
ICANN78 | Prep Week – GNSO Policy Update
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:00 HAM

TERRI AGNEW:

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On the agenda today, we'll be discussing the Transfer PDP Policy, Internationalized Domain Names EPDP, aka known as IDNs, Post-PDP, and Non-PDP work. Questions will be taken at the end of the webinar. With this, I would now like to hand the floor back over to Sebastien Ducos, GNSO Chair.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS:

Hello, everybody. My name is Sebastien Ducos, and I wanted to welcome everybody to this GNSO Policy webinar. We have consciously gone back to the original purpose of this webinar for this session and going on. This session, this webinar, was originally designed for Council members to interact with the different working group policy development or non-policy development leads and chairs and to make sure that the Councilors themselves are fully up to date with all the work and all the moving parts of the work to make sure that they're able to take the decisions they need to take in full knowledge, and for those who take decisions via their group to inform their groups properly and be able to do that.

And so for that reason, I will make sure, and I want to ask everybody to understand, that we will prioritize questions from Councilors. There will be towards the end of this session an open mic for everybody and we will open questions for the public. But I wanted to clarify this priority

today. As time went, it became more and more of a public presentation of the GNSO Council's work, which is also valid. But the main aim of this exercise first was for the Councilors to be able to interact with the different leads. My good friends from staff prepared a million notes, so I want to make sure that I don't miss anything.

For those who are less familiar with the GNSO Council's work, there is a webinar tomorrow at 17:30 UTC, which will go into more high-level discussions about the different moving parts of the GNSO and the policy development process and etc. And so for those who are new to this, I strongly encourage you to follow that webinar. And whilst I welcome your questions and everything, but again, within the priorities today, if you have questions that are very, very general about the GNSO, maybe attend tomorrow's session and inform yourself and then find me online or in Hamburg in a few weeks and I'll be even more than happy to walk you through the details. With this said, I think that we can go to the next slide.

So we will look at today two policy development works. One is the Transfer Policy Review, PDP. And the other one is the international domain name, EPDP, Expedited Development Process. And that will be presented by Roger Carney for the Transfer Policy and by Donna Austin for the IDN PDP.

And then we will go to non-PDP work. So this is work that the Council does either through small teams or through other tools that it has. We will hear about the GGP. And so we will have for that, two speakers, Paul McGrady, who will present on the GGP, the GNSO guidance process on applicant support. Me myself, I will present on the EPDP phase two

small teamwork and the RDRS. And then Paul will take it, take the mic again to present the SubPro pending recommendation work that the Council has been doing under this leadership since ICANN 76. Again, I'm quickly looking through the notes to make sure that I haven't forgotten anything, and I don't think I have. Next slide, please.

So this is the famous graph that we've been using now for a little while, I want to say a year and a half, two years maybe, to make sure that everybody can locate the different items of work that we're doing in the PDP process. So this pertains to official PDP work and in the agenda that I presented earlier, there's only two items that are PDP. The rest is, doesn't follow this, the Z graph or is either earlier or completely off the Z graph.

So we will hear from Roger about the transfer policy review PDP, which is still at the, well, still it is already, but they've been doing a lot of work, but it is at a pre-initial report phase. So it's the working on the topics, the meat of the exercise. And Roger will go into all the details of this. And then the IDN, which is here in two phases, that the IDN EPDP was split into two phases, as Donna will explain, taking care of the top level and the second level IDN and variant issues. And so the first phase is now in its final phase for its initial, for its final report. So initial report's gone to public comment. The comments have been reviewed and where needed, integrated. And the final report is about ready. I understand that this will be presented at Hamburg. And the team in the meantime has already started working on phase two and is well in the works of that phase two. For those that missed it, the team was able to confirm to us two months ago the fact that they would be able to deliver

this phase two well ahead of the initial schedule planned for it, a whole year before, and landing it in October next year, which is excellent news as this work is the sort of the final policy work necessary for our next round, as many other moving parts that are necessary for our next round. But in terms of policy development, in terms of policy deliverable by the GNSO, this is the last time that we're taking on board for the next round. So the fact that they were able to finish their work much earlier makes everybody's life a lot easier and we're thankful for it.

