

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Strellson AG v. brantzanms maviogeunkeeag Case No. D2025-3692

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Strellson AG, Switzerland, represented by Leo Schmidt-Hollburg Witte & Frank Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB, Germany.

The Respondent is brantzanms maviogeunkeeag, France.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <strellsons.com> (the "Domain Name") is registered with West263 International Limited (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on September 11, 2025. On September 11, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the Domain Name. On September 12, 2025, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the Domain Name which differed from the named Respondent (Registration Private) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on September 15, 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 amendment to the Complaint on September 15, 2025.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amendment to the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on September 17, 2025. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was October 7, 2025. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on October 8, 2025.

The Center appointed Mathias Lilleengen as the sole panelist in this matter on October 15, 2025. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant operates an international fashion and lifestyle company. It offers products such as clothing, shoes and bags for men under the trademark STRELLSON. The trademark and the company name "Strellson AG" have been used since 1984.

The Complainant owns trademark registrations in STRELLSON, such as European Union ("EU") trademark no. 018792380 (registered on June 14, 2023) and EU trademark no. 001829142 (registered on October 24, 2001). The Complainant has offered its website and online store at its domain name <strellson.com> since 1999. The Complainant also actively promotes its trademark via social media platforms.

The Domain Name was registered on April 9, 2025. The Complainant has documented that the Respondent has used the Domain Name to link to a fake web shop pretending to offer sports clothes from a Norwegian Winter Sport trademark. At the time of the filing of the Complaint, the Domain Name resolved to a page displaying the following information: "This store is under construction".

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant provides evidence of trademark registrations. The Complainant contends that the Domain Name is confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark as the Domain Name incorporates the Complainant's entire trademark with the addition of the letter "s" at the end. The addition may be misunderstood by consumers as indicating that the website belongs to the Complainant.

The Complainant argues that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name. The Complainant asserts that the Respondent is not using the Domain Name with the Complainant's consent. The Respondent's use of the Domain Name does not constitute legitimate noncommercial or fair use. The Respondent's use is trademark infringement and unlawful. In fact, the Domain Name has been used to link to a fake web shop, likely designed to obtain credit card and contact information from unsuspecting Internet users. This is not bona fide use pursuant to the Policy.

The Complainant believes that the Respondent was aware of the Complainant when the Respondent registered the Domain Name. The Complainant's trademark is well known. The registration of the Complainant's trademarks vastly predates the Respondent's registration of the Domain Name. The Respondent has used the Domain Name to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to its website, by creating and upholding a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's trademarks as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation and/or endorsement of the Respondent's website. Finally, the Complainant argues that it is in the public interest to shut down the Respondent's fake web shop to prevent harm to customers and manufacturers.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not reply to the Complainant's contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

The first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant's trademark and the Domain Name. See WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition, ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), section 1.7.

The Complainant has established that it has rights in the trademark STRELLSON. In this case, the Domain Name incorporates the Complainant's trademark with the addition of the letter "s" at the end. The addition does not prevent confusing similarity between the Domain Name and the trademark. For the purpose of assessing under paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy, the Panel may ignore the generic Top-Level Domain, see WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.11.1.

The Panel finds that the Domain Name is confusingly similar to a trademark in which the Complainant has rights in accordance with paragraph 4(a)(i) of the Policy.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which a respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

While the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the often impossible task of "proving a negative", requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, 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. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. See WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1.

Based on the evidence, the Respondent is not affiliated or related to the Complainant in any way. There is no evidence that the Respondent has registered the Domain Name as a trademark or acquired trademark rights. There is no evidence of the Respondent's use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the Domain Name or a name corresponding to the Domain Name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services. On the contrary, the use of the Domain Name is evidence of bad faith, see below.

The Panel finds that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Domain Name in accordance with paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the Policy.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular but without limitation, that if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

The Respondent most likely knew of the Complainant when it registered the Domain Name. It follows from the fame of the Complainant's trademark, and the composition of the Domain Name. The Respondent has not offered any explanation as to why it registered a domain name confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark, nor provided any evidence of actual or contemplated good faith use of the Domain Name. On the contrary, the Respondent's use appears to be a scam webpage aimed mainly at the customers of a third-party trademark. It is thus evident that the Respondent attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to its website by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's trademark. The Respondent's illegitimate activity is clear evidence of bad faith. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 3.1.4.

Based on the record, the Panel finds that the Complainant has established the third element of the Policy.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders the Domain Name <strellsons.com> transferred to the Complainant.

/Mathias Lilleengen/ Mathias Lilleengen Sole Panelist

Date: October 24, 2025