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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2021–2023

Introduction

Yrjo Lansipuro, member of the European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO) and ALAC Liaison to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), developed an initial draft of the Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 02 October 2017, the first draft of the Statement was posted on its [At-Large Workspace](#).

On that same date, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the At-Large Community sent a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the [ALAC Work mailing list](#).

On that same date, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the ALAC Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the ALAC Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

ALAC Statement on the Proposed Dates for ICANN Public Meetings 2021–2023

The ALAC welcomes the publishing of tentative dates for ICANN meetings in 2021-2023 well ahead of time so that possible conflicts with community events and globally recognized non-working or religious observance days can be identified and avoided.

The tentative dates for 2021-2023 do not entirely avoid conflicting or being too close with major, globally recognized holiday periods of certain religions or regions. On the former, ALAC has noted the following:

- The 2023 Community Forum will be at the beginning of Ramadan.
- The 2022 Annual General Meeting (15 – 21 October) falls near the end of the Jewish Holiday season, notably Shmini Atzeret (eighth day of Assembly) and Simchat Torah (Celebration of the Torah). Ideally, the meeting should be held one week later to avoid the Jewish holidays.

There are also important regional (non-religious) holidays that are celebrated in certain regions only, like Midsummer in Northern Europe.

Since the Community Fora are either immediately before (2022 and 2023) or after (2021) the Midsummer holidays, travel and various pre- or post-meetings interfere with them. Ideal meeting dates would be a full week removed from the Midsummer holidays. In practice, this would mean moving the Policy Forum one week earlier in 2022 and 2023 and two weeks earlier in 2021.

We realize the need for compromises, and understand that not every regional holiday can be taken in account. At the same time, we appreciate the effort to share the inconveniences as equitably as possible.