So the EPDP temp spec phase two, so this is in relation to the work on personal data, registration data, which had to be quickly adapted following the announcement by the European Union of their GDPR legislation, which in the meantime has been followed by a number of similarly inspired legislation in different jurisdictions. And so this work, which happened now four or five years ago, has then [inaudible] in implementation work on the management of the personal data. And in a second phase, which I will discuss, devised a system in order to be able to request the personal data, which is now publicly hidden, but available upon request when the requests are legitimate. And maybe I'll go into details about that, but you've seen this having been voted in by the Council, at the board's request went through an exercise of what is called an ODP, an operational design phase, in order to, not only to calibrate the effort and financially in terms of effort, in order to develop this system. And the board has requested Council to review the possibilities around this, given the fact that the original scope of it was much too big and much too expensive for the board to vote it as is. And

so, we'll go through the details later of this exercise, but technically it sits still with the board who hasn't voted on this.

And for the SubPro, Paul will go into the details here, but essentially most of the recommendations coming out of the SubPro, five years' worth of work, were voted in Cancun and the policy implementation kind of started in earnest in May, I want to say. And the board wasn't able to vote on 38 recommendations, which again, Paul and a small team has been working on to make sure that we could address the concerns of the board. Most of them have been or are being addressed, we're in the middle of a vote on the last bits of this, but by clarifying statements, making sure that the board and us are in full alignment on the understanding of the recommendation. And there will be some more recommendations, Paul will go into details of it, which will need some work and we're devising right now how to proceed with this.

Before I turn it over back to Terri and Caitlin, I am supposed to have a last word of housekeeping. If you want to ask questions, and I'm absolutely not good at reading the chat at the same time as speaking, so I'll have Terri Caitlin helping me with this. But if you have questions, please put them in the chat, but mark them with bracket questions before, the beginning and the end, to make sure that they're picked up and we're able to read them. We will read them towards the end of the session. There's a Q&A portion, at which time we will take those questions that have gone through the discussion, but also open mic questions, any questions that have come up. And I understand I might be speaking a bit too fast for the translator. My apologies, again, I'm unable to follow the chat and presentation at the same time and the

small screen, but apologies. With this, I'll give it to Terri, who will take us through the next portion.

TERRI AGNEW:

Thank you very much, Seb. Hi everyone. In addition to your host, I'll also be your trusty quiz master for this webinar. I will periodically ask some questions to see if you're closely paying attention to some active PDPs, and how much you know about ICANN 78 location of Germany. Are you ready? This first question relates to the work of upcoming presenter, Roger Carney, and the Transfer Policy Review Working Group. Ready? The TPR Working Group has been meeting for many months. In what month and year did this working group hold its first meeting? Please vote now. It looks like the voting has settled down. Ready? Those of you who said May of 2021, yay, you are correct. This group has been having regular meetings and working through its charter questions for almost two and a half years. Now let's hear more about some of this work the group is currently doing. Over to you, Roger and Caitlin.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Hi, everyone. My name is Caitlin Tubergen, and I'm part of the Generic Name Supporting Organization or GNSO support team. And I'm going to be asking some questions of our chair of the Transfer Policy Review Working Group, Roger Carney, who you should see on your screen. So Roger, we just heard that this group has been meeting for approximately two and a half years. I don't know if you signed up to be chair for that long, but here we are. But for right now, I'd like to hear a little bit about what you've been doing since the last time we checked

in with you at ICANN 77, so last June. So what has the group been working on for the last few months?

ROGER CARNEY:

Great, thanks, Caitlin. Yeah, it's been some time that we've spent together. So it's been good, though. Since 77, throughout the summer, actually, we've done really good. Summer sometimes is kind of a slow period for ICANN. And this working group really came together and stuck together throughout the summer. And we've been able to work through pretty much all of our issues around the bulk transfer of names. This includes ICANN-approved transfers, if a registrar decides to get out of business or for whatever reason needs to move all their names. This discussion included that, as well as partial transfer of registrar's portfolio. So the working group has done a really good job on getting to those solutions. And to be honest, I think we're right there now in wrapping up all of our discussions on those bulk questions.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

That's very encouraging. So I believe that puts you all kind of at the end of those group two topics of transfer reversals and bulk transfers and dispute resolution tools. So what do you anticipate the group will be discussing after ICANN 78 or after those group two topics are officially complete?

