

**Agenda Item 17**

**Lisbon System**

**Doc. LI/A/40/1**

**The Delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States welcome the entry into force on 1 January 2023 of the amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement and the Geneva Act. We propose to continue the path of improving the Common Regulations in order to simplify and streamline the procedures under the Lisbon System, also with the aim of providing greater clarity to its users. Therefore, we support the adoption of the amendments to the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications, as set out in the Annex to document LI/A/40/1 prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The EU has made further progress in the implementation of its membership in the Lisbon System under the Geneva Act. We are now in the final stages of the legislative process for the adoption of an EU regulation concerning geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products.
3. Whilst we welcome the proposed moderate increase of the 2024-2025 WIPO budget for the Lisbon system, we consider that in view of the increasing membership of the Lisbon System, adequate resources should be made available to manage the registration system effectively. In this respect, we underline the need to ensure that the Lisbon system is able to perform efficiently, meaning that the current backlog, as well as the anticipated workload resulting from the growing membership are addressed and that the full deployment of the functionalities of the new IT platform, namely the e-Lisbon Registry, is achieved to ensure an efficient and smooth functioning of a modern electronic system of registration, notification and publication. We also reiterate the importance of appropriate technical assistance being provided to support the Member States that have recently

become – or express an interest in becoming – member of the Lisbon System, and in particular of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement.

4. The EU and its Member States note the continuous enlargement of the membership of the Geneva Act over the course of last year. We welcome the accession of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) as the second intergovernmental organization to join the Lisbon System. The inclusion of 17 new African countries is a strong political signal of the increasing attractiveness of the Lisbon system. We also welcome the recent accession of the Republic of Tunisia.
5. However, the EU and its Member States express serious concerns related to the Russian Federation's recent accession to the Geneva Act. For as long as Russia does not reverse course and abide by the principles of the UN Charter and its international obligations, it is clear that business-as-usual with the country at the UN and other multilateral for a is no longer an option.
6. The Russian Federation is violating the international legal order through its war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU and its Member States express solidarity with Ukraine and support the sovereignty, independence and the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression. We call on Russia to immediately stop all violations of international law, its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces and proxies from the entire territory of Ukraine and to fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.
7. On behalf of the EU and its Member States, let me reiterate our continuous support and solidarity with Ukraine and Ukrainian people.

Thank you.