

APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF THE NCUC APPOINTEE TO THE NCSG FINANCE COMMITTEE

Name: Edward Morris

ICANN Region: Europe (residence: Italy / United Kingdom; Irish citizen)

1. In response to the questions in NCUC Chair Faraneh Badii's call for application of 12 December 2016:

a. Past experience in finance management, fundraising and other finance related activities:

1. Corporate Secretary and Board Member, T and J Imports Limited (company number 05145954), Isleworth, England, United Kingdom

Raised capital, filed all financial reports with Companies House and HM Revenue and Customs.

2. Fundraiser for several political campaigns, most recently Giffords for US Congress and Kerry for US President.

3. As co-founder of Transparency International's Finland chapter, raised initial funding to establish NGO.

4. Completed three courses (Fundamentals, Financial and Managerial Accounting, Communication Strategy in Accounting and Applied Business Statistics) in accounting during undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California. Received highest possible grade in all three courses.

b. Two things you want to do to improve the work of finance committee:

It would not be hard to improve upon the work of the NCSG Finance Committee as it recently has done nothing of consequence. Indeed, the principle reason for my application for this position is that to the extent any substantive work has been done in this area by the NCSG it has been done by or has involved me and has not involved any appointed member of the Finance Committee. This appointment would allow me to continue to do the work I have been doing in a more regularized manner as well as expand my role so that the things that need to be done get done.

The NCSG Charter tasks the finance committee with: 1) deploying and developing a fund-raising plan for the NCSG, 2) working with ICANN staff to determine levels of support available to the NCSG, 3) working with ICANN finance officers to ensure the NCSG receives fair support from ICANN, 4) preparing financial reports, including one mandatory report that has – despite the Charter requirement – not been filed in the four years I have been a NCSG member.

In his post to the NCUC Discuss list of December 12th NCSG Chair Tapani Tarvainen also noted that one additional task of the finance committee is preparing comments for and participating in the ICANN budget process.

There are far more than two things, per Chair Badii's question, that need to be done to improve upon the currently virtually nonexistent work of the NCSG Finance Committee. I shall list my top two priorities, and then will add a few other things that I'd like to do so that the NCSG actually has a functioning and forward looking Finance Committee:

1. Improved participation in the ICANN budget process.

I have been very discouraged by the lack of work done by the NCSG Finance Committee in this area. With the new powers over the budget given to the ICANN community by the accountability reforms (see, particularly, ICANN Bylaws §6.2(iii)) it is essential that the NCSG participate fully in all ICANN budget processes.

During the past year the NCUC and NPOC appointees to the Finance Committee did not attend a call that had been arranged to prepare a comment to ICANN on the FY17 ICANN budget. The call, arranged by the NCSG Chair, was attended by the Chair, PC Chair Marilia Maciel, PC Vice Chair Matthew Shears and myself. In the absence of any FC participation no NCSG public comment was filed on the ICANN FY17 budget.
(<https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-op-budget-fy17-five-year-05mar16/>)

Recently the same lack of participation and output was about to happen with the PTI FY17 budget. Activity on the Finance Committee mailing list indicated that the Finance Committee intended to meet it's obligation in this regard (see, for example, <http://mailman.ipjustice.org/pipermail/fc-ncsg/2016-November/000028.html>). I waited. And waited. Finally, when it became apparent that no such comment was forthcoming, Stefania Milan and I gave up most of a Saturday to prepare a comment that we submitted at deadline (<https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-fy18-pti-24oct16/pdfp1oeBV2BV9.pdf>).

Since joining the NCSG, I have been the principle author of three NCSG/NCUC public comments on ICANN's budget and/or operating plan. Last year, I was the pen holder and principle GNSO Councilor involved with creating the GNSO budget comment submitted on behalf of the GNSO by GNSO Council Chair James Bladel
(<https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-op-budget-fy17-five-year-05mar16/pdf5hWWfxekBz.pdf>).

If selected to be the representative to the NCSG Finance Committee I will work with all members of the NCSG and will **guarantee** the NCSG will submit timely public comments on **all** comments concerning ICANN's budget and operating plan. That's just the minimum. We need to do more.

