

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

ARCELORMITTAL v. Remenets Viktor Viktorovych

Case No. DUA2025-0017

1. The Parties

The Complainant is ARCELORMITTAL, Luxembourg, represented by Nameshield, France.

The Respondent is Remenets Viktor Viktorovych, Ukraine.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <arcelormittal-steel.com.ua> is registered with Hosting Ukraine LLC (ua.ukraine) (the “Registrar”).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed in English the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) on October 24, 2025. On October 27, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On October 28, 2025, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response, disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent (not published) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on October 28, 2025, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amended Complaint on October 29, 2025.

On October 28, 2025, the Center informed the parties in Russian and English, that the language of the registration agreement for the disputed domain name is Russian. On October 29, 2025, the Complainant confirmed its request that English be the language of the proceedings. The Respondent did not submit any comment on the Complainant’s submission but sent an email communication in Ukrainian on November 27, 2025, to the Center.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of .UA Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “.UA Policy”), the Rules for .UA Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “.UA Rules”), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for .UA Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the “WIPO Supplemental Rules”).

In accordance with the .UA Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent in English and Russian of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on November 6, 2025. In accordance with the .UA Rules, paragraph 5(a), the due date for Response was November 26, 2025. The Respondent sent an email communication to the Center on November 27, 2025.

The Complainant requested suspension of the proceedings on December 4, 2025. On that date, the proceedings were suspended until January 3, 2026. On January 13, 2026, the Complainant requested the Center to reinstitute the proceedings. The Center reinstated the proceedings on January 13, 2026.

The Center appointed Igor Alfiorov as the sole panelist in this matter on January 19, 2026. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the .UA Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is the largest steel-producing company and operates globally under the ARCELORMITTAL trademark. The company owns the International Trademark registration No. 947686 for ARCELORMITTAL, registered since August 3, 2007, designating, among others, Ukraine. The Complainant also owns domain names incorporating its trademark, including <arcelormittal.com> and <arcelormittal.com.ua>, registered well before the disputed domain name.

The disputed domain name was registered on October 22, 2025. At the time of filing of the Complaint, the disputed domain name resolved to an inactive page, while MX records were configured.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that:

The disputed domain name is confusingly similar to its trademark ARCELORMITTAL, as it fully incorporates the mark with the addition of the term “steel”.

The Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name and has never been authorised to use the Complainant's trademark and is not commonly known by the disputed domain name. Moreover, no bone fide or fair use can be reasonably claimed with respect to the disputed domain name as it points only to an inactive page, while the activation of email servers indicates a possible risk of fraudulent activity.

The disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith. The Complainant submits that, given that the ARCELORMITTAL trademark is widely known and enjoys reputation, the Respondent could not reasonably have been unaware of the Complainant's rights at the time of registration of the disputed domain name. The Complainant further argues that the Respondent's passive holding of the disputed domain name, combined with the incorporation of a famous mark and configuration of email servers is indicative of bad faith.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not formally reply to the Complainant's contentions. On November 27, 2025, the Respondent sent an email communication in Ukrainian indicating that he was prepared to transfer the disputed domain name to the Complainant.

6. Discussion and Findings

6.1. Preliminary Matters

Language of the Proceedings

Paragraph 11(a) of the .UA Rules provides that "unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the language of the administrative proceeding shall be the language of the Registration Agreement (which shall be in English, Russian or Ukrainian), subject to the authority of the Panel to determine otherwise, having regard to the circumstances of the administrative proceedings".

The Complaint was filed in English. The language of registration agreement for the disputed domain name is Russian. The Complainant requested that the language of the proceedings be English for several reasons, including the fact that the disputed domain name is composed of Roman (ASCII) characters, and that requiring translation into Russian would impose a disproportionate and unnecessary burden.

The Respondent sent an email communication in Ukrainian but did not make any specific submissions with respect to the language of the proceedings.

