

Media Release- 12 January 2009

ComReg introduces a new framework for Ireland's .ie Top Level Domain

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published its Response to Consultation on a new framework for the regulation and management of .ie, Ireland's Top Level Domain (TLD), which is part of the Internet's global Domain Name System.

Under the Communications Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007, ComReg is responsible for making regulations to ensure the effective management and administration of .ie in the best interests of Irish consumers who use this national resource. The .ie domain is currently managed by IE Domain Registry Ltd. (IEDR).

In June 2008, ComReg consulted on a wide range of issues and simultaneously conducted a comprehensive independent review and due diligence analysis of IEDR's activities. The Response to Consultation now describes the outcome of that process and outlines ComReg's conclusions and decisions on a suitable regulatory framework for the .ie domain. The main points are:

- ComReg will, by way of regulation, appoint IEDR as the authority authorised to register ie domain names in accordance with Section 32(4)(a) of the Act of 2007,
- IEDR will set up and maintain a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) representative of all stakeholders with a focus on more transparent policy development,
- IEDR will continue to adopt the "managed approach" to .ie registrations to ensure continued protection for .ie domain name holders and consumers,
- ComReg will implement a monitoring framework and will participate in the PAC to keep abreast of activities in the marketplace,
- Further regulatory measures may be considered in the future, as warranted.

The Response to Consultation (ComReg Document 09/01) and the full Consultation Paper (ComReg Document 08/48) are now available on www.comreg.ie.

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