

Special Union for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (Lisbon Union)

Assembly

**Twenty-Ninth (20th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, September 23 to October 2, 2013**

REVIEW OF THE LISBON SYSTEM

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its twenty-eighth (9th extraordinary) session held from October 1 to 9, 2012, the Assembly of the Lisbon Union took note of the considerable progress made, and the planned work ahead, in the review of the Lisbon system, on which the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) had embarked with a view to improving the Lisbon system so that it might attract a much wider membership, while preserving the principles and objectives of the Lisbon Agreement (see document LI/A/28/1).
2. Since then, the Working Group has met twice, in December 2012 and in April-May 2013, to discuss the contemplated establishment of an international protection and registration system for appellations of origin and geographical indications. These discussions were held on the basis of drafts for a new instrument and regulations, as prepared by the Secretariat upon the Working Group’s request for each of these meetings.
3. In view of the progress made at the seventh session of the Working Group, which took place from April 29 to May 3, 2013, the Working Group agreed that a recommendation be made to the Assembly of the Lisbon Union to approve, at its session in 2013, the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015, with the exact dates and venue to be decided by a preparatory committee meeting (see document LI/WG/DEV/7/6, paragraph 18).

4. The roadmap designed by the Working Group in that respect includes two further Working Group sessions, one in December 2013 and one in the first half of 2014, and, possibly, an additional session in the second half of 2014 if considered necessary by the Working Group. The Assembly of the Lisbon Union will be in a position, at its session in 2014, to note the progress made by that time.

5. At its next session, in December 2013, the Working Group will continue its examination and discussion of the draft Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and its draft Regulations, on the basis of a revised version to be prepared by the Secretariat along the lines of the guidance that the Working Group provided at its seventh session. Work will continue towards a single instrument covering both appellations of origin and geographical indications and providing for a high and single level of protection for both, while maintaining two separate definitions, on the understanding that the same substantive provisions would apply to both appellations of origin and geographical indications.

6. The Secretariat will also organize a half-day conference on dispute settlement within the Lisbon system, as a side event in the margins of the next session of the Working Group, and prepare a factual document on the issue of dispute settlement to facilitate discussions at the conference.

7. The Secretariat will further promote the activities of the Working Group as well as the draft Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and its draft Regulations in order to raise awareness, and to stimulate discussions among the current membership of the Lisbon Union and other WIPO Member States, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Working Group in that respect.

8. *The Assembly of the Lisbon Union is invited to:*

(i) take note of the present document and the planned work ahead in the review and promotion of the Lisbon system;

(ii) approve the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015, as referred to in paragraph 3, above;

(iii) take note of the roadmap designed by the Working Group, as referred to in paragraph 4, above.

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