Decision for dispute CAC-UDRP-103430

Case number	CAC-UDRP-103430
Time of filing	2020-11-25 10:17:47
Domain names	bpparibas.info

Case administrator

Organization	Denisa Bilík (CAC) (Case admin)

Complainant

Organization	BNP PARIBAS

Complainant representative

Organization	Nameshield (Enora Millocheau)

Respondent

Name	Jeanr Anizotr

OTHER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Panel is not aware of any other legal proceedings that are pending or decided and that relate to the Disputed Domain Name.

IDENTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

The Complainant states, and provides evidence to support, that it is the owner of certain trademark registrations that consist of or contain the mark BNP PARIBAS (the "BNP PARIBAS Trademark"), including Int'l Reg. No. 728,598 (registered February 23, 2000).

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Complainant states that it is "an international banking group with a presence in 72 countries, and one of the largest banks in the world… [w]ith more than 198,816 employees and €8.2 billion in net profit." The Complainant also states that it is the registrant of the domain name <bnpparibas.com> (created September 2, 1999).

The Disputed Domain Name was created on June 4, 2020, and is not being used in connection with an active website.

The Complainant contends, in relevant part, as follows:

Paragraph 4(a)(i): The Complainant states that the Disputed Domain Name is confusingly similar to the BNP PARIBAS

Trademark because, inter alia, “the trademark BNP PARIBAS is misspelled in the disputed domain name” and “[t]he deletion of the letter ‘N’ is not sufficient to avoid the likelihood of confusion with the Complainant’s trademark” because “[t]his is a clear case of ‘typosquatting’.”

Paragraph 4(a)(ii): The Complainant states that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Disputed Domain Name because, inter alia, “Respondent is not known as the disputed domain name in the Whois database, and has not acquired trademarks mark rights on this term”; “Respondent… is not related in any way to the Complainant’s business”; and “Complainant does not carry out any activity for, nor has any business with the Respondent.”

Paragraph 4(a)(iii): The Complainant states that the Disputed Domain Name was registered and is being used in bad faith because, inter alia, “[p]rior UDRP panels have established that the trademark BNP PARIBAS is well-known”, so “given the distinctiveness of the Complainant’s trademarks and reputation, it is inconceivable that the Respondent could have registered the disputed domain name <bpparibas.info> without actual knowledge of Complainant’s rights in the trademark, which evidences bad faith”; and “it is not possible to conceive of any plausible actual or contemplated active use of the domain name by the Respondent that would not be illegitimate, such as by being a passing off, an infringement of consumer protection legislation, or an infringement of the Complainant’s rights under trademark law.”

PARTIES CONTENTIONS

No administratively compliant response has been filed.

RIGHTS

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the Disputed Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(i) of the UDRP).

NO RIGHTS OR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the Respondent to have no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Disputed Domain Name (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(ii) of the UDRP).

BAD FAITH

The Complainant has, to the satisfaction of the Panel, shown the Disputed Domain Name has been registered and is being used in bad faith (within the meaning of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the UDRP).

PROCEDURAL FACTORS

The Panel is satisfied that all procedural requirements under UDRP were met and there is no other reason why it would be inappropriate to provide a decision.

PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Identical or Confusingly Similar: Paragraph 4(a)(i):

Based upon the trademark registrations cited by the Complainant, it is apparent that the Complainant has rights in and to the BNP PARIBAS Trademark.

As to whether the Disputed Domain Name is identical or confusingly similar to the BNP PARIBAS Trademark, the relevant comparison to be made is with the second-level portion of the Disputed Domain Name only (i.e., “bpparibas”) because “[t]he applicable Top Level Domain (‘TLD’) in a domain name (e.g., ‘.com’, ‘.club’, ‘.nyc’) is viewed as a standard registration requirement and as such is disregarded under the first element confusing similarity test.” WIPO Overview of WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.11.1.

