

**ICANN Brussels Meeting
Open Travel Drafting Team Meeting
TRANSCRIPTION
Sunday 20 June at 0900 local**

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Olga Cavalli: Kevin, you're welcome to join us. He's here but not in this moment.

I have seen him today but - he's wearing - by the way I cannot forget that he's wearing a Brazilian tee-shirt of football so I really was concerned about that. I told him. So he asked me for one from Argentina. And I don't have it so.

Thank you, Kevin, for coming. The idea of this meeting -- we're all very tired so I'll be short - I mean brief -- we have some concerns. I have them summarized here but if some of the council members that are here with us now can write - want to write some other issue you are welcome, mostly are all tied into flexibility.

(Terry) would like to comment about some issues with - he's traveling from the United States to - it was to Nairobi this time and he had some options for flying more comfortably and losing less time in between flights and also the question of staying on Friday for attending the board meeting.

I couldn't go to Nairobi, you know, because I had my daughter sick but in the case that I would have gone I should have stayed on the Friday because (Stefan), who is the vice chair was not able to stay and (Chuck) was not attending.

And depending on the timing of the flights I would have maybe stayed for that night. And that is not covered for counselors. So that's one question if there is flexibility for allowing if needed some counselors also attending Friday meetings and covering that night of the hotel, flexibility about - (Zahid) also has a comment about flights and trains and all that. Maybe you both can tell your experiences. And also there is somebody from the...

Man: This - is this being recorded by the way or transcribed?

Olga Cavalli: Oh that's a good question. Can we record this? Oh, thank you so much.

So I would suggest that we say our name so we know who's in the meeting. My name is Olga Cavalli. I'm from the GNSO Council. I'm a noncom appointee. (Edmund), you're in or just part of the stenography?

Tim Ruiz: Tim Ruiz, GNSO Council for the registrars.

Kevin Wilson: And I'm Kevin Wilson, the chief financial officer for ICANN.

Olga Cavalli: Thank you Kevin. And (Avri)'s joining, I think, in a minute.

There were specific requests from the noncommercial stakeholder group is that they want some more flexibility among their funds, specifically for example with (Mary) couldn't use her funding for Nairobi and they were not allowed to allocate that funding for other counselors. So those may be other - the concerns. I think it's mainly flexibility and even perhaps including some more funding if needed for Friday attending of the board meeting. Perhaps we can start with (Terry) telling your experience to Kevin.

(Terry): I've got to go over a few things.

Olga Cavalli: Volunteer our time.

(Terry): So with that in mind, for instance this trip I didn't want to - it was - I was taking a day of my own vacation specifically because we had my granddaughter and my daughter just flew in the night - they're volunteers and so their travel, buy these things save me anything because I'm in - still lost that day.

Olga Cavalli: (Terry), so the issue was the timing? Is that because the other ticket was claimed first, the one in the morning?

(Terry): It looked to be a few hundred dollars cheaper. I was looking it up for what a travel company gets for tickets.

Olga Cavalli: Thank you, (Terry). (Bob), can - you can add your comments because I think they are on the line with (Terry)?

(Bob): I have a list of a couple of things from (unintelligible).

Man: Sorry. Just should I just take a note and respond to all of them at the end or how do you want to...

Olga Cavalli: Sorry. Well how do you - they are somehow seen here. But how do you want to proceed?

Man: That's fine. Sounds like maybe a download and then I can do a (unintelligible).

(Bob): So yeah. Thanks again. I've got a few points here. Some are related to personal experiences and some are - let me start with the constituency issues.

We had a bit of a discussion about the - it's certain - well first, (Mary Wong) had some problems when - wait, no, no, (Lucien). I'm certain (Mary Wong) in Nairobi had certain difficulty. Apparently it could have been, according to her, easily avoided, on-route issues especially in Nairobi.

Nonetheless the constituency has a view for it. But rather than have the slots -- and I know you were - I'm revisiting a discussion we've had in the past when the travel draft was - options was -- do we want slots or do we want allocations of funds? To some extent that was inadventagous I guess from an ICANN perspective, having some challenges at the - you - sorry, the counselors have faced. So I think that it's probably a good time to revisit - plus have allocations funds.

I'll go to my (unintelligible) after this. So the closest that I have experienced have been - (Piers) and myself have been on route sometimes is to find the (unintelligible). I have to say that this particular flight that I took - fine, you've asked for this, we'll give you that. So this particular travel I didn't have a problem.

There has been a problem with the hotel dates definitely because of these actually being unavailable for the board meeting on Friday. I would chime in with everybody else here may - reprimanded and some of them have been reprimanded for not attending the board meetings particularly that and flights which may not be consistent with the timing of the board meeting so conflicting with that and problem.

