

# ILGA - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association



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17 November 2014

To: ICANN Board Governance Committee  
CC: Fadi Chehade, Steve Crocker, Akram Atallah, Christine Willet, Thomas Schneider

**RE: Reconsideration Request (14-44) – CPE for dotgay LLC (ID# 1-1713-23699)**

Dear ICANN and the ICANN Board Governance Committee,

It remains an observation of ILGA that the new gTLD program is falling short of achieving the specific goals of innovation and diversity, especially for LGBTQIA people who have relied on ICANN perusing these goals passionately.

For the past 5 years, LGBTQIA people have openly and transparently engaged in the design of a community .GAY TLD in conjunction with dotgay LLC, which has received global and uncontested support from all segments and sectors in our community, yet has been met with the most unimaginable suspicion and misinterpretation by the ICANN process and competitive interests. ICANN must take a serious look at flaws and inconsistencies of the CPE that have once again failed the LGBTQIA and further threaten the integrity of the new gTLD program.

ILGA has at multiple times been acknowledged by the ICANN process as holding proper standing to represent the community and as a global entity dedicated to the community. This recognition has then been tainted by the EIU with claims that LGBTQIA people do not “recognize” ILGA, despite providing any such evidence or supporting research to validate their claim. ILGA’s annual report, which the EIU acknowledges having had access to, clearly shows our membership has global reach. Visibility and LGBTQIA recognition of local, regional or national members of ILGA (like Human Rights Campaign in the USA or International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia in France) is the connection the EIU has failed to make. Faulting ILGA for not being a household name is not only a weak metric for such an important evaluation, it undermines the collaborative community effort that has helped ILGA advance the rights and protections of LGBTQIA people on an international stage for the past 36 years.

What ILGA feels is important to make clear, is the fact that LGBTQIA people continue to be one of the most misunderstood and vulnerable populations around the world. The new gTLD program, and now specifically the CPE, have failed to offer results that encompass a full understanding of LGBTQIA people and our community at large. Ensuring that a fair examination of claims being made by the gay community are properly and transparently weighed against calculated yet unsupported claims and

**ILGA, the world federation of LGBTI organisations**  
*1100 members from 120 countries committed to equal human rights  
for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people*  
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statements made by competitive interests is essential to ensuring that misinformation and misunderstandings do not continue to taint this gay community effort, which quite importantly remains uncontested from within the community. If ICANN is serious about recognizing communities in the new gTLD program, that extend beyond just industries, it must first understand the community and its constituents and ensure balance of competitive assumptions.

To highlight our claim of being “misunderstood,” ILGA simply encourages ICANN to examine the long history LGBTI groups have experienced with gaining consultative status in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations. After extensive effort and time, ILGA was the first LGBTI group to be accepted into ECOSOC in 1993. The approval process for other LGBTI groups however, even 20 years later, continues to be extremely difficult involving lengthy in-depth dialogue, explanation and examination of those who make up our community and how it functions.

The experience of LGBTI groups is unlike the majority at ECOSOC, viewed by many as discrimination but officially described as a “need to understand.” Often faced with years of questioning before final ECOSOC acceptance is achieved, the review process highlights the overarching claim that as a population, and as a community, there is essential need for greater understanding of LGBTI people to ensure equal treatment and access. ILGA believes this continues to be the key issue with evaluations carried out on the community application for .GAY in ICANN’s new gTLD program, including the CPE which has been riddled with inconsistencies.

As ICANN and the Board Governance Committee prepare to review the CPE reconsideration request from dotgay LLC, ILGA urges the review team to take a hard look at how misinformed and incomplete facts about LGBTQIA people and the gay community has led to uninformed decisions in the new gTLD program. The gay community is not trying to “game” ICANN, we are simply striving to contribute to the innovation and diversity goals we understood to be pillars of the new gTLD program.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renato Sabbadini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Renato" being more prominent and the last name "Sabbadini" following in a similar style.

Renato Sabbadini  
Executive Director