

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

LEGO Holding A/S v. ZOUHAIR DENDAN, Cleopatrra Case No. D2025-4428

1. The Parties

The Complainant is LEGO Holding A/S, Denmark, represented by CSC Digital Brand Services Group AB, Sweden.

The Respondent is ZOUHAIR DENDAN, Cleopatrra, Morocco.

2. The Disputed Domain Name and Registrar

The Disputed Domain Name < legono.com > is registered with NameCheap, Inc. (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on October 28, 2025. On October 28, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the Disputed Domain Name. On October 29, 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 (Redacted for Privacy, Privacy service provided by Withheld for Privacy ehf) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on October 29, 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 31, 2025.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended 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 November 5, 2025. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was November 25, 2025. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on November 26, 2025.

The Center appointed Marilena Comanescu as the sole panelist in this matter on December 1, 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 by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is LEGO Holding A/S (formerly LEGO Juris A/S), a worldwide known toymaker founded in 1932. LEGO branded products have been marketed and sold for decades in more than 130 countries worldwide, through authorized licensees. The Complainant has expanded its use of the LEGO mark to, inter alia, computer hardware and software, books, videos and computer controlled robotic construction sets.

The Complainant holds numerous trademark registrations for LEGO, such as the following:

- the United States of America ("US") trademark registration no. 1018875 for LEGO (word), filed on September 17, 1974, and registered on August 26, 1975, for goods in the International Class 28;
- the Moroccan trademark no. 8458-1R for LEGO (figurative), filed on June 19, 2013 and registered for goods in the International Class 28; and
- the International Trademark Registration no. 287932 for LEGO (word), registered on August 27, 1964, for goods in International Class 28.

The LEGO trademark is among the best known trademarks in the world, with its well-known status being acknowledged on numerous occasions, such as the Consumer Superbrands 2023 listing LEGO as a top brand in various categories; the Reputation Institute listing the Complainant as the number one brand (for the second consecutive year) on the list of the world's Top 10 Most Reputable Global Companies of 2024; in 2000, Forbes and Toy Retailers Association of the United Kingdom each announced LEGO bricks to be the Toy of the Century; as well as by numerous previous UDRP proceedings involving the Complainant.

The Complainant owns more than 6,000 domain names incorporating the mark LEGO, the main one being <lego.com> registered on August 22, 1995.

The Disputed Domain Name < legono.com > was registered on October 4, 2025 and, at the time of filing the Complaint, it resolved to an inactive WorldPress landing page that lacked any active content page.

According to Annex 11.1 to the Complaint, the Disputed Domain Name was previously used in connection with a website that copied the look and feel of the Complainant's official website, offered for sale the Complainant's products at heavily discounted prices, displayed the Complainant's marks, product images and provided, at the bottom of the page, the address of one of the Complainant's locations in the US. No disclaimer or information regarding the website operator was displayed on the homepage of the website under the Disputed Domain Name.

The Respondent is not an authorized reseller of the Complainant.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the Disputed Domain Name.

Notably, the Complainant contends that LEGO is a well-known trademark, and that the trademark is distinctive and famous; the Disputed Domain Name is confusingly similar to its trademark since it comprises the LEGO trademark and the suffix "no" which does not diminish the confusing similarity between the Disputed Domain Name and the Complainant's trademark.

The Complainant further contends that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the Disputed Domain Name: the Respondent is not an affiliated company, licensee or an authorized reseller of the Complainant, has never had a business relationship with the Complainant, nor is it authorized in any way to use the Complainant's LEGO trademark; the Respondent cannot claim bona fide use of the Disputed Domain Name as a non-authorized reseller, primarily because the website under the Disputed Domain Name does not accurately disclose the Respondent's relationship with the Complainant.

Moreover, the Respondent has registered and is using the Disputed Domain Name in bad faith: the LEGO trademark has the status of a well-known and reputed trademark with a substantial and widespread reputation across the world, and was registered decades before the registration of the Disputed Domain Name; the use of the Disputed Domain Name to host a website that imitates the Complainant's official website and offers for sale the Complainant's products, also displaying the Complainant's address, suggests that the Respondent intended for the Disputed Domain Name to be confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark as a means of furthering consumer confusion, to intentionally attempt to attract Internet users, looking for the Complainant's mark and goods, to its website for commercial gain; following the Complainant's partner requesting the taking down of the website at the Disputed Domain Name, the content on the website at the Disputed Domain Name was removed, however, passive holding does not prevent a finding of bad faith when certain circumstances are met; Mail exchange ("MX") servers have been configured at the Disputed Domain Name and this suggests that the Disputed Domain Name may be actively used to facilitate fraudulent activity such phishing, impersonation or passing off as the Complainant; and the Respondent employed a privacy service to hide its identity.

