

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Statement of the ALAC

in support of Consumer Constituency

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

During the 26 January 2010 ALAC meeting, it was decided to prepare a statement for submission to the public consultation on New Consumers Constituency Petition and Charter. Following the call, Beau Brendler was tasked to draft a statement on the Consumer Constituency on behalf of the ALAC.

The first draft of the below Statement, which was a re-statement of the 28 ALAC's motion to support the Consumers Constituency Petition and Charter adopted by consensus during the ALAC Meeting of 28 April 2009, was sent to the ALAC-Internal List by Beau on 28 January and received some comments.

Beau posted a revised text of the Statement on the internal list on 11 February and on 13 February. Based on instructions he had received from staff in error, he sent it to the email address provided for the public consultation on New Consumers Constituency Petition and Charter prior to a vote having taken place.

On May 14th, the Chair of the ALAC asked the Staff to start a five-day online vote on the ALAC Statement in support of Consumer Constituency

The online vote ended on May 19th and resulted in the ALAC endorsing the statement with 12-1 and one abstention. You may review the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=nKrBcJHDis5DaVKxBgzw

[End of Introduction]

ALAC statement in support of Consumer Constituency

As it did during its meeting of 28 April 2009, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) states its support for the creation of the Consumers Constituency in the non-commercial stakeholder group in the GNSO.

Given that one of the goals of the ALAC is to support the interests of all individual Internet users, we strongly believe that consumer and public interest groups must have a representative voice in the GNSO policy-making environment.

We applaud the organizers' efforts to recruit additional organizations, including most recently the Greek consumer group EKPIZO, and to obtain formal commitments from those who have already expressed interest. Supporters of the Consumers Constituency include consumer organizations and consumer representatives in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Slovenia and the United States. We understand that consumer organizations in France and Mexico have indicated their interest in joining the Consumers Constituency. We see this support as representing an impressive starting point for obtaining broad geographic representation.

Therefore, we strongly encourage the Board to approve the Consumers Constituency so its organizers can continue to recruit new members to ensure the most solid foundation possible at this early stage of a constituencies' progress and give consumer and public interest groups a voice in the GNSO policy development process.