



Hosting + Domains + Anti-virus

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Dear Maarten and Goran

I am writing to you in relation to the upcoming public meeting which is to be held in The Hague.

In common with many others I had been looking forward to attending an “in person” ICANN event for the first time in over two years.

It is to be expected that ICANN would put in place health and safety protocols for attendees. That they might go further than what is required by the host country isn't surprising.

However, I was quite shocked by the waiver that ICANN is forcing all participants to agree to in order to attend.

While I can fully appreciate that an event organiser needs to protect themselves from frivolous claims, the waiver that you expect me, my staff and other attendees to agree is excessive.

I took the liberty of seeking legal counsel with respect to the waiver, as I wanted to be sure that I wasn't being paranoid. Our legal counsel, Mr William Clarke, has advised me that I cannot sign this waiver and I obviously cannot ask any of my staff to do so either. Their analysis of the waiver is attached. They agree that you would want to reduce your liability, but you cannot expect people to grant you a blanket exclusion of liability which includes actual fault.

As an ICANN accredited registrar both myself and my staff attend ICANN meetings as they are an important part of the policy making process which has a direct and tangible impact on our business. Being unable to attend an event due to this unreasonable requirement is incredibly frustrating.

I would hope that you appreciate where I'm coming from, and you reconsider the need for this unnecessary and over-reaching waiver for attendance to the upcoming meeting, and future meetings.



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Sincerely,

Mr Michele Neylon
Managing Director