

What are the mission and purpose of the applied-for gTLD?

Instructions

1 Describe the mission and purpose of the applied-for gTLD, specifying the intended domain name holders and users, as well as the activities undertaken or planned to achieve this objective.

2 Explain the long-term viability of this purpose.

Limit: 4,000 characters and/or a document of no more than 10 pages in an accepted file type.

What is the mission and purpose of the applied-for gTLD?

0. Definitions

"Profession d'avocat" (referred to as *"Legal Profession"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer exclusively to the legal profession of lawyer, as regulated in France by Law No. 71-1130 of 31 December 1971, reforming certain judicial and legal professions, Decree No. 91-1197 of 27 November 1991, and the Barreaux' national rules of procedure.

"Avocat" (referred to as *"Attorney"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to any person practising the Profession d'avocat and registered on the Tableau, whether a natural person (an Avocat individually registered with a Barreau) or a legal entity (a company or practice entity of Avocats registered with a Barreau).

"Barreau" (referred to as *"Bar Association"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to all Avocats practising before each French judicial court, as well as before the Conseil d'État and the Cour de cassation, and registered on the Tableau.

"Ordre" (referred to as *"Bar Association"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the democratic institution representing each Barreau, administered by a Conseil de l'Ordre chaired by a Bâtonnier (or by a President in the case of the Ordre des avocats près du Conseil d'État et de la Cour de cassation), elected by all avocats of that Barreau.

"Conseil de l'Ordre" (referred to as *"Bar Association Board of Directors"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the representative and deliberative body of the Barreau, elected by all its Avocats.

"Bâtonnier" (referred to as *"President"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the person who chairs the Conseil de l'Ordre and whose mission is to represent the Avocats of their Barreau, uphold professional ethics, ensure discipline, and promote the activities of the Ordre.

"Tableau" (referred to as *"Roll"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the official list of Avocats of each Barreau adopted by the Conseil de l'Ordre, including two main sections: natural persons (Avocats individually registered with the Barreau) and legal entities (companies or practice entities of Avocats registered with the Barreau).

"Conseil National des Barreaux" and/or **"CNB"** (referred to as *"National Council of Bar Associations"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the public-interest organisation responsible for representing the Profession d'avocat nationally before public authorities.

"Conférence des Bâtonniers" shall hereinafter refer to the association representing 163 Barreaux and 45,000 Avocats.

"Centre Régional de Formation Professionnelle des Avocats" and/or **"CRFPA"** (referred to as *"School of Attorney"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the institution providing the initial professional training of Avocats to-be after they have passed the entrance examination organised through the Instituts d'Études Judiciaires, preparing them for the Certificat d'Aptitude à la Profession d'Avocat (or *"CAPA"*), and providing continuing training for Avocats.

"Caisse Autonome des Règlements Pécuniaires des Avocats" and/or **"CARPA"** (referred to as *"Attorney Payment Fund"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to the intra-professional institutions that secure fund-handling transactions carried out by Avocats on behalf of their clients.

"Conseil de discipline" (referred to as *"Disciplinary Council"* in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to a professional disciplinary jurisdiction established at each french court of appeal and competent

to hear breaches and misconduct committed by Avocats belonging to the Barreaux established within that jurisdiction.

“Syndicat d’avocats” and/or ***“Association d’avocats”*** (referred to as ***“Attorney’s Union”*** and/or ***“Professional Union”*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer to a collective organisation of Avocats, distinct from the Ordres and Barreaux, responsible for advancing claims, defending professional interests, and participating in debate on the development of the Profession d’avocat.

“Institution de la Profession d’avocat” (referred to as ***“Professional institution”*** in the Internal Regulations of the Bordeaux Bar Association) shall hereinafter refer interchangeably to the Ordres, the CNB, and the Conférence des Bâtonniers.

“Communauté professionnelle des Avocats” shall hereinafter refer collectively to the Avocats, the Ordres, the CNB, the Conférence des Bâtonniers, the CRFPAs, the CARPAs, the Conseils de discipline, the Syndicats and Associations d’avocats, as well as ad hoc entities mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d’avocat and social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d’avocat.

1. Mission and purpose of the gTLD

The **“.AVOCAT”** gTLD is intended to provide **a trusted digital space that is clearly identifiable and available for registration exclusively by:**

- Avocats;
- Ordres;
- the Conseil National des Barreaux ;
- the Conférence des Bâtonniers;
- CRFPAs;
- CARPAs;
- Conseils de discipline;
- Syndicats and Associations d’avocats;
- ad hoc entities mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d’avocat;
- and social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d’avocat.

Collectively referred to herein as the « ***Communauté professionnelle des Avocats*** ».

Its principal purpose is to:

- Provide a namespace reserved exclusively for members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats;
- Strengthen public confidence in the identification of members of the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats;
- Combat identity theft, fraudulent practices, and websites involved in any form of unlawful practice of the Profession d'avocat;
- Promote a consistent and secure digital presence that complies with the professional rules of the Profession d'avocat.

2. Intended domain name holders and users

Domain name holders within the “.AVOCAT” space shall be strictly limited to the following categories:

- Avocats;
- Ordres;
- the CNB;
- the Conférence des Bâtonniers;
- CRFPAs;
- CARPAs;
- Conseils de discipline;
- Syndicats and Associations d'avocats;
- ad hoc entities mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat;
- and social and/or technical bodies mandated by the Institutions de la Profession d'avocat.

Collectively referred to herein as the « ***Communauté professionnelle des Avocats*** ».

The intended end users are:

- The Communauté professionnelle des Avocats, seeking a reliable, certified, and authenticated digital identity;
- Citizens, litigants, internet users, and public and private institutions seeking to interact with the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats in an authenticated and secure manner.

3. Activities planned to fulfil the purpose of the gTLD

To ensure the effective fulfilment of its mission, the registry will implement, in particular:

- Strict eligibility-verification procedures before any registration;
- Ongoing monitoring mechanisms for domain name holders;
- Naming policies that strictly govern permitted names;
- Suspension and deletion measures in the event of non-compliance with community criteria;
- Cooperation with the Ordres and/or the CNB to validate the status of domain name holders.

These mechanisms are intended to ensure that the .AVOCAT space remains a closed and trustworthy environment reserved exclusively for the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats.

4. Long-term viability of the purpose

The viability of the .AVOCAT gTLD is based on several strong structural factors:

- The existence of the Profession d'avocat, an enduring regulated profession governed by stable French national rules;
- A clearly defined, enduring, and institutionalised Communauté professionnelle des Avocats;
- A continuing need for trust and reliable identification in the services offered by the Communauté professionnelle des Avocats;
- A strong need to combat unlawful online forms of practice of the Profession d'avocat.

Accordingly, .AVOCAT rests on a stable institutional foundation, sustained structural demand, and a permanent public-interest function, ensuring its long-term economic and operational viability.