

Madrid Agreement and Protocol Concerning the International Registration of Marks

The decision to freeze the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and its consequences

1. At its fiftieth (29th extraordinary) session (October 3 to 11, 2016), the Assembly of the Madrid Union took the decision to freeze, with effect from October 11, 2016, the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Agreement).
2. The freeze of the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Madrid Agreement has the following effects:
 - (i) new Contracting Parties cannot ratify or accede to the Agreement alone but can ratify or accede simultaneously to the Madrid Agreement and to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Protocol);
 - (ii) countries that are Contracting Parties to the Protocol can accede to the Agreement;
 - (iii) international applications can no longer be filed under the Agreement;
 - (iv) no operations under the Agreement will be conducted, including the presentation of subsequent designations;
 - (v) Article 9*sexies*(1)(b) of the Protocol will still apply in the mutual relations between Contracting Parties bound by both the Agreement and the Protocol; and,
 - (vi) the Assembly can still deal with all matters concerning the implementation of the Agreement and can revert, at any time thereafter, to its decision to freeze the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Agreement.
3. Further information on the decision to freeze the application of Article 14(1) and (2)(a) of the Agreement, please see documents MM/A/50/3 and MM/A/50/5, available at: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=39948.

November 14, 2016