B. Respondent

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

6. Discussion and Findings

Under the Policy, the Complainant is required to prove on the balance of probabilities that:

- (i) the Disputed Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights;
- (ii) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the Disputed Domain Name; and
- (iii) the Disputed Domain Name has been registered and is being used in bad faith.

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that 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 Disputed Domain Name. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), section 1.7.

The Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trademark or service mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.2.1.

The Panel finds the mark is recognizable within the Disputed Domain Name. Accordingly, the Disputed Domain Name is confusingly similar to the mark for the purposes of the Policy. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.7.

While the addition of other term, here "no", may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such term does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the Disputed Domain Name and the mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.8.

The Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the Respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a Disputed Domain Name.

Although 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 difficult 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 (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1.

Having reviewed the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a prima facie case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the Disputed Domain Name. The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's prima facie showing and has not come forward with any relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the Disputed Domain Name such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

According to the evidence provided in the Complaint, the Disputed Domain Name was previously used to resolve to a website offering for sale LEGO products and displaying the Complainant's mark and product images, official address, without any accurate and prominent disclaimer regarding the Respondent's lack of relationship with the Complainant. Even if the products were genuine, the lack of any accurate and prominent disclaimer on the website at the Disputed Domain Name does not satisfy a bona fide offering of goods or services under the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.8. Internet users may believe that the website to which Disputed Domain Name resolved is owned by the Complainant or at least affiliated with the Complainant, contrary to the fact.

The Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

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.

In the present case, the Panel notes that the Disputed Domain Name was registered in bad faith, with likely knowledge of the Complainant and its LEGO trademark particularly because the Complainant's trademark predates the registration of the Disputed Domain Name by more than six decades and is highly distinctive and well-known worldwide. In addition, the composition of the Disputed Domain Name itself, which

reproduces the Complainant's mark together with a non distinctive term (i.e. "no") further reinforces an inference of bad faith, particularly in light of the Complainant's numerous similar domain names. Lastly, the use of the Disputed Domain Name for a website that copies the look and feel of the Complainant's official website further supports that the Respondent registered the Disputed Domain Name opportunistically to take advantage of Complainant's rights in its LEGO mark.

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy sets out a list of non-exhaustive circumstances that may indicate that a domain name was registered and used in bad faith, but other circumstances may be relevant in assessing whether a respondent's registration and use of a domain name is in bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.2.1.

Paragraph 4(b)(iv) of the Policy provides that the use of a domain name to intentionally attempt to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to the respondent's website or other online location, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the respondent's website or location or of a product or service on the respondent's website or location is evidence of registration and use in bad faith.

According to the evidence provided in the Complaint, prior to receiving the taking down request from the Complainant, the Disputed Domain Name was used in connection with a commercial website promoting the Complainant's LEGO products for highly discounted prices. Given that the Disputed Domain Name incorporates the Complainant's trademark, the website operated under the Disputed Domain Name displayed the Complainant's LEGO mark and photos of official LEGO products, and has no disclaimer, the Panel finds that the Respondent intended to attract Internet users accessing the website corresponding to the Disputed Domain Name who may be confused and believe that the website is held, controlled by, or somehow affiliated with or related to the Complainant, for its commercial gain.

At the time of filing the Complaint, the Disputed Domain Name resolved to an inactive page. UDRP panels have found that the non-use of a domain name (including a blank or "coming soon" page) would not prevent a finding of bad faith under the doctrine of passive holding. The Panel notes the distinctiveness and international reputation of the Complainant's trademark; the composition of the Disputed Domain Name together with its previous use; the Respondent's failure to provide a response in this procedure; the use of privacy service in the Whols and activation of MX records; and finds that, in the circumstances of this case, the passive holding of the Disputed Domain Name does not prevent a finding of bad faith under the Policy.

Moreover, previous UDRP panels have found that the mere registration of a domain name that is identical or confusingly similar to a widely known trademark by an unaffiliated entity can, by itself, create a presumption of bad faith for the purpose of Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 3.1.4.

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 that the Disputed Domain Name < legono.com > be transferred to the Complainant.

/Marilena Comanescu / Marilena Comanescu Sole Panelist

Date: December 12, 2025