

# WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/4/6

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: November 25, 2003

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

**Fourth Session**  
**Geneva, January 26 to 30, 2004**

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.3

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. Upon the name change of “Yugoslavia” to “Serbia and Montenegro,” that took effect on February 4, 2003, the Maintenance Agency of International Standard ISO 3166 (ISO 3166/MA) started the process of determining a suitable alpha-2 code element for the new country name. On July 23, 2003, the ISO 3166/MA announced the change of the country name Yugoslavia to Serbia and Montenegro with CS as the two-letter code in ISO 3166 Newsletter No.V-8. Then, the International Bureau (IB) started a consultation process and issued Circular SCIT 2583, dated August 21, 2003, inviting the members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) to send their comments, by September 19, 2003, on the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.3. This would change the current entry for Yugoslavia and its two-letter code YU to Serbia and Montenegro and CS, respectively. However, it was not possible to reach an agreement by correspondence. The circular and the replies to it are available in the SCIT area of WIPO’s website at <http://www.wipo.int/scit: Administration/Circulars>.

2. On October 17, 2003, the IB issued Circular SCIT 2588, which informed industrial property offices on the results of the consultation referred to in paragraph 1, above, and as a consequence of these results, the need to bring this matter to the attention of the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) at its next meeting, to be held in January 2004.

3. Since the publication of ISO 3166 Newsletter No.V-8, several organizations, WIPO among them, have informed the ISO 3166/MA that problems are arising from the implementation of the two-letter code CS for Serbia and Montenegro because of the previous use of the code CS for Czechoslovakia in International Standard ISO 3166-1 until 1993. The IB has exchanged some correspondence with the ISO 3166/MA to inform them on the results of our consultation process to revise WIPO Standard ST.3 by correspondence. The IB has also informed the ISO 3166/MA of the main reasons behind the hesitations and reservations to adopt code CS to represent Serbia and Montenegro in WIPO Standard ST.3, and requested the ISO 3166/MA to take these facts into consideration, as far as possible, should any action regarding this matter be possible.
4. On September 30, 2003, the ISO 3166/MA issued a document containing an initiative of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ISO 3166/MA for a course of action regarding the problems with the re-assignment of code element CS. As of November 10, 2003, the ISO 3166/MA is considering two possible ways of solving the problem: either to withdraw CS from International Standard ISO 3166-1, and to replace it with another code element hitherto unused; or to reserve a second code element for Serbia and Montenegro for use in those applications of International Standard ISO 3166-1 that cannot implement code element CS.
5. The IB issued the following Editorial Note to WIPO Standard ST.3 in order to inform the users of the Standard about the problem raised with regard to the re-assignment of two-letter code CS:

“On July 23, 2003, the ISO 3166/MA announced the change of the country name Yugoslavia to Serbia and Montenegro with CS as the two-letter code. However, the implementation of the code CS for Serbia and Montenegro in certain applications of International Standard ISO 3166-1 raises some problems because of the use of CS to identify Czechoslovakia until 1993. Subsequently, the ISO 3166/MA announced that it is considering different options for solving the problems created by the re-assignment of code element CS.

The two-letter country code YU should be used for Serbia and Montenegro, formerly Yugoslavia, until the ISO 3166/MA has taken a final decision and the Standards and Documentation Working Group of the Standing Committee on Information Technology reaches a decision concerning the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3 and the two-letter code to represent Serbia and Montenegro.”

This editorial Note was attached as a cover page to the current version of WIPO Standard ST.3 that is available at <http://wipo.int/scit>: WIPO Standards and Other Documentation/List of WIPO Standards, and on the 2003 WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* CD-ROM.

6. The IB will present an oral report to the SDWG to inform on the status of this matter at the next session in January 2004. In order to continue keeping WIPO Standard ST.3 aligned with International Standard ISO 3166-1, the IB will bring the results from the ISO 3166/MA consultation to the attention of the SDWG for its consideration when discussing the revision of WIPO Standard ST.3.

7. *The SDWG is invited:*

*(a) to note the information provided above and in the oral report by the IB;*

*(b) to consider and adopt the replacement of Yugoslavia with Serbia and Montenegro in WIPO Standard ST.3; and*

*(c) to consider the adoption of a two-letter code to represent Serbia and Montenegro in WIPO Standard ST.3.*

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