ROGER CARNEY:

Seb kind of touched on IDN being split up in a couple phases and the transfer was broken up into several different groups too. And there was

a subgroup 1A and B and subgroup 2. And then we actually kind of moved a few of, we did 1A, which was almost all of the inter-registrar transfer policy. And then we skipped over 1B to 2 and did all of our two objects. And a lot of that was just because of how the timing worked out and some of the issues were more interrelated than we thought when we began. So we are finishing up our group two topics and we're going to move back to our group 1B topics and do a whole review of where we are because as noted, we're two and a half years into this now and some people are new to our group and some people have forgotten what we've talked about two and a half years ago. So we're going to spend some time and review where we are, what all of our recommendations are today, and then move on to our last topic, which is change of registrant policy issues.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Okay, great. Since we have a captive audience of GNSO counselors, is there anything that you'd like to highlight specifically to the Council, any issues the group has encountered or challenges or just a general message that you'd like to share with the Council at this time?

ROGER CARNEY:

Yeah. And again, I think maybe we shared this last time as well. I think as noted, two and a half years in and probably going to get to three years, it may be a little longer than that. There's a little attrition in the group. So I think that's probably one of the big things. Surprisingly, our attendance has been, again, fairly good and goes up and down, but pretty good. But again, two and a half, three years in, we know we've

seen attendance go down a little. And as Caitlin mentioned, some people probably didn't sign up for three years of doing this. So I think one of the big things is getting new people in that are needed to fulfill others' obligations. So I think that's probably the big things.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Thanks, Roger. Thanks for taking the time to share an update with us. And if anyone has any questions for Roger, I encourage you to save those for the end of the webinar. And I'm going to turn it back over to our Quizmaster, Terri, for the next question.

TERRI AGNEW: Hi, everyone. Look who's back. It's me. We'll now hear from the chair of the IDNs EPDP. But before we do that, let's see if we can guess how many meetings the IDNs team has held since its very first meeting in August of 2021. So the official question is approximately how many official meetings has the IDNs EPDP team had to date? 70, 80, 90, or 100? Let's see how everyone does. Oh, don't be shy. There you go. Voting has started. Let's see. Ready? D, 100. Good job, IDNs. A celebration of 100. They'll be meeting three more times in Hamburg. So make sure to check that out. Now let's hear from Donna about what this group has been up to. Over to you, Caitlin and Donna.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Thank you, Terri, and hello, everyone, again. I'm going to try to be mindful of my speaking pace because I get excited talking about PDPs

and my speed starts to go up. So Donna, can you tell us a little bit about the current status of the IDN EPDP's group?

DONNA AUSTIN:

Hi, Caitlin. Just on that last question from the quiz master, our 100th meeting will be this week, I believe, if my information is correct. So big celebration for the team. So the status for our work is that we are on track to deliver our phase one final report to the Council sometime in November. Since the last ICANN meeting, we have worked through the public comments that we received. There were probably two or three areas where we needed some concentrated discussion to try to come to agreement on how best to address the comments. So we're just about through that process and we're hoping to start our consensus call on the recommendations. If not this week, it'll be the week after. So we're very close to finishing our phase one work.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

That's great, Donna, and congratulations. So I think Terri just mentioned that the group is once again meeting three times at the upcoming ICANN meeting, which is a lot, definitely more than the standard meeting number for an EPDP team. You covered this a little bit, but can you tell us a little bit about what to expect at ICANN 78 in terms of the team's work?

DONNA AUSTIN:

Sure. So at ICANN 78, we will continue our discussions of some of the phase two charter questions. So in ICANN 77, we devoted the four

meetings I think we had there to start our phase two charter question deliberation. So we did that because we had our phase one initial report out for public comment. So we're in the process of also trying to reach agreement on the language. So the way that we've done our work is that we try to do the draft language as we go. So in addition to going through the phase one public comments, we've also been looking at the phase two draft language. So we've had the charter questions that we discussed at ICANN 77. So we've had that language out to the group for a little while, and we're trying to finalize kind of that chunk of work before we get into ICANN 78. So we'll just continue on with the phase two deliberations. And then after ICANN 78, we are going to have a face to face meeting in Kuala Lumpur. So we're hoping that we'll get most of the deliberations about phase two charter questions done by the end of the year. So that's our goal, Caitlin. At the moment, we're on track. So hopefully we can stay on that path.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Well, I wish you luck in that, Donna. I know that's a steep task. And I see that as of right now, the group is projected to complete its phase two work in October of 2024, I believe. So next year. Is there anything in terms of the leadership that you're planning to ensure the group stays on track with that timeline? Or is there anything the Council could assist with in terms of meeting that timeline?