In exercising its discretion to use a language other than that of the registration agreement, the Panel has to exercise such discretion judicially in the spirit of fairness and justice to both parties, taking into account all relevant circumstances of the case, including matters such as the parties' ability to understand and use the proposed language, time and costs.

Having considered all the matters above, the Panel determines under paragraph 11(a) of the .UA Rules that the language of the proceedings shall be English.

Further Procedural Considerations – Location of the Respondent

Under paragraph 10 of the .UA Rules, the Panel is required to ensure that the Parties are treated with equality and that each Party is given a fair opportunity to present its case, and also that the administrative proceedings take place with due expedition.

The location of the Respondent disclosed by the Registrar appears to be in Ukraine, which is subject to an international conflict at the date of this Decision that may impact case notification. It is therefore appropriate for the Panel to consider, in accordance with its discretion under paragraph 10 of the .UA Rules, whether the proceedings should continue.

Having considered all the circumstances of the case, the Panel is of the view that they should. The Panel notes that in its email communication of November 27, 2025, the Respondent acknowledged receipt of the Center's communications regarding the present proceedings, did not request an extension to file a Response, and, instead, expressed a willingness to transfer the disputed domain name.

The Panel concludes that the Parties have been given a fair opportunity to present their case, and so that the administrative proceedings take place with due expedition the Panel will proceed to a Decision.

6.2. Substantive Issues

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

The Panel finds that the Complainant has established rights in the trademark ARCELORMITTAL, which predates the registration of the disputed domain name.

The disputed domain name incorporates the Complainant's trademark in its entirety, with the addition of the term "steel". Such addition does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity. The country-code Top-Level Domain ".com.ua" is a standard technical registration requirement and should be disregarded for the purpose of this assessment.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to a trademark in which the Complainant has rights, and the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(i) of the .UA Policy is satisfied.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Under paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the .UA Policy, the Complainant must establish that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. While the overall burden of proof rests with the complainant, where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). Where the respondent fails to come forward with such evidence, the Complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element of the .UA Policy (see, e.g., *L'Oréal v. Артем Волук*, WIPO Case No. [DUA2023-0001](#)).

The Panel finds that the Complainant has made such a prima facie case. The Respondent is not affiliated with the Complainant, has not been authorized to use the ARCELORMITTAL trademark, is not commonly known by the disputed domain name, and the Complainant's trademark rights clearly predate the registration of the disputed domain name.

The disputed domain name resolves to an inactive page. The Panel also notes that the composition of the disputed domain name incorporating the Complainant's well-known mark with the term descriptive of its products can mislead Internet users into believing that the website is operated or endorsed by the Complainant.

In these circumstances, and absent any rebuttal from the Respondent, the Panel concludes that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

The Panel therefore finds that the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the .UA Policy is satisfied.

C. Registered or Used in Bad Faith

Under paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the .UA Policy, the Complainant must establish that the disputed domain name was registered or is being used in bad faith.

The Panel finds that the ARCELORMITTAL trademark is widely known internationally and that it is inconceivable that the Respondent registered the disputed domain name without knowledge of the Complainant and its rights. The incorporation of the Complainant's well-known trademark together with the term "steel," which directly refers

to the Complainant's core business, clearly indicates awareness of the mark and an opportunistic intent to capitalize on its reputation, constituting opportunistic bad faith.

Although the disputed domain name resolves to an inactive page, passive holding does not prevent a finding of bad faith. In the present case, the passive holding of the inherently misleading disputed domain name incorporating a well-known trademark, combined with the absence of any rights or legitimate interests and the configuration of MX records enabling potential email use, supports a finding of bad faith registration and use.

The Respondent failed to submit a substantive response, which further reinforces the conclusion that there is no plausible good-faith explanation for the registration or use of the disputed domain name.

In light of these circumstances, the Panel concludes that the disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith. Accordingly, the requirement of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the .UA Policy is satisfied.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the .UA Policy and 15 of the .UA Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <arcelormittal-steel.com.ua> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Igor Alfiorov/

Igor Alfiorov

Sole Panelist

Date: February 2, 2026