

Agenda Item 9 (iii)**The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)
Doc. WO/GA/55/3**

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the continued progress achievable by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications during its last session. We note with appreciation that in March 2022 the SCT was able to have its first full-blown negotiating session since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with considerable physical attendance and some informal discussions reviving.
2. On the topic of designs, we commend progress made on the topic of Graphical User Interface (GUI), icon and type face/type font designs. At the last SCT session we welcomed an updated proposal from the delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in document SCT/44/6 Rev.3. Fully supportive of the text of the updated proposal, the EU and its Member States were delighted to join the co-sponsors of the proposal. We reiterate our view that the adoption of recommendations on GUI designs will further contribute to the modernisation of practices on designs. We look forward to continuing discussions on the updated proposal at the next SCT session and to working together with other delegations to finalise the recommendations in order to foster a more harmonised approach.
3. With regard to the temporary protection of industrial designs at certain international exhibitions, we welcomed the presentation of the Database Prototype developed by WIPO for the last session. We support the extension of the prototype into a full database.
4. As to the Design Law Treaty, we reiterate our view that the General Assembly is the appropriate forum to continue negotiations aimed at achieving a compromise on outstanding issues. We stand ready to explore constructive proposals towards the finalisation of the Design Law Treaty.

5. Turning to trademarks, on the topic of country names we reiterate that we would welcome an attempt to merge some concepts underlying previously submitted and long debated proposals on the table. We would appreciate the effort to simplify discussions by reducing the number of competing revised proposals and we commend the spirit of seeking consensus reflected in the joint proposal in document SCT/43/6. We look forward to continuing discussions on that proposal.
6. Concerning the topic of nation brands, at the last session we welcomed the revised compilation of returns to the Questionnaire on Nation Brand Protection in Member States prepared by the Secretariat in document SCT/43/8 Rev. We remain open to continue exploring the state of play as regards nation brand protection in Member States.
7. Finally, as to geographical indications the EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and Members of the SCT for the work in preparing and delivering the information sessions on geographical indications. The process of advancing the international debate on geographical indications has been a valuable and constructive exercise, which has been received with great interest among the participants. We consider that information sessions should address topics of significant importance and relevance for geographical indications. We maintain our concern over the treatment of geographical indications on the internet, particularly in relation to internet domain name disputes. At the same time, we look forward to the next SCT information session where the topics on “Geographical indication protection for non-agricultural goods” and “Geographical indication protection for services” will be presented and discussed. We are also considering the submission of a topic in the forty-sixth session of the SCT for an Information Session on Geographical Indications that will be held in conjunction with the forty-seventh session of the SCT.
8. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain actively engaged in continuing work in all three key areas of the SCT.

Thank you.