Here, the Disputed Domain Name contains a typographical variation of the BNP PARIBAS Trademark, by including the entirety of the BNP PARIBAS Trademark with a simple character difference: deletion of one letter “p” in the middle. As set

forth in section 1.7 of WIPO Overview 3.0, "in cases where a domain name incorporates the entirety of a trademark, or where at least a dominant feature of the relevant mark is recognizable in the domain name, the domain name will normally be considered confusingly similar to that mark for purposes of UDRP standing." Further, section 1.9 of WIPO Overview 3.0 states: "A domain name which consists of a common, obvious, or intentional misspelling of a trademark is considered by panels to be confusingly similar to the relevant mark for purposes of the first element." See also, e.g., Harmless Junk, Inc. v. (John Zuccarini d/b/a) Party Night Inc., (John Zuccarini d/b/a) Phayze Inc., WIPO Case No. D2003-0967 ("merely deleting a single letter" does not eliminate confusing similarity).

Accordingly, the Panel finds that Complainant has proven the first element of the UDRP.

Rights or Legitimate Interests: Paragraph 4(a)(ii)

The Complainant states that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the Disputed Domain Name because, inter alia, "Respondent is not known as the disputed domain name in the Whois database, and has not acquired trademarks mark rights on this term"; "Respondent… is not related in any way to the Complainant's business"; and "Complainant does not carry out any activity for, nor has any business with the Respondent."

WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1, states: "While 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 often impossible 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. If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element."

The Panel finds that Complainant has established its prima facie case and without any evidence from the Respondent to the contrary, the Panel is satisfied that Complainant has satisfied the second element of the UDRP.

Registered and Used in Bad Faith: Paragraph 4(a)(iii)

Whether a domain name is registered and used in bad faith for purposes of the UDRP may be determined by evaluating four (non-exhaustive) factors set forth in paragraph 4(b) of the UDRP: (i) circumstances indicating that the registrant has registered or the registrant has acquired the domain name primarily for the purpose of selling, renting, or otherwise transferring the domain name registration to the complainant who is the owner of the trademark or service mark or to a competitor of that complainant, for valuable consideration in excess of the registrant's documented out-of-pocket costs directly related to the domain name; or (ii) the registrant has registered the domain name in order to prevent the owner of the trademark or service mark from reflecting the mark in a corresponding domain name, provided that the registrant has engaged in a pattern of such conduct; or (iii) the registrant has registered the domain name primarily for the purpose of disrupting the business of a competitor; or (iv) by using the domain name, the registrant has intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to the registrant'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 registrant's website or location or of a product or service on the registrant's website or location.

As set forth in section 3.3 of WIPO Overview 3.0:

"From the inception of the UDRP, panelists 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."

"While panelists will look at the totality of the circumstances in each case, factors that have been considered relevant in applying the passive holding doctrine include: (i) the degree of distinctiveness or reputation of the complainant's mark, (ii) the failure of the respondent to submit a response or to provide any evidence of actual or contemplated good-faith use, (iii) the respondent's concealing its identity or use of false contact details (noted to be in breach of its registration agreement),

and (iv) the implausibility of any good faith use to which the domain name may be put."

This section is derived, of course, largely from the landmark decision on passive holding in Telstra Corporation Limited v. Nuclear Marshmallows, WIPO Case No. D2000-0003.

As applied to the instant proceeding, the Panel finds that the BNP PARIBAS Trademark is highly distinctive; that, the Respondent has failed to submit a response; and that it is implausible there would be any good faith use to which the domain name may be put.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that Complainant has proven the third element of the Policy.

FOR ALL THE REASONS STATED ABOVE, THE COMPLAINT IS

Accepted

AND THE DISPUTED DOMAIN NAME(S) IS (ARE) TO BE

1. **BPPARIBAS.INFO**: Transferred

PANELLISTS

Name	**Douglas M. Isenberg**

DATE OF PANEL DECISION 2020-12-18

Publish the Decision