I want to start out by mentioning that the GNSO Council reached 2 unanimous decisions in the GNSO Council this week

a. On Whois Studies Proposals taking into account ALAC and GAC requests and opinions

> I want to point out that while this is just one step in the Whois issue, it is, to my knowledge, the first time the GNSO council has achieved unanimity on any topic under the WHOIS rubric

b. On approval of the RAA Amendments and follow-on work

> In this motion we requested that the board adopt the measures in its meeting on 6 Mar. for the following reasons:
>
> - This has been a two year process
> - There have been multiple consultations and two formal public comment periods
> - Two amendments were added subsequent to the last public comment period, and the final set has been made public since December
> - The ALAC and GNSO (unanimously – with all voters voting) approved the set as it was posted in December
> - As the RAA includes important new enforcement and compliance tools
> The RAA becomes effective with a new accreditation or upon renewal and has a 5 year term – any registrars that renew before it is in force won't be under the new agreement for 5 years
>
> If the amendments cannot be adopted at this meeting, then please do so as soon as possible. The hope is to get all registrars, including those who will not need to renew in the near future, under the new agreement as soon as possible – there have been discussions and support for a system of incentives to encourage registrars to sign the new agreement as soon as possible
>
> I want to point out that this unanimous recommendation was due to remarkable work of several council members over the last week who negotiated in good faith and made compromises.  I am especially grateful to the Registrar constituency's openness and willingness to discuss further amendments to the RAA and am especially grateful for the willingness to negotiate a Registrant's Rights Charter

On the New GTLD Draft Applicant Guidebook, we have declined at this point to make any council wide statements, though individuals and constituencies may comment.  We will be discussing the IDNccTLD implementation plan at a later time.

Several policy efforts including fast flux and inter-registrar transfer policy are nearing completion, while new efforts such as one on registration abuse are being started up.

In all of these policy efforts, we have been making extenive use of WGs that are open to the community as well as constituency and council members.

We  also met with, and had open and frank discussions with the GAC and the ccNSO and have agreed to further exchanges in the future, including the possibility of working together on appropriate issues of common concern.

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In addition to its policy work, the council and constituencies have been very active in implementing the board mandated process changes and restructuring.

5 working teams have been established to deal with the various issues.  These working teams are open to interested participants in the community and not just those in the constituencies or council.

All in all, it has been a good week for the GNSO council.