

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Compagnie Générale des Etablissements Michelin v. 蔡征 (cai zheng),
成都市盛通志恒电子商务有限公司 (cheng du shi sheng tong zhi heng
dian zi shang wu you xian gong si)
Case No. D2026-2092

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Compagnie Générale des Etablissements Michelin, France, represented by Dreyfus & associés, France.

The Respondent is 蔡征 (cai zheng), 成都市盛通志恒电子商务有限公司 (cheng du shi sheng tong zhi heng dian zi shang wu you xian gong si), China, self-represented.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <michelin.law> is registered with Alibaba Cloud Computing Ltd. d/b/a HiChina (www.net.cn) (the “Registrar”).

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed in English with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) on May 15, 2026. On May 15, 2026, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On May 18, 2026, 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 (Unknown) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on May 19, 2026, 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 in English on May 21, 2026.

On May 19, 2026, the Center informed the Parties in Chinese and English, that the language of the Registration Agreement for the disputed domain name is Chinese. On May 21, 2026, the Complainant confirmed its request that English be the language of the proceeding. The Respondent did not submit any comment on the Complainant’s submission.

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 in English and in Chinese, and the proceedings commenced on May 21, 2026. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was June 10, 2026. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent’s default on June 11, 2026.

On June 11, 2026, the Respondent sent an email communication in Chinese to the Center. On the same day, the Center sent an email to the Parties regarding possible settlement. On June 15, 2026, the Complainant submitted a request for suspension. On June 15, 2026, the Center confirmed that the proceeding was suspended until July 15, 2026. Subsequently, the proceeding was further suspended until October 14, 2026, at the Complainant’s requests on July 15, 2026, August 6, 2026, and September 14, 2026, respectively. On October 12, 2026, the Complainant sent an email to the Center requesting to continue proceedings. On October 14, 2026, the Center informed the Parties of the reinstatement of proceeding and the commencement of panel appointment process.

The Center appointed Mengyuan Li as the sole panelist in this matter on October 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 Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant, a French company in operation since 1889, manufactures and sells tires for vehicles, publishes road maps and guides, including multimedia publications for travel, tourism and fine dining. Headquartered in France, the Complainant has a presence in more than 170 countries, employs over 124,000 people, and operates 117 tire manufacturing facilities as well as sales agencies in 26 countries. The Complainant is also present in China, where Respondent is located.

The Complainant owns numerous MICHELIN trademark registrations around the world, namely:

- International Trademark MICHELIN (figurative), No. 771031, registered on June 11, 2001, in classes 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 39, and 42, designating, among others, China;
- International Trademark MICHELIN (figurative), No. 574577, registered on May 6, 1991, in classes 6, 16, 18, 21, and 25, designating, among others, China; and
- International Trademark MICHELIN, No. 1894800, registered on November 18, 2025, in classes 1, 7, 12, and 35, designating, among others, China.

The Complainant operates a website through which it promotes its services at the domain name <michelin.com>, registered on December 1, 1993.

The Respondent is reportedly based in China.

The disputed domain name was registered on March 18, 2026, and does not resolve to an active website.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant seeks transfer to it of the disputed domain name, asserting that the disputed domain name is identical to the Complainant's MICHELIN mark because it wholly incorporates that mark; and that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name, which was registered and is being used in bad faith.

B. Respondent

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

However, the Respondent communicated informally with the Center and the Complainant by email in Chinese during the proceeding. The Respondent agreed to transfer the disputed domain name to the Complainant.

6. Discussion and Findings

6.1. Language of the Proceeding

The language of the Registration Agreement for the disputed domain name is Chinese. Pursuant to the Rules, paragraph 11(a), in the absence of an agreement between the parties, or unless specified otherwise in the registration agreement, the language of the administrative proceeding shall be the language of the registration agreement.

The Complaint was filed in English. The Complainant requested that the language of the proceeding be English for several reasons, including:

- The Complainant is unable to communicate in Chinese and translation of the Complaint would unfairly disadvantage and burden the Complainant and delay the proceedings and adjudication of this matter.
- The Respondent appears to have at least some knowledge of English, as the disputed domain name is registered using Latin characters.

The Respondent did not comment on the Complainant's request that the language of the proceeding be English but sent email communications in Chinese.

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 (see [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 4.5.1).

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

6.2. Consent to Transfer

The Respondent has confirmed in several email communications with the Center that he consents to the transfer of the disputed domain name to the Complainant. According to the [WIPO Overview 3.1](#), section 4.10, where the respondent has nevertheless given its consent on the record to the transfer (or cancellation) remedy sought by the complainant, many panels will order the requested remedy solely on the basis of such consent.

In the circumstances of this case, the Panel considers that transfer of the disputed domain name should be ordered without making any findings on the merits of the Complaint.

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 <michelin.law> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Mengyuan Li/

Mengyuan Li

Sole Panelist

Date: October 23, 2026