

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen good morning,

My name is Panagiotis Papaspiliopoulos and I serve as Telecommunications Expert at the General Secretariat of Telecommunications and Post of the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks. I also am Accredited Representative of Greece to the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN and chair of the Internet Committee of the Ministry.

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks I would like to thank the organizers for their kind invitation and welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of ccTLD Registries and Registrars of CIS, Central and Eastern Europe in Herakleion, which brings together the leading and key players related to the heart and the development of the Internet in this region.

The last years we are all facing the eruptive increase of the use of the Internet and this is currently forming the Information Society in everyday life: at home, school and work. European countries through their policies, actions and initiatives support and actually lead this trend.

Internet relates issues are of high priority at international and European level and there will be at the top of the agenda of the Greek government during the Greek Presidency of the European Union at the first semester of 2014. We are confident that the Greek and generally every country's economy should use the Internet as a means for development. Moreover, we believe that issues like the introduction and the use of the internationalized domain names are very important because they will give the opportunity to more people, especially of our region, to use the Internet. This will close the gap among the internet users worldwide, bring new ideas, business opportunities and services and promote the cultural diversity of the Internet.

I am confident that this conference will provide all the participants with the much-needed opportunities for exchanging new ideas and best practices that will develop the Internet further. With no other delay, I would like to wish you all a fruitful and successful meeting.