

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

Assembly

**Thirty-First (11th Extraordinary) Session
Geneva, September 22 to 30, 2014**

REVIEW OF THE LISBON SYSTEM

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its twenty-ninth (20th ordinary) session held from September 23 to October 2, 2013, the Assembly of the Lisbon Union approved 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, and the roadmap ahead of the diplomatic conference.
2. Since then, the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) has met twice, in December 2013 and in June 2014, 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. The Secretariat also organized a half-day conference on dispute settlement within the Lisbon System, as a side event in the margins of the session of the Working Group in December 2013.
3. In accordance with the approved roadmap, the preparatory committee meeting for the diplomatic conference will be held in October 2014 in conjunction with the tenth session of the Working Group. At that session, the Working Group will focus on technically preparing the texts of the draft Revised Lisbon Agreement and the draft Regulations for the diplomatic conference and on reducing the number of pending issues, where possible. Resolved issues will not be

re-opened and proposals and discussions should be limited to the pending issues, as identified by the Working Group at its ninth session, in June 2014, and reflected in document LI/WG/DEV/9/7, paragraph 13.

4. The Secretariat will prepare newly revised versions of the draft Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications and its draft Regulations for the tenth session, along the lines of the guidance provided by the Working Group at its ninth session while reflecting all comments and suggestions made.

5. The Assembly of the Lisbon Union is invited to take note of the present document and of the progress made in the preparation of the Diplomatic Conference for the Adoption of a Revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications in 2015.

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