In any case I think that there are other things that the council needs to do. I think it's a good idea to allow if not the constituency to utilize the funds for this purpose themselves, at least allow the counselors to buy their own tickets. There's a particular reason for that.

When (BCD), who by the way I have to say have done fairly well -- but here's the technical problem -- purchase the tickets and send you the tickets my travel agent for instance cannot go and change the ticket. What ends up happening is that if you want to change the dates -- say for instance, to give you an example, I miss my flight before leaving Karachi -- the Office of Emirates would say well, you know, this is (unintelligible).

I had to call Dubai. I waited for a couple - two, three hours, kept calling them. And eventually I got it changed.

But the travel agent said to me, look, if this was a ticket that I purchased I probably would have had this in two - okay. That's the same problem.

So the ability for the counselors to purchase their own tickets through their travel agent gives them the autonomy to be - they are - and it can probably avoid the difficulties of interacting with (BCD) for instance.

I've also noticed that when you interact with the travel division of (BCD) there are times differences. So I mean the people in States will have a different time zone I live or - so interacting with them may be a little difficult depending on the timing that we have.

So I think - it seems much more efficient to me that if you let the counselors buy their own tickets and get reimbursed, sure you can have a ceiling -- (unintelligible) where the UN for instance does -- that may be one possibility.

One thing that I find - I just want to make a personal - share with you a personal experience for Nairobi. And I sent three or four emails to say look, I'd just like to speak with you. And I was constantly responded by saying - I received replies saying no it's better to do it over the email.

Now there are many things with regard to travel that are very difficult to explain over email. And you've got to make it easy for us to be able to -- if we are going to do it this way -- to call and just speak to somebody.

Man: Just to clarify, when you say you, you mean?

(Bob): Myself

Man: You...

(Bob): Oh I'm sorry. So...

Man: It wasn't Kevin or (Steve). It was whoever was...

(Bob): I'm trying to remember the (unintelligible). It wasn't..

Man: (Matt)?

(Bob): Or something like - probably just from (GI).

Man: Then - I'm just trying to clarify...

(Bob): Yeah.

Man: That you were trying to reach one person and they said (unintelligible).

(Bob): Yeah. That's what happened. It wasn't a (BCD) person because I know the distinction. I mean when they start talking to you it's after the approvals and everything.

It was basically ICANN staff probably. In fact it was. And I'll get you the - forward the email chain if you - and I sort of said look, I purchased these tickets before so let me purchase them and be reimbursed.

That's just not possible. That could not happen before. And that - in fact I actually purchased it twice before subsequently.

The question I had was a little challenging because I was sort of confronted with a statement of me not stating facts. I mean I'm trying to be diplomatic here.

That became a little challenging from - I also became (unintelligible). Let me explain. So when I said that I had purchased these tickets personally before and been reimbursed I was told that that's never happened, didn't believe me. That was the kind of challenge I had. And that wasn't the (BCD).

So that exchange over the phone - because it took me four emails and I had a full-time staff person trying to exchange emails. And after that I got a phone number which then I called or they called me even though I said I can't take the call right now. It was challenging. It just didn't make any sense.

And those are the sort of difficulties you face. And I don't think anybody's at fault but, you know, everybody has rules, everybody has to get approvals. And when you have the ICANN bureaucracy plus the (BCD) bureaucracy plus the fact they're in a different time zone plus the fact that you can't do things when you're in your own country because you - because it could have been purchased by you.

No. That's fine. So when - so those are the sort of things that add up. And final analysis...

I think there's some in there.

Woman: The one right in front of you.

(Bob): There's - right in front of you there's a bottle of water. (Adrian) - that's actually (Adrian)'s bottle. Go for it.

That's - (Steve), did you hear that? I'm drinking warm, unopened Coke.

So - right, so these are the kind of sort of different things I just wanted to share with you. And I want to be clear here. This particular travel, the only difficulty was to change the tickets.

Other than that it was fairly simple, streamlined. I didn't have to worry about it. And so maybe things have improved. But I wanted to share with you experiences.

Final analysis, looking at the whole thing, looking at what might - value for the ticket, definitely the Friday in - thank you. I'll stop there.

That's the slides that you wanted in the end?

Man: They're - my - all those notes I wrote it's just there was a long labyrinth trail to get to that point. So I kind of hear like five or six sort of administrative issues I want to address and then some sort of...

Olga Cavalli: To respond or...

Man: Yeah. I'd like to just respond in general and then if you could take mental notes if I miss something.

Olga Cavalli: And...

Man: For...

Olga Cavalli: Your comment is aligned with that? (Edmund) has a related comment.

(Edmund): I think it's related so could probably respond together. This is (Edmund Cohen). Although I said I was just lurking here I was listening into the conversation and want to add.

