

# TELEPOLIS

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## **TLDs for geographic regions and cities?**

In article 8, paragraph 3 of the rules of ICANN's governmental advisory committee (GAC), all participating governments expect ICANN to request permission from the respective governments before new geographic top level domains (gTLDs) relating to territories and peoples are introduced. The procedure is, however, vague and not binding for ICANN's directorate. As long as the GAC does not speak with one voice, ICANN has plenty of room to make decisions.

No-one expects ICANN to act politically irresponsibly or controversially should politically problematic cases accumulate. But it seems something that may present long-term consequences has just been started.

The recently founded dotBerlin GmbH used the Luxembourg Convention to promote their .berlin project. They said they already had the approval of the senate in Berlin and that the federal government, which has not yet been asked to make an official statement, had expressed no reservations about the enterprise. "Why shouldn't a handful of metropolises – .paris, .london or .rio – assess what new economic and cultural potential those city code TLDs have?" asks Dirk Krischenowski, dotBerlin's managing director.

When Vint Cerf, ICANN's chairman, asked what was possible with a .berlin domain that was not possible with a .berlin.de domain, Krischenowski replied that .berlin.de was rather inflexible and that most attractive names on the third name level were already taken. "taxi.berlin" is simply much more appealing than "taxi.berlin.de".

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Original text in German language at <http://193.99.144.85/tp/r4/artikel/20/20574/1.html>

22 July 2005 by Wolfgang Kleinwächter