DONNA AUSTIN:

Thanks Caitlin. So I think the face to face meeting that we will have in KL was one of the requests that we had to Council at ICANN 77. And

we're very pleased that Council has found a way to support that. And we're hoping that we'll be able to make substantive process progress on the phase two work. So I think we're in a pretty good place that we can finalise the phase two text or language so that we can get out an initial report on phase two early next year. And then it takes time to get through these things. But we're certainly on track to get that final report done for phase two by the end of next year.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Thank you, Donna. And since I still have the floor for one more moment, many of you are familiar with Donna's work in the community and the various leadership positions she's held, one of which is the former vice chair of the GNSO Council. And as you know, there will be a leadership change coming up at ICANN 78. And as someone who heard you give a very inspiring speech at the last ICANN meeting, I was wondering if you could share any words of wisdom with the upcoming leaders of the Council.

DONNA AUSTIN:

That's a trick question, Caitlin. So the leadership team has a really important role for Council in progressing the work and making sure that the Councilors understand what their role is and what they ask is with anything that comes before Council. You know, I had the benefit of James Bladel was the chair while I was vice chair and then Heather served with me as vice chair for the three years and then took over as the chair in that last 12 months. And I think what Heather really made the Council aware of the operating procedures that we had and why

that was so important. So for any new Councilors that are coming on board, make sure you take the time to read those and understand what they are because they are really important. They are your guiding documents. There's a reason they were developed and that's to help you work your way through processes. One of the things that I think we've all become aware of in the community is that it's really hard to stick to the process because I think we're all looking for ways that we can expedite things, but you don't want to do that at the expense of the process because at the end of the day, that's all you have to kind of fall back on. So certainly try to get through the work as quickly as you can. But I guess one of the frustrations for me with the PDP work is we've been doing this for two years, but there's a lot of downtime because of the public comment period that you have to bring into the process because the consensus call, I think the guideline is that it has to be a 10-day period. So there is a lot of downtime that's built into processes, but it's important that that time exists so that you ensure that you've got that multi-stakeholder engagement. I'm very conscious that we operate the PDP as a hybrid representative model, but there has to be time built into the process so that the members that represent groups within the ICANN construct have the time they need to go back and discuss things with their stakeholder groups so that then they can bring it back to the group. So that downtime is a little bit frustrating, but it's important to ensure that you do get the input that you need to have recommendations that are going to be supported at the end of the day.

And for the leadership team itself, one of the challenges that we all have, I suppose, is that time zone issue. So I don't know what the composition of the leadership team is this time around, but don't use

the time zone issue to not be inclusive with your leadership team. I think it's really important that the leadership team is as one. Certainly, you have a chair and two vice chairs, but I think a leadership team that works as one is really important, and I was very fortunate that I had that when I was serving as the vice chair, and I've got no reason to believe that that hasn't happened since then. So I think that's important too.

And to the chair, I think I'm not sure who the chair will be next time around, but don't be scared to delegate. That's what you have the vice chairs there for. They can take some of the load, and I'm sure they're very capable of doing that. So share the load. Don't feel like you have to do it all yourself. That's why you have a leadership team. And I think James was the first one that really introduced that concept that you can't do it all. That's why you have vice chairs. So use them. That's what they're there for. Thanks, Caitlin.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Thank you so much, Donna. Again, if you have questions about the work of the IDN EPDP team, please save those for the Q&A at the end of the webinar. You'll have an opportunity to ask those. And now I am going to turn it back over to our quiz master, Terri. Over to you, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW:

Thank you. Truly, thank you to both Roger and Donna and the team who have been working very hard over the last two plus years. We're going to transition now to hear about some of the Council's small teams and non-PDP work. But before we call on Sebastien, let's see how much you know about Hamburg, Germany. As of the 2011 census, how does

Hamburg compare to other German cities in terms of population? Most populous, second most populous, third most populous, or fifth most populous? No cheating and Googling it. Use your noggin. You can do it. Are we ready? Get your votes in. For those of you answered B, second most populous, you know your Germany, or at least Hamburg. Hamburg is second to Berlin in terms of population. We're now going to go ahead and transition over to non-PDP work small teams with Sebastien Ducos, our GNSO chair. Sebastien, I have some questions for you. Can you tell us what the small team has been up to since ICANN 77?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS:

So as you know, the RDRS team, so this started as a small team who were working, as I mentioned before, on the SSAD and trying to find a way to piecemeal it as the ODP on this had evaluated as being very expensive, over \$100 million to run. And so last year we spent our time designing a smaller, easier to envisage ticketing system in the hope that it would respond to most of the public's needs in terms of data requests, and also in the hope of gathering information in terms of traffic and in terms of usage.

