

**Submission to ICANN regarding its consultation on the Development of
Transparency and Accountability Management Operating Principles**

This is posted on behalf of the European Communities Trade Mark Association (ECTA) which is the principal pan-European body representing the interests of those professionals who practice within the European Union in the fields of trade marks and related IP. ECTA supports ICANN's consultation on the Development of Transparency and Accountability Management Operating Principles. ECTA joins the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA), and Australia's Domain Name Administrator (auDA) in supporting ICANN's attempts to engage the community in defining "accountability and transparency". ECTA agrees that such definitions, if they are properly developed, will help ICANN to establish and maintain trust with its stakeholders and to meet the conditions set out in the recent Joint Project Agreement between the U.S. Department of Commerce and ICANN. However, ECTA believes that these expressions cannot be fully and properly defined within the timescale envisaged by ICANN.

Consequently, ECTA joins CIRA and auDA to express considerable concern about the short time period in which comments are sought. The issues related to Development of Transparency and Accountability Management Operating Principles, and defining the expressions "accountability and transparency" are too complex to permit any international body (or even national body) to formulate a reasoned view within the time permitted. Indeed the time permitted is not sufficient to enable a representative number of personal views to be posted by interested individuals. The consequent absence of a properly reasoned definition of these terms will adversely affect subsequent debate on position papers that may then be drawn up following incomplete consultation to properly identify the issues to be addressed.

We respectfully request that the deadline be extended to December 31st, 2006. An extension of the time for submissions would not prejudice ICANN in any way and would allow many stakeholders to participate in this important process.

A very welcome step towards greater transparency would be for ICANN to clarify the details of the process for the development of the Transparency and Accountability Management Operating Principles. Further ECTA joins CIRA in proposing that ICANN should retain (if it has not already done so) expert external assistance to determine a set of best practices for transparency, accountability and fair processes.

Eric Ramage,

Chair, ECTA Internet Committee