



**DECISION OF THE THIRD-PARTY DECIDER**  
**Complainant / Domain name holder**  
**Case no. 444254 / acta-gastroenterologica.be**

**1. The Parties**

**1.1.1 Complainant: ACTA GASTRO-ENTEROLOGICA BELGICA VZW (AGEB)**

Having its registered seat at  
Leuvensesteenweg 643  
1930 ZAVENTEM  
BELGIUM

Represented by:

Dr. Maridi AERTS  
Administrator, Treasurer of AGEB  
Berkenlaan 14  
1820 STEENOKKERZEEL  
BELGIUM

**1.1.2 Domain name holder: SEDO GmbH**

Mentioning an address at:  
Gaochuang Silicon Lane, Gulou District 8F.  
210000 JIANGSU  
CHINA

**2. Domain name**

Domain name: acta-gastroenterologica.be  
Registered on: May 6, 2024

Hereafter referred to as "the domain name".

**3. Procedure**

On 2 November 2025, the Complainant filed a complaint concerning the Domain Name ("Complaint") with the Belgian Centre for Arbitration and Mediation ("CEPANI"), in accordance with the CEPANI rules for domain name dispute resolution (the "Rules") and the dispute resolution policy of DNS Belgium, incorporated in article 10 of its Terms and conditions for .be domain name registrations (the "Policy").

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On 23 December 2025, CEPANI appointed the undersigned, Mr. Bernard Vanbrabant, as a third-party decider (the "Third-Party Decider") to settle the dispute involving the Domain Name in question.

The deliberations were closed on 30 December 2025.

The Domain Name Holder did not file a response to the Complaint.

In accordance with article 6.4. of the Rules, this decision is based on the Complaint alone.

On 7 January 2026, the Third-party Decider stated that the signor of the Complaint, while being an administrator of the Complainant, had not provided a power of attorney from the Board of directors or the proof that she is in charge of the daily administration of the Complainant, and asked the Case-Manager to invite the signor of the Complaint to provide additional proof of her capacity to represent the Complainant. The same day, the Case-Manager invited the Complainant to complete its file in this respect.

On 12 January 2026, the Third-party Decider was provided with a power of attorney signed by the four administrators of Complainant, confirming that they had appointed Dr Maridi Aerts on 2 November 2025 to file the ADR complaint on behalf of AGEB.

#### **4. Factual Background information**

The Complainant is a Belgian non-for-profit association which presents itself as the editor of a scientific journal called "Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica".

The Complainant is duly registered with the Crossroads Bank for Undertakings under N° 0811.142.308 for the following activities: VAT 2025 73.110 - Activities of advertising agencies (since January 1, 2025); VAT 2025 73.200 - Market research and public opinion polling (since January 1, 2025).

The Complainant furthermore holds the domain name "ageb.be" which is linked to a website where one can access the "Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica" journals since 1998 without charge (open access). It concerns volumes 61 up to 88 of said journal; earlier editions can be purchased from a third-party whose website is accessible through a link. Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica is presented on the ageb.be website as the official publication of three founding societies, namely Société Royale Belge de Gastro-Entérologie (SRBGE), Vlaamse Vereniging voor Gastro-enterologie (VVGE) and Belgian Week of Gastroenterology (BWGE). The ISSN number of the journal is 1784-3227.

The ageb.be website further explains that the first national gastroenterology Journal "Le Journal Belge de Gastro- Entérologie" was funded by Georges Brohée (first Editor-in-Chief) together with his colleagues Joseph Massion and Léon Daumerie in 1933. It was the official Journal of the Société Belge de Gastroentérologie. After the war, in 1946, the Journal was relaunched under its current name "Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica". Since the launch of the Journal, the concept of diffusing



scientific knowledge in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology has been well preserved for more than 80 years. Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica is now the official publication of the three following societies (Société Royale Belge de Gastro-Entérologie, Vlaamse Vereniging voor Gastroenterologie and Belgian Week of Gastroenterology) and is published in partnership with eleven other Belgian scientific societies. Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica principally publishes peer-reviewed national and international original manuscripts, reviews, letters to the editors, expert points of view and guidelines in the field of clinical gastroenterology, hepatology, digestive oncology, digestive pathology, as well as clinical nutrition. Since 2020, Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica has become a fully open-access Journal in order to keep the Journal attractive in an interconnected world and in order to increase its visibility, to promote disease care and to facilitate communication within and between our scientific societies.