And so in the last two months, three months, we have been receiving from Org the first mockups of the tool and as it's being developed, and it's almost finished now, regular updates on the development of the tool. The same Org team has done some presentation, again, not long ago in the last few weeks on their progress and has been starting to onboard registrars to make sure that everything was working for them. The small team on this has been looking also at how to promote this tool and reviewing and agreeing on material to be used for that

promotion. In particular, the promotion towards the requester communities, and there are several of them, law enforcement, IP lawyers, the general public. And so we've been working on that and agreeing on that material.

Of late, we've been working on the terms and conditions and the terms and conditions on the usage of the platform, but also the technical usage of the platform and the operational usage of the platform. There will be also some terms and conditions that registrars might have before delivering the data requested. But so these are the things that we've been working on, and again, working on promoting this within our communities. I know that the registrars have been putting a huge effort on this since the previous ICANN, during ICANN and since the previous ICANN. But the other parts of the community are preparing for that too. And I know that a number of them are going to attend seminars, intern and other things to go and talk to their peers about it and make sure that everybody's on board and using it. Again, the idea is to make sure that this is used, that we're able to see traffic, to analyze traffic, to make sure that we are able to gauge, not only the interest in the tool, but the usage and what comes from it in order to be able to see if we need to have a tool that remains what we're proposing now, or if we need to bring the whole SSAD as recommended by policy last year or two years ago. I hope that answers your question, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW:

It did. Thank you. I have a few more though. Will this team be meeting at ICANN 78? And what will be discussed, if you are, for anyone who might be interested in finding and joining this meeting?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS: So yes, we will. And we have a challenging spot because we're one of the few first discussions on the Saturday morning early on. Come in with your coffees. We will be presenting the work, obviously, to anybody that walks in. There's a number of moving pieces that we need to also agree and review. Again, I mentioned the Ts and Cs. I mentioned that the other bits. So we will be working, but we will have also a portion to present our work to the community. I believe it's 9:00 on the Saturday morning. So please do come with your coffees, but be there.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Thank you. Thank you for that. Super helpful. Will this team be ending or changing once the registration data request services launches?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS: That will almost sound like a plug. Yes, of course it will. Because Council has just voted a new charter for this team to pivot into a standing committee. Part of the exercise up until now has been to design and make sure that this tool is launched. And once it's launched, we are pivoting into a standing committee that will be receiving from the system and reviewing the stats, the usage stats on the system, in order to be able to form an opinion on where to go next. I want to make sure that everybody understands that the opinion and the decisions are not for the small team's or the standing committee's to be taken. We're only there to gather the information, making sure that we understand it. Call in the experts if there is anything that we don't understand and we can't figure out by ourselves, statisticians, and others, to make sure that we

have a good view of it and we can present that back to Council, also to the board who initially asked Council to do this work. And as I presented in the Z-graph earlier, essentially is the one that is ramped up to take the future decisions on this. They will do it with the GNSO Council and we will have that discussion. As the small team has been, there's been members of the board and GNSO Council and other members of the community, the standing committee will be also formed from different parts of the community. And yeah, looking forward to seeing this grow into useful information that we can use to take decisions.

TERRI AGNEW:

Yeah, it is fun looking at stats. I mean, maybe not for everyone, but it is. It's interesting to see the data. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us with respect to the work on this team?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS:

I didn't prepare a long speech about this, but I did think about this one. This is, to my knowledge, at least in my time dealing with Council on Council, one of the first exercises where we really worked hand in hand with the board on a thing. The board really needed our help because they said SSAD is too big, too expensive. We can't decide on this. Please help us figure out if there's a way to do this in a more simple, less expensive way. And we'll work together on it. And it started late in the pandemic. People had gotten used to a lot of Zoom calls, got used to interact with the board maybe in a different way than we used to. We used to wait for ICANN meetings and in-person meetings and etc. We were starting getting into the habit of grabbing the phone and calling

