



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

28 January 2015

Ms. Brigitte Zypries MdB
Parliamentary State Secretary
German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy
Scharnhorststr. 34-37
10115 Berlin
Germany

Dear Ms. Brigitte Zypries:

Thank you for your response to ICANN's letter dated 11 December 2014 regarding the applications for .MERCK. Your letter has been posted on the New gTLD correspondence page (<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/zypires-to-atallah-19dec14-en.pdf>).

We would like to clarify one point that may have been misunderstood. My letter requesting the input from .MERCK applicants, Merck KGaA and Merck & Co., Inc., was not related to the ongoing Independent Review proceedings initiated by Merck KGaA, which is currently underway. The Independent Review proceeding continues to advance as scheduled, and ICANN remains committed to adhering to its Bylaws and being accountable to the Internet community. If we choose to take the issue referenced in my 11 December 2014 letter to the NGPC for consideration, we will inform Merck KGaA and Merck & Co., Inc. of this decision.

We will continue to work with both applicants regarding this matter. We appreciate the continued participation of the German government in ICANN processes, and thank you for your participation in the multi-stakeholder model. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Akram Atallah
President, Global Domains Division