

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION RELATED TO THE REQUEST TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF THE ADR PROCEEDING

Trivago N.V. v. JL Rivara, Easypro ASBL
Case No. DEUL2025-0001

1. The Parties

The Complainant is trivago N.V., Germany.

The Respondent is JL Rivara, Easypro ASBL, Belgium.

2. The Domain Name, Registry and Registrar

The disputed domain name is <trivago.eu>.

The Registry of the disputed domain name is the European Registry for Internet Domains (“EURid”). The Registrar of the disputed domain name is One.com A/S.

3. Procedural History

The Request to Change the Language of the ADR Proceeding (the “Request”) was filed in English with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the “Center”) pursuant to the .eu Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules (the “ADR Rules”), Paragraph A(3)(b), on July 25, 2025. On July 25, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registry a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On August 4, 2025, the Registry 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 and contact information in the Request. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on August 5, 2025, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registry, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Request. The Complainant did not file an amendment to the Request.

In accordance with the ADR Rules, Paragraph A(3)(b)(3), the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Request, and the proceedings commenced on September 26, 2025. In accordance with the ADR Rules, Paragraph A(3)(b)(4), the due date for Response was October 8, 2025. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent’s default on October 9, 2025.

The Center appointed Louis-Bernard Buchman as the sole panelist in this matter on October 16, 2025 in accordance with the ADR Rules, Paragraph A(3)(b)(4). 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 ADR Rules, Paragraph B(5).

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is a company founded in Germany in 2005, which sells travel services to Internet users.

The Respondent is located in Belgium.

The disputed domain name was registered on March 20, 2011.

The Registry confirmed that the language of the registration agreement of the disputed domain name is French.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that:

- (i) TRIVAGO is an internationally recognized brand with a clear English-language orientation in its global business, online services, and customer communications;
- (ii) the technical contact registered by the Respondent for the disputed domain name is listed with English as the contact language, demonstrating that English is already used operationally by the Respondent in managing the disputed domain name and that the Respondent can reasonably be expected to communicate in English;
- (iii) conducting the proceeding in English would therefore not impose any undue burden on the Respondent, whereas an English-language proceeding would ensure efficiency and avoid significant translation costs and delays for both parties;
- (iv) English is a widely accepted and practical lingua franca in international domain name dispute resolution.

The Complainant requests that the language of the ADR proceeding be changed to English.

B. Respondent

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

6. Discussion and Findings

The Registry having confirmed that the language of the registration agreement of the disputed domain name is French, the Complainant duly filed a formal request that the language of the proceeding be changed to English.

The Respondent failed to comment on or object to this request, despite the Center's invitation to do so, expressed in French as well as in English, such invitation having been sent to the Respondent on September 26, 2025.

Pursuant to Paragraph A(3)(a) of the ADR Rules, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, or specified otherwise in the Registration Agreement, the language of the ADR Proceeding shall be the language of the Registration Agreement for the disputed domain name. In the absence of an agreement between the Parties, the Panel may, in its sole discretion, having regard to the circumstances of the ADR Proceeding, decide on the written request of a Complainant, filed before initiating a Complaint, that the language of the ADR Proceeding will be different than the language of the Registration Agreement for the disputed domain name.

The Respondent having failed to agree to the change of language requested by the Complainant, the Panel has consequently the discretion to decide that the language of the ADR proceeding shall be other than that of the registration agreement, as requested in writing by the Complainant, provided that the Panel exercises with fairness its discretion, treating each party equally and taking into account all relevant circumstances, such as the parties' ability to understand and use the proposed language, time and costs.

The Panel first notes that according to evidence produced by the Registry, the technical contact registered for the disputed domain name is actually that of the Registrar, and that the language used by the Registry to provide such information bears no relation to the question of whether or not English is a language used and understood by the Respondent.

Nevertheless, the Panel finds that the Complainant, which is internally represented, is more likely than not correct to point out in its request that there would be savings in time and costs, if English were to be the language of the proceeding, on the implied ground that it would thus be spared the need of filing its complaint in French, a language which it possibly does not master as it is located in Germany.

In the light of the Respondent having failed to timely object to the Complainant's request, the Panel infers from the above circumstances that the Respondent will not be unduly prejudiced by a change of the language of the proceeding to English,

Having to ensure that the ADR proceeding takes place with due expedition, the Panel, who is conversant in both English and French, therefore determines that the appropriate language of the proceeding is English.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with Paragraph A(3)(b)(6) of the ADR Rules, the Panel orders that the language of the ADR proceeding shall be English and any future submission by the Parties (including the submission of a new Complaint) regarding the disputed domain name <trivago.eu> shall be made in the language of the ADR Proceeding in accordance with paragraph A(3)(c) of the ADR Rules.

This Panel's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

/Louis-Bernard Buchman/

Louis-Bernard Buchman

Sole Panelist

Date: October 20, 2025