

Special Union for the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Union)

Committee of Experts

**Seventh Session
Geneva, October 19 and 20, 2016**

REPORT

adopted by the Committee of Experts

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its seventh session in Geneva on October 19 and 20, 2016. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Austria, Mexico, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom and Ukraine (8). The following States were represented by observers: Cameroon, China, Germany, Japan and Russian Federation (5). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organization took part in the session in an observer capacity: European Union (EU). Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session in an observer capacity: China Trademark Association (CTA) and International Trademark Association (INTA). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Kunihiro Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division, WIPO, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

OFFICERS

3. The Committee unanimously elected Ms. Natalie Morgan (United Kingdom) as Chair, and Mr. Gim Jeon-Sik (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Gustavo Anuar Alonso Lara (Mexico) as Vice-Chairs.
4. Ms. Belkis Fava (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Committee agreed that amendments and additions to the seventh edition of the Vienna Classification would enter into force on January 1, 2018, which meant that, in accordance with Article 6(1) of the Vienna Agreement, the notification containing the decisions of the Committee should be sent by the International Bureau at the latest on July 1, 2017.
8. The Committee noted that the International Bureau would publish the new (eighth) edition of the Vienna Classification, in English and in French, on the Internet, the seventh being the last one to be issued on paper. However, the new edition would be made available on the electronic forum in Word and PDF formats.
9. The Committee invited the International Bureau to take the opportunity of correcting any obvious typing or grammatical errors which it found in the text of the Classification.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE SEVENTH EDITION OF THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

10. Discussions were based on project [VE072](#), which contained a summary table of proposals for amendments and additions to the seventh edition of the Vienna Classification.
11. The Committee adopted a certain number of amendments and additions, as contained in Annex III to this report.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

12. The International Bureau indicated that it would like to take the initial step of preparing a questionnaire with a view to discussing the future development of the Vienna Classification. In order to prepare the questionnaire, the International Bureau would welcome the input from interested parties, mainly the Member States of the Vienna Union, as well as observer States and organizations.

13. The Committee agreed to proceed as indicated in the previous paragraph and noted that the International Bureau will open a project on the e-forum in order to consolidate the input from the various sources.

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

14. The Committee noted that the date of its next session would depend on the outcome of the questionnaire mentioned in paragraph 12 of this report and that the International Bureau would communicate the date in due course. Nevertheless, in accordance with Rule 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts, the Committee shall meet at least once every five years, which means that the next session should be held in 2021 at the latest.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

15. The Chair closed the session.

16. *The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on November 4, 2016.*

[Annexes follow]