

Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs

Ninth Session
Geneva, December 14 to 16, 2020

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

prepared by the Secretariat

For the convenience of all participants, the Secretariat prepared this proposed timetable for the ninth session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs (hereinafter referred to as the “the Working Group”). This proposed timetable replaces the previous proposed timetable published on December 4, 2020. It is based on the latest Draft Agenda (document H/LD/WG/9/1 Prov.3), which results from further consultations with Regional Group Coordinators.

In line with the latest organizational arrangements, the Working Group will meet for two and a half hours each day of the session (December 14 to 16, 2020), from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m., Geneva Time (GMT +1). Taking into account the progress of the discussions and preferences expressed by the delegations at the session, the Chair may propose changes to the time and length of those meetings, as appropriate.

Monday, December 14, 2020¹
From 12 noon to 2.30 p.m.

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs
 Proposal for Chair and Vice-Chairs:
 Chair: (to be elected)
 Vice-chairs: (to be elected)
3. Adoption of the Agenda
 See document H/LD/WG/9/1 Prov.3
4. Adoption of the Draft Report of the Eighth Session of the Working Group
 See document H/LD/WG/8/9 Prov.
5. Proposal for Amendments to the Common Regulations Under the 1999 Act and the 1960 Act of the Hague Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Common Regulations”).

Document H/LD/WG/9/2²

At its previous session, the Working Group discussed a proposal to extend the six-month period of publication currently provided for in Rule 17(1)(iii) of the Common Regulations to a period of 12 months (hereinafter referred to as the “standard publication”). The Working Group requested the International Bureau to consult with user groups on this proposal and to report on its findings at the next session of the Working Group.

The document sets out a summary of the responses received from the user groups and, these responses being unanimously supportive, contains a proposal to amend Rule 17 so as to extend the standard publication period from six to 12 months and to clarify that an earlier publication may be requested at any time before the expiry of the 12-month standard publication period, together with a transition provision in Rule 37.

The Working Group is invited to:

- (i) *consider and comment on the proposals made in this document; and*
- (ii) *recommend to the Assembly of the Hague Union for adoption, the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations with respect to Rule 17, together with the proposed transitional provision in Rule 37, as provided in Annex II hereto, with a date of entry into force of January 1, 2022.*

¹ The proposed timetable is merely indicative. If the Working Group does not finish discussions on an item by the end of the day, discussions on that item will continue at the start of the next day, unless otherwise proposed by the Chair.

² See also document H/LD/WG/9/2 Corr., as far as the Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Russian versions of the document are concerned.

Document H/LD/WG/9/3 Rev.³

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent adoption of amendments by the Hague Union Assembly to the Common Regulations that will require users of the Hague System to indicate their e-mail address to receive communications from the International Bureau⁴, this document proposes to amend Rule 5 of the Common Regulations (excuse of delay in meeting time limits) with a view to providing Hague System users with adequate safeguards.

The Working Group is invited to:

- (i) consider and comment on the proposals made in this document; and*
- (ii) recommend to the Assembly of the Hague Union the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Common Regulations with respect to Rule 5, as presented in the Annex to this document, for their entry into force two months following their adoption.*

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
From 12 noon to 2.30 p.m.

6. Other matters

Document H/LD/WG/9/INF/1

At its previous session, the Working Group discussed a document H/LD/WG/8/4, entitled “Financial Sustainability of the Hague System and Possible Revision of the Schedule of Fees”. The Working Group considered favorably the submission of a proposal to amend the amount of the basic fee for each additional design included in the same international application.

Furthermore, noting a significant difference between the amount of the renewal fee for the first design and that for each additional design, the Working Group also requested the International Bureau to prepare a study on the possible increase in the amount of the basic renewal fee for each additional design, to be discussed at the next session.

The International Bureau thus prepared the present information document for discussion by the Working Group.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
From 12 noon to 2.30 p.m.

7. Summary by the Chair

8. Closing of the session

[End of document]

³ Similar proposals were discussed at the eighteenth session of the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and at the third session of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, respectively. Consequently, the original document H/LD/WG/9/3 published on October 14, 2020, and the specific amendment proposed therein have been revised to take into account the outcomes of both the Madrid and Lisbon Working Groups sessions (see documents MM/LD/WG/18/9 “Summary by the Chair” and LI/WG/DEV-SYS/3/4 “Summary by the Chair”).

⁴ See documents H/A/40/1 “COVID-19 Measures: Making E-mail Address a Required Indication” and H/A/40/2 Prov. “Draft Report”.