Early and consistent participation in the NCSG budget process is essential if the NCSG is to be treated fairly in resource allocation. ALAC's Finance Committee has regular meetings and briefings with ICANN Chief Financial Officer Xavier Calvez. If selected to serve the NCUC on

the NCSG Finance Committee I will propose doing the same for the NCSG, including Constituency and Stakeholder Group leadership in any and all discussions with Mr. Calvez and his staff.

2. Establishment of a NCSG bank account.

Finance, beyond policy making, in the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group has de facto been a delegated competence of the Constituencies. I would recommend no change to this practice.

Opportunities do arise, however, where the NCSG can or needs to be in receipt of funds. We need a bank account and if selected to the Finance Committee I'll propose that we get one. Two events in the past year illustrate the need for such an account:

1. At the Morocco meeting a representative of the Hewlett Foundation met with several community leaders, including the NCSG Chair, searching for funding opportunities. Although he did not select the NCSG to receive funding, what if he had? Where would we put the money?

Although fundraising and matters of finance are traditionally a matter for Constituencies at times opportunities for funding do come to the NCSG. We need to be prepared to accept and administer the funds.

2. ICANN recently agreed to fund an upgrade of the NCSG database. Money was to be given to the NCSG for distribution to a third party. The NCSG had no way of receiving the funds so my understanding is that the NCSG utilized a work around by where the NCUC bank account was used to pay the vendor and then the NCUC was directly reimbursed by ICANN. That's bad form – for both the NCUC and NCSG.

I will further propose that the bank account be based outside of the United States (the NCUC account is currently based in Atlanta, Georgia), for reasons of diversity and security, and in a currency other than the United States dollar. Estonian e-residency, including banking facilities, is a concept we may wish to consider for the NCSG.

3. Submit NCSG budget requests.

I will pledge to keep the NCSG EC informed of any and all ICANN budget and financing opportunities, such as the Supplemental budgeting request period now open.

Should the NCSG EC decide to apply for funding I would, if selected as a member of the Finance Committee, take the lead, in conjunction with other FC members, in drafting these requests.

4. Meet Charter requirement: produce an annual financial report.

§2.6 of the NCSG Charter requires production of an annual financial report. No such report has been produced in recent years by the Finance Committee. If selected to represent the NCUC on the Finance Committee I will ensure that such a report is produced.

5. Work with the NCSG EC in updating Charter provisions concerning the Finance Committee.

The NCSG Charter does not reflect the reality of non-commercial finance within ICANN. I understand that Charter reform may be attempted this year by the NCSG. If so, I will work with the NCSG EC and all involved parties to ensure that the Charter is updated to reflect both best practices and the reality of the NCSG finance system.

Please note that I was largely responsible for 1) section VIII of the new NCUC bylaws, and 2) the content of § 22.7, 22.8 and suggested the exact text that is now §4.3(y) of the new ICANN bylaws. I have experience in this area and would like to use it for the benefit of the NCSG.

6. Hold Finance Committee meetings a minimum of 3 times per year. Per §2.6.1 of the NCSG Charter I will invite all interested members of the NCUC and NPOC Executive Committees to participate in these meetings.

7. I would reach out to the other SG's within ICANN to coordinate, where possible, activities concerning ICANN's budget and operating procedure.

We share many common concerns regarding ICANN's operations and budget with the other Stakeholder Groups within the GNSO. I would very much like to work with them within the ICANN community to collectively achieve our objectives. A session on the budget has been proposed for the forthcoming NCPH intersessional meeting in Reykjavik. I think this would be a good start to start doing just that.

2. In response to the questions in NCSG Chair Tapani Tarvainen's email of 12 December: 2016:

q. Indicate if you would be willing to become FC Chair:

Yes

This is important work and needs to be done. In a changing ICANN environment it is imperative that the NCSG be active and prepared, both to exercise it's role within ICANN and to develop solid financial analysis and implementation structures internally, on the financial front. Should you be willing to select me for this role, I'd be happy to expand upon the work I'm already doing in this area so that it encompasses the totality of that charged to the NCSG Finance Committee.

Thank you for considering my application. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information to assist you in your deliberations.