

10-10-2014



Ministry of Economic Affairs

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Our ref.
DGETM-TM / 14165630

Your ref.

Encl.

Date **- 09 OKT. 2014 -**
Re Request to postpone phasing out of the .an domain

In copy; mr. Pengel from the University of Curaçao, the current registry of .an.

As the Dutch governmental contact point for the delegation of .bq, also representing the Netherlands in ICANN/GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) I would like to request you to postpone the deadline for phasing out of the .an domain. This is needed in order to allow sufficient time to investigate alternative options for the phasing out of specifically the .an registrants on the islands Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba. Please find the rationale hereafter.

On 31st of October the ccTLD .an is supposed to be phased out. This domain was used for the Dutch Antilles, a group of 5 islands in the Caribbean. The Dutch Antilles stopped to exist as a result of governmental changes of their status. Some became independent, some became municipalities of the Netherlands.

The phasing out of .an and the terms applicable, including the date 31st of October, were apparently agreed upon between IANA and the registry of .AN; the University of Curaçao. .an registrants are or have been migrating to other domains, for which three new domains are the most logical options, because they replace the territories involved;

- .cw (island Curaçao)
- .sx (island Sint Maarten, Dutch part of the island)
- .bq (three islands Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba)

For the domains .cw and .sx I understand the .an registry has carried out a program to enable registrants to migrate from .an to these new domains. I understand also that this operation covers the vast majority of the .an registrations, coming from the relatively big islands Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

Concerning the .bq domain I was approached by interested parties to run .bq. My organisation, the relevant public authority concerning delegation of .bq, asked the local governmental agency RCN (Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland) to conduct a survey and ask the local internet community whether there is an interest in this new domain.

The survey was finalised July 2014. RCN advised that the .bq domain should not be delegated in the short term for a variety of reasons. I have the intention to follow that advice.



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As a consequence there will not be a new .bq delegee in the short term while there are still registrations of .an in the small islands Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba, for which territory the code .bq has been reserved. The problem is that these registrants should now migrate on a short notice to another domain before 31st of October.

Therefore I ask you to postpone the deadline for phasing out of the .an domain with at least 9 months, in order to allow sufficient time to investigate and implement alternative options for the remaining .an registrants of the islands Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba. We will investigate the possibility to agree with an interim solution in which the delegation is temporarily delegated to the former .an registry, awaiting delegation to a definitive candidate that has the backing of the local internet community within 1 to 3 years. This scenario will cause the least inconvenience for the remaining domain name holders.

In all scenarios, including when the interim delegation does not appear to be a feasible solution, the .an will have to be phased out in the 9 months mentioned.

I hope that, when considering my request, you will take into account the fact that extra time was needed to prepare and conduct the survey by RCN within the local internet community to assess whether there is an interest in the new domain .bq.

Thanks in advance
Kind regards,



Thomas de Haan
Directie Telecommarkt