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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** TRAVEL & TOURISM INDUSTRY MEMBERS  
**FROM:** RONALD N. ANDRUFF, PRESIDENT, TRALLIANCE CORPORATION  
**SUBJECT:** MARCH 2003 “.TRAVEL” UPDATE  
**DATE:** 31 MARCH 2003

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The Tralliance March Update focuses on the following two areas:

**The Travel Partnership Corporation (TPC)**

The first Board Meeting of the Travel Partnership Corporation took place on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, at ITB in Berlin.

The Board took the following actions:

1. The Interim Board of the TPC Directors was constituted as follows: Jean-Claude Baumgarten, Chairman of the TPC Board and President, WTTC; Alain-Philippe Feutre, Chief Executive Officer, IH&RA; Kevin Dobby, Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary, IATA; William Maloney, Executive Vice President & COO, ASTA; Birger Backman, Chief Executive Officer, UFTAA; Michael Gehrish, President, IACVB, Tom Jenkins, Executive Director, ETOA; Michael Crye, President, ICCL; and Peter de Jong, President, PATA. When fully constituted, the Board of the Travel Partnership Corporation will comprise 25 Directors representing every sector of the travel industry.
2. The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the TPC with amendments were adopted.
3. Jean-Claude Baumgarten was appointed as the Chairman and President of the TPC; Alex Delimata as the Secretary, and Cherian Mathai as the Treasurer.
4. Jean-Claude Baumgarten was elected Chairman, Kevin Dobby and William Maloney joined him as members of the Executive Committee of the TPC Board.
5. Board Members also agreed that the question of Travel Partnership Corporation membership – which should be broad and inclusive – should be

- addressed as a matter of importance, as this will be the means for every travel or tourism organization to participate in **.travel** policies.
6. With unprecedented challenges facing the travel industry today, the TPC Board passed a resolution calling on ICANN to move forward expeditiously with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process called for by the ICANN Board of Directors at the Amsterdam Conference.
  7. The TPC, also by resolution, strongly endorsed the IATA/Tralliance combined application to sponsor the **.travel** TLD application on behalf of the global travel and tourism industry.

### **ICANN Update**

By way of background, at the ICANN Amsterdam Conference (14-15<sup>th</sup> December 2002) the ICANN Board passed resolution 02.152, which directed the ICANN President to develop a draft RFP for the purpose of soliciting proposals for a limited number of new sponsored top-level domains (sTLDs).

This past week at the ICANN Rio de Janeiro Conference (23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March) the ICANN President introduced a paper that described proposed criteria and a proposed process for evaluating sTLD proposals intended to prompt discussion that will lead to completion of a finalized RFP. (The document can be found at: <http://www.icann.org/riodejaneiro/stld-rfp-topic.htm>) The proposed criteria are now open for public comment and it is expected that a RFP will be posted for the community in approximately four weeks.

The ICANN community's response to this paper, both online and in the Public Forum section of the Conference, was encouraging. And while Tralliance anticipates that there will be amendments to the criteria, we are confident that the Tralliance plan will continue to be in line with what will ultimately be the RFP.

Tralliance management – following discussions with the Chairman, a large number of ICANN Board Members, the out-going and in-coming CEO's, (Stuart Lynn officially handed over the CEO & President's offices to Paul Twomey in Rio) – trusts that **.travel** is on track for award in the coming months. While the Board clearly understands that there will still be dissenters in the historically fractious ICANN community, none were heard in Rio and all appear keen to move forward – as quickly as possible in a collegial manner with the proposed limited number of sponsored top-level domains – particularly **.travel**.

The momentum that our initiative is rapidly gaining on all fronts encourages Tralliance and the TPC Board of Directors.

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