The Domain Name has been registered on 6 May 2024 and has been connected to a website (the "Website") which also presents itself as the online platform of the Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica journal, "a peer-reviewed journal focusing on clinical gastroenterology and hepatology". Only volume 88 of the journal is available on the Website and the content thereof is totally different from the content of volume 88 of the journal found on the AGEB website. Most of the contributors bear Asian-sounding names. The Website further on specifies that "Authors submitting manuscripts to Acta-gastroenterologica are required to pay an Open Access Article Processing Charge (APC) of 3500 USD".

## 5. Position of the parties

### a) Position of the Complainant

The complainant submits that the Domain name was their first domain name from <2006 to March 2020, moment when they created their actual open-source website ageb.be and they no longer needed that first domain.

According to the Complainant:

- 1) The Domain name is identical or very similar to following elements:
  - a brand / a scientific journal: Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica
  - a registered name or company name: vzw Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica
- 2) The domain name holder has no rights or legitimate interests regarding the domain name. The Domain name Holder is impersonating their scientific journal Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica. It pretends being the online version of their scientific journal, using their name, their ISSN number 1784-3227, their editorial team on its website.
- 3) The domain name holder acted in bad faith when registering or using the domain name. The domain Name Holder has created a fraudulent website with a fake submission platform linked to [acta-gastroenterologica.be](http://acta-gastroenterologica.be), with the sole intention to ask authors an article processing fee



of \$3500. Furthermore, they it has stolen the AGEB logo from their official website (ageb.be) and use that logo on its invoices addressed to the victimized authors.

#### **b) Position of the Domain name holder**

The Domain Name Holder has not responded to the Complaint.

### **6. Discussion and findings**

Pursuant to Article 16.1 of the *CEPANI rules for domain name dispute resolution*, the Third-Party Decider shall rule on domain name disputes with due regard for the Policy and the CEPANI rules for domain name dispute resolution.

Pursuant to Article 10b (1) of the Terms and conditions of domain name registrations under the ".be" domain operated by DNS BE, the Complainant must provide evidence of the following:

- "*the registrant's domain name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark, a trade name, a registered name or a company name, a geographical designation, a name of origin, a designation of source, a personal name or name of a geographical entity in which the complainant has rights; and*
- *the registrant has no rights or legitimate interests in the domain name; and*
- *the registrant's domain name has been registered or is being used in bad faith.*"

#### **a) The Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to trademarks in which the Complainant has rights**

Although the Complainant does not invoke a registered trademark and the name of a journal can hardly be considered as a trade name, it is apparent that the Domain Name is very similar to both the company (association) name of the Complainant – i.e. *acta-gastroenterologica Belgica VZW* – and to the trade name of the Complainant – i.e. *acta-gastroenterologica Belgica*.

#### **b) The Domain name holder has no rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name**

The Domain Name Holder has not claimed, let alone established, that it would be the holder of any rights or legitimate interests in the Domain Name.

*Acta-gastroenterologica* refers to a medical journal and the Domain Name Holder does not seem to have any activities in the medical field beyond the exploitation of the Website. According to Wikipedia, the Domain Name Holder, Sedo GmbH, is a domain name and website marketplace and domain parking provider based in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Cologne, Germany. The



company is a subsidiary of United Internet. Sedo is an acronym for Search Engine for Domain Offers. Prima facie, such a company does not have legitimate interests in a domain name referring to a medical journal.

The second condition referred to in the Policy is met.

### **c) The Domain name holder's Domain Name has been registered or is being used in bad faith**

According to the Policy, the evidence of in bad faith registration or use of a domain name can inter alia be demonstrated when the domain name was intentionally used to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to the registrant's web site or other on-line location, by creating confusion with the complainant's trademark, trade name, registered name or company name, geographical indication, designation of origin, designation of source, personal name or name of a geographical entity as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the registrant's web site or location or of a product or service on his web site or location.

On the basis of the analysis of respectively the website exploited by the Complainant (Ageb.be) and the Website, and in absence of any explanation from the Domain Name Holder, the Third Party Decider is of the opinion that the Domain Name has indeed been registered and is used to attract potential authors of papers in the medical field and make them believe that they can be published in the real Acta Gastro-enterologica Belgica journal, which has arguably acquired considerable reputation in the sector, against a contribution of not less than 3500 USD. The Domain Name Holder is thus deliberately creating confusion and rides on the coat tail of the Complainant's trade name and journal. Such process amounts to a fraud and characterizes a registration and use of the Domain Name in bad faith.

### **7. Decision**

Consequently, pursuant to Article 10(e) of the *Terms and conditions of domain name registrations under the ".be" domain operated by DNS BE*, the Third-Party Decider hereby rules that the domain name registration for the "acta-gastroenterologica.be" domain name is to be transferred to the complainant.

Liège, 12 January 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Vanbrabant".

Bernard Vanbrabant

The Third-party Decider

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