICANN sets as a condition that the potential host organization presents the firm commitment of relevant immigration authorities to facilitate the granting of visas to all members of the NomCom, ICANN Advisory Committee, Supporting Organization members, Staff and other participants designated as essential by ICANN. If other international forum organizers are able to obtain such commitment, so should ICANN.

Yours sincerely,

Olivier Crépin-Leblond

Chair, At-Large Advisory Committee

FIRST DRAFT SUBMITTED

(Source: Yrjö Lämsipuro // EURALO Call)

As you might know, a number of people who intended to participate at the ICANN meeting in Toronto experienced visa problems, and some of them missed the meeting altogether. Of course, the granting of visas is the sovereign right of the host country, and there is very little ICANN can do when such problems come to light, typically very close to the meeting.

However, ICANN should be concerned when its essential structures and the bylaws-mandated balance of their composition are affected by visa problems. This is what happened in Toronto, when three of five ALAC-appointed members of the 2013 Nominating Committee were not able to participate at the committee's kick-off meeting. They were from Sudan, representing Africa, Moldova, representing Europe, and from Armenia, representing the Asia-Pacific. A fourth NomCom member, a Kenyan representative of the GNSO business community, barely made it, having received his visa at the last moment.

ICANN's globalization and its endeavour to be inclusive and representative of all regions of the world should not be held hostage by the whims of visa policies of the host countries and bureaucratic delays in their implementation. We know that Wikimedia is also conducting a global annual meeting – the Wikimania – which is hosted subsequently by another chapter in a different country. They have managed a full participation even in countries with severe visa conditions (like US, Europe or Israel) by earliest arrangements possible (around a year ahead) with the host country representatives and authorities.

The ALAC respectfully suggests that in the future, as part of the selection process of future meeting venues, ICANN sets as a condition that the potential host organization present a firm commitment of relevant immigration authorities to facilitate the granting of visas to all members of the NomCom and other participants designated as essential by ICANN.

Sincerely Yours,

Olivier Crépin-Leblond