

Pisa, September 6, 2026.

To:

Jon Nevett, President and CEO at PIR (Public Interest Registry)

Sally Wentworth, President and CEO at Internet Society

Cc:

Kurt Erik Lindqvist, President and CEO at ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)

Frederic Taes, Chair of the EURALO (European Regional At-Large Organization)

Subject: Disabling of the *autistici.org* domain name by PIR

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am writing to express the concern of the Italian chapter of the Internet Society, as well as a large part of the Italian internet community, regarding the decision by the Public Internet Registry (PIR) to disable the *autistici.org* domain name. This was a consequence of the US government designating the registrant, Autistici/Inventati (a non-profit hosting service based in Italy), as a 'specially designated global terrorist'¹.

While we do not condone terrorism, we note that no evidence currently exists that the registrant has engaged in or supported terrorist activities. The designation apparently stems from the actions of some users of the registrant's services and from the registrant's clear political connotations. Both factors are disturbing: the idea that any email or web service provider could be labelled a terrorist organisation because of the actions of one of its users, or that a group's political ideas could result in them being removed from the internet globally without any judicial review, should be of immediate and utmost concern to anyone who believes in an open and free internet.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/08/designation-of-autistici-inventati-as-a-specially-designated-global-terrorist>

We are particularly concerned by the role of the Public Internet Registry in achieving such removal. We understand that, as a U.S. entity, PIR did not have any choice but to comply with government orders within its jurisdiction. However, we find these actions incompatible with dot org claiming to be the safe and natural home for non-profit organisations and their domain names worldwide. This claim must be backed by action.

Dot org is not U.S. property nor a for-profit corporate undertaking, but rather a global, supra-national resource vital to freedom of expression and association online. Its management must reflect this objective, as was understood when it was awarded in perpetuity to the Internet Society and its wholly-owned operational entity, Public Internet Registry. The stewards of dot org should strive to ensure that no government has control over the online presence of non-profits that do not belong to or operate within its jurisdiction, and more generally that no single government can decide who gets to keep or lose a dot org domain name anywhere in the world.

The contrast between the global nature of the internet and the effects of US government sanctions and embargoes has been debated for almost three decades. While the so-called 'IANA Transition' of ICANN has addressed some concerns, recent events show that much more needs to be done. We would like to see PIR and the Internet Society take action to build appropriate legal defences to shield themselves from this kind of order by the US government, to prevent a similar case from happening again in future. This could include reconsidering the legal place of business of both organisations, as well as ensuring that contractors vital to the operation of the TLD registry are also protected.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to productive discussions with the ISOC and Internet governance communities.

Yours sincerely,

Stefano Giordano
Presidente di Società Internet

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Giordano', is positioned below the typed name and title.