

## **Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks**

**Twenty-Second Session**  
**Geneva, October 7 to 11, 2024**

PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. In a communication dated September 6, 2024, the International Bureau received a proposal from the Delegation of Germany concerning the possibility of introducing the German language into the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks for consideration by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, at its twenty-second session to be held in Geneva from October 7 to 11, 2024.
2. The said proposal is annexed to this document.

[Annex follows]

## ANNEX: PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

### Proposal by the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the Introduction of the German language into the Madrid System

1. In the spirit of promoting the Madrid System, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany proposes, for consideration by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, during its 22nd session to be held in Geneva from October 7 - 11, 2024, that the German language be introduced as an official language of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.
2. Language barriers are still common challenges in using the Madrid System. The introduction of the German language into the Madrid System will benefit German-speaking users, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), by allowing them to use their own language in filing applications for international registration and subsequent requests and maintaining their international registrations under the Madrid System.
3. The German language holds top positions regarding the possible criteria for the selection of possible new Madrid System languages that were compiled by the International Bureau based on statistical information (paragraphs 84 to 109 of the document [MM/LD/WG/21/7](#) and paragraphs 11 to 27 of the document [MM/LD/WG/22/6 Rev.](#)): Germany ranks first in *Number of Madrid Applications*, second in *Number of Madrid Designations* and second also in *Number of Direct Applications Filed Abroad*. Additionally, German residents have, during the last five years, filed between 68.000 and 82.000 per year with the German Patent and Trademark Office<sup>1</sup>. It can be expected that a considerable share of these national applications will become basic applications/registrations under the Madrid System if barriers to using the Madrid System are further reduced for German-speaking users.
4. If German is introduced into the Madrid System, language barriers to using the Madrid System will be eliminated for applicants who prefer submitting applications in German. Accordingly, it can be expected that the number of applications for international registration will grow, resulting in further use and development of the Madrid System.
5. For the purposes of cost-saving, translation quality and processing speed, the German Patent and Trademark Office has the intention to cooperate with the International Bureau in technical and practical measures to develop and improve the operational functions of the Madrid System under the multilingual regime, including the enhancement of a terminology database for improved *automatic translation* rates (paragraphs 31, 53 and 135 of the document [MM/LD/WG/21/7](#)). Germany will continue to engage constructively in discussions aimed at solving further technical issues during forthcoming sessions of the Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Annual Reports of the German Patent and Trademark Office  
(<https://www.dpma.de/dpma/veroeffentlichungen/jahresberichte/index.html>).

6. *In light of the above, we invite the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks to consider the proposal to include German as an official language of the Madrid System, and request the International Bureau to conduct a study on costs and benefits of the possible introduction of German into the Madrid System.*

[End of Annex and of document]