

IANA Report on the Redefinition of the .fo Top-Level Domain

Subject: Request of the FO Council for the .fo Top-Level Domain

Date: November 2004

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (the IANA), as part of the administrative functions associated with management of the domain-name system root, is responsible for receiving requests for delegation and redefinition of top-level domains, investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and reporting on the requests. This report gives the findings and conclusions of the IANA on its investigation of various requests for the redefinition of the .fo (Faroe Islands) country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

Factual and Procedural Background

In September of 1997, IANA approved a request for the establishment of the .fo ccTLD. At that time and today, that two-letter code was and is set forth on the [ISO 3166-1 list \(http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html\)](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html) maintained by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) as the approved alpha-2 code for the Faroe Islands.

Since 1948, the Faroe Islands have been a self-governing overseas region of the Kingdom of Denmark. It has its own parliament and its own flag. The FO designation appears in the ISO 3166-1 list of countries.

Upon its establishment in September of 1997, the .fo ccTLD was delegated by IANA to UNI2 in Denmark, with Petur Zachariassen as administrative contact

and UNI2 as technical contact. UNI2 has always enforced the rules and regulations placed on the Faroe Islands as determined by the FO Council.

In December 2003, UNI2 and Mr. Zachariassen requested a change of SO, AC and TC to the FO Council which they said, will govern the .fo TLD in an impartial and self-regulated manner. ICANN has been in discussion with the Danish government and final approval was received in September 2004. The FO Council has accepted the request to be the new delegee and provided IANA with all the paperwork needed for the present redelegation.

On 15 November 2004 the ICANN Board of Directors authorized the President to complete the redelegation process.

Evaluation

This report is being provided under the [contract for performance of the IANA function \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm) between the United States Government and ICANN. Under that contract, ICANN performs the IANA function, which [includes receiving delegation and redelegation requests concerning ccTLDs \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2), investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

In acting on redelegation requests, the IANA currently follows the practices summarized in “Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation.” ([ICP-1, http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm](http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm)) ICP-1 represents an update of the portions of [RFC 1591 \(http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt\)](http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt) which was issued in March 1994) dealing with ccTLDs, and reflects subsequent documents and evolution of the policies followed by the IANA through May 1999. Relevant guidance is also provided in the GAC Principles.

In considering delegation or redelegation of a ccTLD, the IANA seeks input from persons significantly affected by the transfer, particularly those within the nation or territory which the ccTLD has been established to benefit. As [noted in ICP-1 \(http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a\)](http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a), the parties affected include especially the relevant government or public authority: “The desires of the government of a country with regard to delegation of a ccTLD are taken very seriously. The IANA will make them a major consideration in any TLD delegation/transfer discussions.”

Based on the materials submitted and the IANA's evaluation of the circumstances, The FO Council qualifies as an appropriate manager for the .fo registry, with support from the Faroe Islands community, including the relevant Governments. This redelegation request has also been approved by the Kingdom of Denmark.

Mutual agreement of the old and the new delegees is a factor that ICANN takes very seriously when considering redelegation requests. Here, the former administrative and technical contacts both support the change in delegation.

The GAC Principles serve as “best practices” to guide governments in assuming proper roles with respect to the Internet's naming system, which the GAC has observed is “a public resource . . . administered in the public or common interest.” (<http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.3>) In general, they recognize that each government has the ultimate responsibility within its territory for its national public-policy objectives, but also that ICANN has the responsibility for ensuring that the Internet domain-name system continues to provide an effective and interoperable global naming system. The GAC Principles recommend that governments and ICANN pursue their respective roles by creating a framework for accountability memorialized in communications with each other and with the ccTLD manager (see [clause 2, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2)). The GAC Principles guide governments on how to responsibly structure their relations with ccTLD managers (see [clauses 5.5, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5) and [clause 9, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9)). Among these specific principles, the best practices contemplate that governments will assist in ensuring that the ccTLD manager complies with ICANN policies related to global coordination of the Internet DNS ([clauses 9.1.7 and 9.1.8, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7)).

The proposed redelegation will promote service to the local Internet community and will help assure continued Internet interoperability through the global technical coordination that ICANN was created to provide. In this regard, the recognition contained in the Faroe Islands Government's discussion of the need for close coordination between ICANN and the government is particularly noteworthy.

Conclusion

The structure proposed by The FO Council and endorsed by the Faroe Islands Government is to have The FO Council undertake management of the .fo ccTLD under appropriate oversight of the Faroe Islands Government concerning the national policy interests. The FO Council and the Faroe Islands Government also acknowledge and support ICANN's responsibility for coordinating management of the DNS, including the .fo ccTLD, to safeguard global technical-coordination interests. In reviewing the request, in light of the Faroe Islands Government's endorsement of The FO Council and Petur Zachariassen as the appropriate all inclusive caretaker, the IANA concludes that the .fo ccTLD should be redelegated to The FO Council and Mr. Petur Zachariassen.