

Agenda Item 13 (iii)
Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and
Geographical Indications (SCT)
Doc. WO/GA/56/8
Delegation of Spain on behalf of the
European Union and its Member States

Madam Chair,

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the continued progress of discussions during the last session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications.
2. First and foremost, on the topic of designs, we look forward to the special session of the Committee focused on the Design Law Treaty and we stand ready to constructively engage to solve the outstanding issues regarding the draft texts.

On the topic of Graphical User Interface (GUI), icon and type face/type font designs, we look forward to continuing discussions on the updated proposal by the Delegations of Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union and its Member States for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces (document SCT/44/6 Rev.4). We reiterate our view that the adoption of recommendations on GUI designs will further contribute to the modernisation of practices on designs and facilitate safeguarding designers' rights in rapidly evolving technological fields.

3. Turning to trade_marks, on the topic of country names, we look forward to continuing discussions based on the joint proposal in document SCT/43/6 commending the spirit of seeking consensus reflected therein. Concerning the topic of nation brands, we look forward to the Information Session on the Protection of Nation Brands in Member States to be organised at the next session of the SCT based on the joint proposal contained in document SCT/45/6 Rev.3.

4. Finally, as for 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. We take note of the next session on “Trademarks and geographical indications: prior rights, grounds for refusal”. We remain very concerned over the treatment of geographical indications on the internet, particularly in relation to internet domain name disputes
5. Chair, the EU and its Member States remain actively engaged in continuing work in all three key areas of the SCT.

Thank you.