each other when things needed to be worked out. And it's a dance. We just want to make sure, as Donna mentioned minutes ago, we want to make sure that we don't break the process. There's a good reason for it to exist. We want to make sure that we can look at things in a different way, act and react. And this whole pandemic had been a lot of reacting and reinventing the way we were doing things. And this is a definite positive that came out of it. From the Council's point of view, I hear it also from the board's point of view, people are very happy of that different speed of interaction that we've taken. Where again, used to be, we would wait three, four months until we met at the ICANN. We would send letters to each other. The letters themselves would take months to be analyzed and drafting a response or receive. And everything was polite and a great dance, but it was bizarre. And we've managed to find a way here to speed the process up. But again, very much keeping an eye, keeping two eyes on the process and make sure that we don't break things by going too fast. And in particular here, we're talking about policy development and the RDRS or the SSAD took a great many of hours from different people, from a lot of people to build. We don't want to throw this out the window and start again outside of that process. We need to live with it. But we found new ways to interact with the board, which I personally find very exciting.

TERRI AGNEW:

I agree. Yeah. It can be difficult at times, but I agree. Well, thank you, Sebastien. It was great hearing about the EPDP phase two small team. And as a reminder, the small teamwork can be followed on the GNSO small team wiki pages, which Devan will place the link in the Zoom chat

here shortly. But before we move on to Paul for SubPro pending recommendations small team and GGP liaison work, guess what time it is? Quiz question time. Ready? How many different varieties of sausages does Germany have? 15, 300, 1000, or 6000? 6000 would be a lot of sausages, but let's see. You never know. All right. Here we go. For those of you who answered C, 1000, you know your sausages. I personally am going to try to eat a sausage with every meal. I know I'm not going to hit 1000, but that's okay. We'll see how many we can get in there. It'll be fun conversation with each other during face-to-face meetings or even after the meeting when we're back on hybrid as well. All right, we're going to go ahead and move on to Paul and the SubPro and GGP. Hi, Paul. Let's see. The Council SubPro small team has been very busy since March and made a lot of progress at ICANN 77. Can you provide an update on where things stand since the last Council meeting and what we'll be discussing during ICANN 78?

PAUL MCGRADY:

Thanks, Terri. Good morning, everybody. So just an update on where the small team is. We are in the process of evaluating the non-adopted SubPro recommendations here in ICANN land. We have our own language. And so when the board does not like something, it does not reject it. Apparently, they non-adopt it. And so we have looked at those and found the ones that we believe with a little bit of clarification of intent and some tweaking in the wording, or the meaning rather, that the board could adopt them. And so those have been identified. We drafted a clarification statement, sent that to Council for consideration. Council has since sent that onto the board.

I mentioned that process because it's important to know that the small team itself doesn't have any ability to do anything other than evaluate and recommend ultimately everything that we do goes back through Council. There is one more non-adopted recommendation that we believe can be handled by a clarification statement. And that has to do with PICS and RVCs. PICS are public interest commitments and RVCs are registry voluntary commitments. And these are general methods, means to resolve problems with applicants. And these end up becoming part of the registry agreement. So they're important pieces of the architecture of the contracts that will be in place for the next round.

This took us a bit longer. But now we have a clarification statement or clarifying statement before the Council. We are hoping for an email, well, we will be having an email vote. We're hoping for a positive one so that we can get the clarification statement to the board in time for them to act on it in their next meeting. The PICs and RVCs are a hot topic of interest within the community. And we have been promised by the board that they will have a follow-on conversation with the community generally about these. And so we are just simply sending along our thoughts through Council on those. And then the board will take it from there.

So that leaves us with the remaining recommendations that the board non-adopted. And for each of those, we have decided to continue pressing on those and have developed initial thoughts on how we may be able to do some of that. It's all very initial now because we are going

to be expanding into a phase called small team plus, which I'll talk about in a second.

One of the hot topics that remain has to do with applicant support. And I mentioned this because I'm also going to talk about the GGP on applicant support. So that's not confusing at all. But the GGP is dealing with something that's different from what the Council small team is looking at. The Council small team, which will become the Council small team plus, will be looking at sort of more direct ways for ICANN Org to support applicants. There was some concern raised by the board about direct payments to applicants or their vendors. And so we're really talking about the money stuff. The GGP talks about something else and we'll get to that. So that's a cliffhanger there for you. But that is in front of us. And I raised this particular one not only because it's the most exciting that we have left in front of us. But also, so when we talked about the GGP, that distinction will be front in everybody's mind.

