

Decision No. 458/153 decided on 6 November 2007, formally served on 28 December 2007

Case No. 25454/18-5-2007

While YouTube has become increasingly popular in the last year or so in Greece, especially due to its popularity as a forum of communication that became especially handy a tool for debates concerning the Greek elections in September 2007, in conjunction with a major tv channel in Greece, a third party had registered it a year earlier, on 4 July 2006 and was using the YouTube trademark on the said site, while there were reports that the contents of the particular site were of questionable nature, such as pornographic material, etc.

You Tube LLC an American company that started the YouTube frenzy and was subsequently bought over by Google, filed a cancellation petition, aiming towards the ultimate retrieval of the youtube.gr domain name. Until then, Greek YouTube users were rather passionately using either youtube.com or youtube.com.gr

The National Telecommunications and Post Committee in a ruling that recognized the extended fame and notoriety of the YouTube brand and feature that went beyond any conventional means of trade, but solely focused on online services of video-sharing, decided in favour of the Petitioner, no less due to the significant volume of evidentiary material proving the use and recognition of YouTube in Greece based on articles from Greek newspapers and magazines.

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