**May 2005**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to Bizconst News, the Business Constituency newsletter. We hope that this newsletter continues to provide you with relevant information regarding all the issues and news. Its aim is to give a snapshot of an issue with onward links to fuller detail and background information. Remember the Issues Made Easy and Glossary sections of the BC website will decode any obscure acronyms for you. The secretariat would be pleased to hear your comments about the newsletter.

Best wishes

Gary

**ICANN MEETINGS IN ARGENTINA**

ICANN meetings took place in Mar del Plata, Argentina 4-8 April 2005.This series of meetings had a packed agenda with a wide range of policy issues and procedural discussion, including: ICANN Strategic Plan, WHOIS developments, dot net re-delegation and updates on gTLDs. At the Mar del Plata WSIS session, a statement of support was released and it was encouraging to see that for the first time, there was broad participation by several governmental representatives in the session’s speaker panels.

For full details of all other meetings, including public forums, GNSO Council and Board of Directors meetings, click below. All meeting records are posted as real-time captioning, but should be used as a guide rather than read as authoritative minutes.

[www.icann.org/meetings/mardelplata](http://www.icann.org/meetings/mardelplata)

Finally, ICANN Mar del Plata kicked off a new initiative with group soccer matches to add some friendly sporting activity to the occasion. Rumour has it that a volleyball tournament is scheduled for the Luxembourg meetings in July.

**ICANN MEETINGS IN LUXEMBOURG**

The next set of ICANN meetings will take place in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg 11-15 July 2005Hotel space may be at a premium so early reservations are recommended. Details of the meeting are yet to be posted but I will notify members of updates by e-mail once they become available.

**WHOIS**

Revised Terms of Reference

A fresh draft of the Terms of Reference for the WHOIS task force was put before the GNSO Council for discussion on 12 May.

The draft reflects the context of the ICANN mission and current WHOIS purpose in the registrars accreditation agreement, and identifies issues that had been discussed during the meetings in Mar Del Plata. In the meantime there has been progress on “conspicuous notification” whreby Registrars will be obliged to ensure users are informed about the need to provide accurate data.

Public Comment Period on Preliminary Report

The public comment period for the Combined Task Force preliminary report closed on 12 May 2005

**NEW sponsored TLDs and gTLD future strategy**

.JOBS and .TRAVEL have been officially designated by the ICANN Board. ICANN staff have entered into technical negotiations with .CAT, .POST & .MOBI meaning that it is expected these too will receive designation shortly. The remaining applications of .ASIA, .MAIL, .TEL, .TEL, & .XXX still pose some challenges and discussions continue. In the meantime the BC together with the Intellectual Property and ISP constituencies have agreed upon the text of a white paper describing the on-going advantages of sponsored names, the importance of IDNs and a process for future introduction. The paper will be circulated shortly and used in dialogue with the ICANN Board and others. It will also be used in follow-up to a forthcoming discussion paper on the future strategy for gTLDs being prepared by ICANN staff.

**DOT NET RE-DELEGATION**

ICANN selected an independent evaluator Telcordia to assess the applications to run the .net registry. The report used a scoring system which narrowly favoured the incumbent Verisign. Objections were raised by all the other applicants to the scoring system. In addition, a public comment from the ex-chair of the GNSO .net committee (Philip Sheppard in his individual capacity) points out that the Telcordia methodology ignored the recommendations of the GNSO report to the Board. The GNSO report recommended that the priority should be to create Registrylevel competition. The Telcordia methodology only consideredRegistrar level competition. A further public comment from the ex-chair points out that the combined market share of .net and .com is some 84%. and proposes that should the Board award .net to Verisign, then it should impose certain conditions to mitigate any competitive failure. This comment was discussed at the recent GNSO Council meeting.

**ICANN STRATEGIC REVIEW**

The development of ICANN’s planning process continues with much input from the BC. At the meetings in Argentina, there were three public consultation workshops on ICANN strategic and operational planning.The feedback from these workshops led to a revised Strategic Plan which is now open for public comment until 20 May 2005.

**ICANN NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee (NomCom) is designed as an independent body to appoint members to the ICANN Board and other primary organisations and positions. The BC representatives to the NomCom are Marilyn Cade and Catherine Gabay.

The process for 2005 is already underway and calls have been made to fill the following positions:

Two members of the ICANN Board of Directors

Two members of the GNSO

One member of the Council of the ccNSO

Three members of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

BC members are urged to seek out and encourage suitably qualified individuals to step forward and self nominate themselves for the positions. Submissions should be made before 15 June, 2005.

**BC CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

The BC Credentials Committee comprises:

Catherine Gabay

Mike Roberts

Charles Shaban

In accordance with BC procedure, Marilyn Cade has rotated off as the liaison rep to the committee and Grant Forsyth replaces her with immediate effect.

Many thanks to Marilyn for her help and support to this important committee.

**BC MEMBERS MATTERS**

Updated Member Contact List

Now that the 2005 round of membership renewals is almost completed, I will shortly be updating the BC member contacts list. Details to follow soon by e-mail.

Member Services Survey

As part of our continuing efforts to make BC issues and services more user-friendly to members, I will be contacting you soon with a short member services survey. Your responses to this will help us shape and maintain our communications with members in the future.

**ICANN NEWS**

ICANN Newsletter

ICANN’s latest newsletter is available [here](http://www.icann.org/newsletter/newsletter-apr2005.pdf) (pdf file)

ICANN Meetings Schedule

**2005**

July 11-15 Luxembourg

Dec 5-9 Vancouver, Canada

**2006**

March 27-31 Wellington, New Zealand

June 26-30 Marrakesh, Morocco

October 30-Nov 3 Latin America

**2007**

March 26-30 Europe

June 25-29 North America

October 29-Nov 2 Asia Pacific

ICANN Board Meetings

ICANN is actively soliciting proposals from organizations seeking to host an ICANN Board of Directors Meeting in 2006.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

**ICANN meetings, Luxembourg – 11-15 July 2005**

**ICANN meetings, Vancouver, Canada – 30 November – 4 December 2005**