For some details about what we're thinking about the rest of these, I'm putting into our chat now the current working document so that everybody can see exactly where we are on these. And I think that that's helpful for folks who would like to follow along.

For each of these next steps, whether we go through a process known as a supplemental recommendation or if we choose to go through a process called section 16, we expect that there will be public comment periods on this work. The supplemental recommendations don't require it, but I think there's sort of a general belief among the small team and we hope the Council that public comments are beneficial in situations like this. And so we expect there will be community input that

way. There will also be community input through what I'm calling the small team plus. And that has already been essentially agreed to that we will be inviting subject matter experts from SOs and ACs, so your SO and AC leaders should watch their inbox on that, to come and join the efforts of the small team. And that can be done topically. So say for example, if the GAC has a topic lead on a particular item that the small team is handling that week, they can join us and express what they need to express without having to sit through all the other boring meetings on topics they don't care about. And so that's sort of the idea there, that the subject matter experts can be along with us for the entire ride or they can come in and out depending on their interests.

And then my last thing about this particular work is to literally say, stay tuned, because months and months ago, we decided that it would be better to have our calls open to observers so that they could follow along. And every Monday, it's Monday mornings for me, it's Monday who knows where for everybody else. But every Monday, folks can literally tune in to what we're doing, listen, follow along, ultimately be able to ask questions in sessions like this or whatever. So please do stay tuned. Please do watch for the public comment periods as they come. And I think that's it, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW:

All right. So you gave us a little cliffhanger about GGP. Anything else to add about GGP at this time?

PAUL MCGRADY:

Well, we can go ahead and jump over to that. So yeah, so the GGP I'm reporting on as well because I'm the Council liaison for that. And so I'm not a team member on that. I am just sort of observing and report back to Council on how it's going. The good news is it's going very well. We have a fabulous chair, Mike Silber, who's keeping everybody on track. And we have wonderful support from ICANN policy support team. We are essentially in the home stretch where there was a, we've got our public comments back on the initial draft. We're going through those. And last I heard, we were still on track to submit that in late fall, early winter. And so process-wise, it's great.

Let me take a step back though for those who may not have followed along super closely on this. There's two things going on that are interesting. One is it's a GGP. It's a GNSO guidance process, which is an official way to bring some clarity, some implementation ideas, tweak or add to policy recommendations that are already in place. In other words, this is much heavier weight than a small team, but much lower weight than a PDP. And the GGP is not just a Council thing. There are people from all over the community who are involved in this thing. It's not just Council members. And so that is really interesting. There's public comment periods and all that. So this is our first GGP as far as I'm aware. And one of the reasons why I wanted to be the Council liaison, because I'm totally nosy about everything. And I just wanted to see how the GGP process went. And I think it's gone very well.

The second thing to know about the GGP is that this is not necessarily about money. That's what the Council small team plus and all of you in

your public comment periods and feeding us ideas we'll be working on in the coming weeks. What this is, is about how do we measure success? What are the metrics around reaching potential applicants who need support? And also, what are the processes around that? Marketing campaigns and all those things. How do we measure that? In the last round, we had a very anemic response from folks who we thought could become registries and have interesting business models that advance good stuff. And we're trying to do much, much better this time. So that's what this GGP is about. One of the reasons why it's such a fun GGP is because there's really nothing controversial about it. Most everybody wants more applicants, more new ideas, and not just more applicants, but more applicants that need support that can bring those new ideas to the marketplace of ideas that is ICANN. And so it's sort of like a bunch of do-gooders all in one canoe rowing the right way. And so it's been a fun GGP. But we're in the homestretch now. And again, big thanks to Mike Silver. He's made this particular liaison role pretty easy. Not all of them are, but this one has been. And so a big thank you to him. So that's the GGP. I hope I didn't get anything out of order or jump in either quizzes or do anything that I wasn't supposed to do. But that's the news. Thanks, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW:

You're welcome. Actually, Paul, the truth of the matter is I jumped out of order and went to GGP after SubPro and missed a quiz. So anyway, we'll get it in. We'll get it in.

PAUL MCGRADY: Well, that's the benefit of me spending all those years in Chicago with the improv culture there. I just go with it. So it's all good.

TERRI AGNEW: I appreciate it. So is there anything else important to highlight with either SubPro or GGP on either team that you'd like to share with us?

