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INFORMATION NOTE ON THE DRAFT REGULATION AMENDING THE INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES REGULATION

I. Introduction

Pursuant to the decision of the Information and Communication Technologies Board ("**Board**") dated 13 September 2025 and numbered 2025/DK-BTD/300, a Draft Regulation amending the Internet Domain Names Regulation ("**Regulation**") has been published for public consultation ("**Draft Regulation**"). The Draft Regulation aims to formalize the trading of domain names, regulate the secondary market for ".tr" domains, and strengthen cybersecurity in Türkiye

II. Amendments

- The Draft Regulation provides for the establishment of a Domain Name Sales Platform ("**DNSP**") to facilitate both domain-name sales and the granting of allocation rights. Operating as a centralized marketplace under the supervision of Information and Communication Technologies Authority **("ICTA")**, the platform is expected to ensure that all sales transactions are conducted under regulatory oversight.

- The Draft Regulation further enables that ICTA may grant allocation rights for certain unallocated domain names and introduce additional conditions governing the allocation of ".tr" domains.

- Another major innovation is the explicit definition of misuse of the Domain Name System ("**DNS"**). Misuse is defined as the deliberate or malicious use of domain names or related DNS infrastructure to harm users or compromise the integrity, availability, or confidentiality of information systems. Such actions include phishing, malware distribution, botnet command-and-control, DNS hijacking, and similar activities. ICTA is empowered to take administrative measures, including cancellation of domain names, to prevent such misuse.

- The Draft Regulation also regulates transfer procedures for domain names. Transfers will be conducted through the ".tr Network Information System" ("**TRABIS"**) system, and in cases such as the death or disappearance of natural persons, domain names may be transferred to legal heirs. The validity period of transferred domain names will remain unchanged.

- From a financial perspective, the Draft Regulation stipulates that fees related to allocation rights and sales will be recorded as revenue by ICTA, and fees paid for the use of DNSP will be non-refundable.

- Regarding entry into force, no sales of domain names will be permitted until DNSP becomes operational, although transfers may still be carried out under certain conditions. Most provisions will enter into force upon publication, while those related to domain name sales will take effect once DNSP is officially launched.

III. Conclusion

The Draft Regulation represents a significant step toward clarifying the legal framework governing the allocation and sale of ".tr" domain names. Once DNSP becomes operational, transparency and regulatory oversight in the domain name market are expected to improve, while mechanisms to prevent misuse will be reinforced. However, before domain name trading can commence, ICTA must finalize and publish the detailed procedures and principles applicable to such transactions, and stakeholders will need to ensure compliance with these requirements. Given that ICTA is concurrently establishing the Cyber Security Presidency, it is expected that cybersecurity and DNS integrity will remain at the forefront of the Authority's regulatory agenda in the coming period.

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