

Mr. Göran Marby
President and Chief Executive Officer
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

17 September 2017

Re: .cat domain name judicial seizure warrant

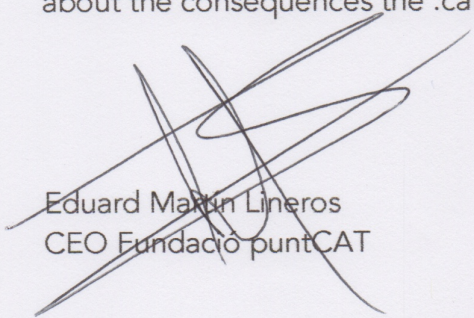
Dear Mr. Marby,

Fundació puntCAT wants to inform ICANN that on September 15th Spanish judicial authorities issued a seizure warrant that forces Fundació puntCAT, as the .cat TLD Registry operator, to block all .cat domain names that may contain any kind of information about the forthcoming independence referendum to be held in Catalonia on October 1st.

While Fundació puntCAT understands national jurisdiction and law enforcement matters are not within ICANN's purview, we believe there are causes for concern for the ICANN community at large given the unprecedented and absolute scope of this blocking request.

Spanish judicial authorities are ordering .cat to conduct censorship duties, as the judicial order received by puntCAT places the burden of blocking domain names based on the content they may contain on the Registry operator. We are being requested to censor content and suppress freedom of speech in the .cat domain names. This compromises the obligations we have as gTLD Registry operator towards the .cat community, and may put in jeopardy our position as the steward of the catalan speaking community on the Internet.

We are seriously concerned about the legal implications of this order, and about the consequences the .cat community may suffer.



Eduard Marín Lineros
CEO Fundació puntCAT