PAUL MCGRADY: Just one thing. The Council's small team on SubPro is meeting in Hamburg. It's on Saturday at 15:00 hours. I think that's Germany hours, not UTC or anything else. And I, unlike everybody else, seem to know exactly what they're going to be doing in their meeting. We're still working on that. We're not sure if it's going to be an informative session or a working session, but anybody who is really interested in SubPro issues or anybody that just wants to keep an eye on small teams, which I think is completely rational, come check us out, see how we're doing. And show up. There will not be snacks. Thanks, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW: Sometimes we can get snacks in there. Thank you, Paul. I really appreciate all of the work and the updates here. But guess what? It's time for our final quiz question. It's more about Germany. Let's see how we do. We're heading into Germany during the month of October. And many people associate Germany with the annual Oktoberfest. Does anyone know what the very first Oktoberfest was celebration of? Was it an anniversary of a famous German beer, birthday of a German

president's dog, a wedding celebration or harvest celebration? Ooh, I'm just letting you all know that the most popular answer, you're not doing well. I'm just letting you know. That's just a hint before we reveal. Now's the time to change if you think that. All right, here we go. To those who answered C, wedding. How interesting. A wedding celebration. Oh, I love it.

So we talked about a few other things on this webinar. And now we're going to turn it back over to Sebastien Ducos for the Q&A portion. Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS:

Thank you, Terri. I'm quickly browsing and I'm not seeing any questions. Maybe Caitlin or Devan, I don't know exactly who's keeping track of all this. But are there any questions in the chat or in the pod that I've missed?

DEVAN REED:

Hi, Sebastien. It's Devan. I did not see any questions.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS:

Okay, well, we'll leave the mic open for a little while if anybody wants to have or has any questions. I wanted to note something with regards to Donna's presentation and particularly the fact that they're about to celebrate their 100th meeting. And whilst 100 meetings—and I think that most of them were an hour long, at some point they shifted to an hour and a half. A hundred sounds like all in all—Two and a half, mostly two hours, Donna. Okay, so even better. But sounds like a month's of

work. Sounds like a month and a half of work. If you pull it all together. I just want to make everybody keenly aware that for each hour, each two hours that we spend on a Zoom call on a topic, specifically on a topic like that, but on all topics, really, there is a huge amount of homework that needs to be done by the volunteers, by staff who prepares these meetings meticulously. And so whilst it may feel that that things are moving slowly in ICANN, and Donna described this sort of perpetual, this constant start, stop discussions within the group and then going back to the public and so on and so on, things do seem to go slowly. I just want to make sure that it doesn't hide the absolutely enormous amount of work that are put in by volunteers, by their leaderships who spend a huge amount of work also then coordinating things in the background, by staff who prepare these again all these calls meticulously with the information that we need to be able to take the decision. And I think it's very important. Well, first, as chair of this organization, the GNSO, for a few more days, let's say, I want to thank everybody because I'm very grateful of all the work. But I wanted to underline that because most of it, if you're not looking behind the scene, if you're not paying attention, you don't realize how much.

On this one specifically, again, because the technicity is high. The participants, at least the one that I was liaising with as a registry, but the person that we sent would spend all his time in the discussions on the IDN. And then as much time with us registries rehashing all that information, representing all that information to make sure that we would be informed enough in order to guide him in the decision making. And so two hours a week, he would spend another at least two or three hours between the homework, the presentations, etc. And I just

want to salute that, because, again, from the outside, from outside of all those discussions and all this work, very often all it feels like is that is taking way too much time to do anything. We do. We do it because we do it meticulously. We do because we follow a process. We do because we're volunteers and it takes time because everybody has a day job. But that shouldn't hide the fact that an enormous amount of work is being pulled on all those topics. And I wanted to thank that again.

With this, I'm going back to the chat and see no questions or at least no questions that have been bracketed. And if there are none, Terri, Devan and Caitlin, then I think that we can close this show.

TERRI AGNEW:

There are no questions. Thank you very much. I do want to sincerely thank you, everyone, who's joined this webinar. I did put in the chat if you'd like to learn more about the ongoing upcoming policy activities at GNSO, as well as the implementation status of completed PDPs, read the GNSO policy briefing. Again, the link is in the Zoom chat. Thank you to all the interpreters and all of the staff that helped pull this off, as well as the community members who make this all possible. So thank you and see you in Hamburg, either in person or online. Take care.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]