It's - I think, you know, this particular time I think the - in terms of the reimbursement that really needs to take.

Last week we had a regional IGF (unintelligible). And we were trying to invite a number of people who were on their travel at the port to stop by Hong Kong before coming here.

And it, you know, it's challenging. In fact we're in, you know, it was - it became impossible for us to invite a few of them, right, because for example we were willing to sort of fund the part where they would go from their original place to - they could go on to Brussels and then back to let's say new - Australia, right, so Australia, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Brussels and Brussels back.

That became impossible. And it's been impossible for them to come to Hong Kong, go back to Australia and then come back because time was - became an issue.

So I just want to add to that, you know, there are these situations where some of the people - flexibility on routing combined together with the time.

Olga Cavalli: And (Avri), you want to add to that?

(Avri): It was challenging on this too.

Woman: Sorry. And it's really only historical and effective. And that has to do with - and frequently things would come up from those board meetings. And you need to be running around and oh we're going to handle this.

So I always thought that it was important. I wasn't thinking about the travel means so much as I want because it was important to be able to (unintelligible) completely and quickly. That's what had been my reasoning and just saying as much.

Man: I think from a registrar's perspective probably the main thing that I think I - for the spot. In other words - some of the other things that were mentioned I - where to the extent that have been mentioned.

I do say here that we do split up slots now. You know that I like - better, don't like better.

Man: No. I think they like that. I think it's just the issue of making the arrangements.

Man: Yeah. But...

Man: (Unintelligible).

Man: Dealing with that, yeah. I'm - might be similar to what I tried to hear but maybe not. It's a point of clarification with (Len), who actually provides internal travel to fund them.

Woman: Have you changed the last - is asking for the participants and to meet after the board. Sometimes I do realize that that might mean some - or others must be.

Man: (Unintelligible). That's one, two. Well what I thought I was hearing was...

Olga Cavalli: We aren't allowed to stay in the morning. It depends on where your flight and what time your flight is. You have to leave in the morning in - or it depends on the flight, maybe you have to spend half a day.

Man: If in case there are meeting discussions as (Avri) mentioned, follow-up to the board meeting, you are unable to - fine, which means you've got to run to the airport at one, you can stay. So what happens is...

Woman: Okay.

Man: That that becomes a very - not on Friday, oh well if your flight is at maybe 2:00 am are you able to stay on Saturday? Now if you want to leave earlier that's up to you. But you should be able to stay until Saturday morning if - but - because there are aftermath of board meetings.

Man: I think - I...

Man: It goes up to two.

Man: I'm going to repeat what the travel guidelines are just really briefly and then - so the travel guidelines are composed from a desire to make sure that groups of people, outreach (unintelligible), those who might not be able to afford to come. It might be - the company might be fully - third one is getting the work - that really was if you want to assess the driver for it.

That's why from a corporate standpoint it isn't - all these things really make a lot of sense. Those also make sense and so does this one. Talking about it, right, there would be more (unintelligible) stakeholder into that. You've got to have a real travel guideline.

So then we went through several years of - to allocate what? Didn't want to get into discussions of well if I fly from United - if I fly from Paris to go to - I can - the idea being let's not play fair, let's base it on the number of people by value and that's the driver and that - all - that's always a base. There's always a balancing act.

That being said we also realize that in order to fund all the possible people a lot of their, you know, so there are only - (unintelligible) remember that, \$5 million. Conceivably I could come up - now I talked to (Bruce) about what they used to do.

The whole support was then there, right? (Avri), was that - somehow people would show up. And so they were processed so then they were waiting, really

causing a lot of - to fund all the counselors. So that was - that's sort of the overarch.

Next thing about the guidelines is how do you decide who in that group should go, who should get funded. You have these different groups. And we put all of that in one paper and there being that the community would buy off. It's not the right balance, very little discussion about (unintelligible) issues really. Now - so there's - and it's been in the budget for the last two years and like - folks stopped complaining about it and, you know, that's the main thing.

Guidelines are really, really clear saying let's do slots. Therefore if you're flying from New Zealand we'll go ahead and we'll do that. And if you're taking the train up from Paris to the (unintelligible) and we won't make a distinction and (unintelligible) money. That was a conscious decision.

I - I'll - and I'm going to see if this is (unintelligible). That's all the administration.

I think the problem, the fundamental issue on all the administrative issues is probably would do - but as - in my opinion we got out of our supplies.

They're - you have your story. You can imagine my version of the story because I have - remember I said we had 60 exceptions, had to stop this. And everybody said yeah, yeah, you're right, we have to stop the exceptions. Guess what? The exceptions were exceptions.

Some of you had multiple, multiple exceptions. So we're actually going in a - seem to be going in the wrong direction.

To come up with one idea I think that instead of requesting an exception and trying to figure it out and do the phone call thing actually this is a lot of form - at least form-based as opposed to (unintelligible) negotiations.

So that being said I'm now going to speak off the record. I don't - I think we really should go to a - where we would have slots. And here is the guidelines, estimated cost for travel, set of rules on the (unintelligible) center but other people say that per diem.

So in my mind we should be - we should have a more - but as a group one would - I'm sorry. Speaking of that, I would really be in it.

So it - we would have the resource. In my opinion I think our sweetest spot is to provide a resource. We have a group buying process. I have enough anecdotal evidence that the administrative output - I would actually advocate - personally I'd advocate. (Unintelligible).

Keep the slot-based system. Otherwise - but you have some sort of guidelines and then a map. But the travel side - that's what I'd advocate. I don't think it's my role to because of the travel guidelines.

(Ed)'s leaving (unintelligible). It's a lot of headaches and a lot of frustrations.

Olga Cavalli: So for the moment we have the guidelines that we have and you would propose the change or we have to submit it and reason to...

Man: Well the process, you know, I'm not - my understanding is that the travel guidelines are person - most of them were personal stories. They weren't trusted storage brokers or something like that.

My hope is that someone in the - why do I hope that? I just think it's more a - but (unintelligible).

Olga Cavalli: Okay.

Woman: Stop me if this was already raised but the noncommercial-specific...

Man: That...

Man: Yeah. And then I want to talk about the process. (Unintelligible). I'm not sure I'd pass - I think I'd pass the multiple choice. I'm not sure...

Woman: Probably.

Man: About the essay section.

Woman: And I'll do the short answer. Basically on those things those funds were different. They're not entitled to argue that. So within policy support grew for - I forgot where it came from the - or whether it came from somewhere, that was basically the decision, indeed happen again next time.

Man: It wasn't only a budget issue.

Woman: No. It wasn't budget.

Man: It was interpretation of the travel guidelines.

Man: (Unintelligible) budgeting.

Man: If I could ask the, you know, the backing group to have them posted and final. Again this is - I don't think it's staff's role to - I thought of it as - what it was explained to me internally was that a board member couldn't come, couldn't have - well I'm going to - (Terry) couldn't go then someone else could. That's a terrible example.

Woman: Right. But no, it's actually an excellent example, that...

Man: Yeah. So this is what I want to - this is - may - I - if you look at our budget (unintelligible) a bunch of details in the - so I - we've taken it internally, registry group for example, has to carry it over. They have to carry that over.

If everybody did that consistently there - followed guidelines then it would become a registered.

If 30 members wanted to (unintelligible) I would have a significant (unintelligible). One or two slots could get rolled over.

Man: That's a consolidated figure?

Man: No, we have to have name by name. That is the guidelines.

Man: I'm sorry. I didn't know that. Okay.

Man: Yeah.

Man: That's a - then that would be good.

Man: So yes and it...

Man: So per person?

Man: You especially should see it because...

Man: I'll have a look at that.

Man: Moving - bring it up here if you show us the - so if you go to...

Man: Per diem being...

Man: I'm sorry. Process centers would...

Man: This is (unintelligible) pushing and our position, it's going to be why couldn't we do sort of - this should do with the fact that as - having the option to book their own ticket.

Man: The latter point I am personally advocating.

Man: Right. You will...

Man: I'm not saying that (unintelligible) - that's - I - my counterpoint to that and - because (Zahid), you know, I would be - I would not be willing to do that (unintelligible).

Man: Not...

Man: You're not stranded, you're not...

Man: We addressed that. It's the funding.

Man: As long as you're fulfilling that fiduciary aspect.

Man: Hold this. I'm just trying to get sense or a solution.

Man: Oh that would be several I guess. That's to contribute. But as a first step to that I would, I think - we're seeing - I - this time I said \$445 more, a hundred (unintelligible).

Man: Well you can do it different, you know, and...

Woman: Everyone - but within those classes most...

Man: Oh what was - why - and that...

Woman: Okay. If you can include - the rest of the folks would get busy.

Man: But you might not get that but you might get the other stuff.

Man: Yeah.

Man: Just to be clear what I was talking about, (Zahid) - but I'm - I think about that, if you want to fly to Tahiti on the way.

Olga Cavalli: This call was very helpful and just one last comment. You were very flexible with me this time because I have to go to Geneva for a meeting and they allowed me to stop in Brussels then and take a train and go to Geneva and catch my plane to Buenos Aires to continue at the appropriate time with that which means you were flexible.

Man: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. And the one point of communication (unintelligible) that - and really that kind of challenge (unintelligible) maybe document it more crisply but it's helpful to do that rather than exceptions. The worst thing is the exceptions. (Unintelligible).

Woman: Beautiful. Thank you. Over.

END