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Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

Fortieth Session
Geneva, November 12 to 16, 2018

ACCREDITATION OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to this document contains information on a non-governmental organization which has requested to be granted observer status in sessions of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), according to the SCT Rules of Procedure (document SCT/1/2, paragraph 6).

2. *The SCT is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the non-governmental organization referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]



**Association Française des
Indications Géographiques
Industrielles & Artisanales**

SCT Secretariat
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Bordeaux, 10 September 2018

Subject: Request for observer status in meetings of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

Sir/Madam,

Please find herewith the request to grant observer status in meetings of WIPO's Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications to the French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications.

The French Association of Industrial and Artisanal Geographical Indications (AFIGIA) was founded in 2015, after the French State had instituted geographical indications for non-agricultural products (GI IAP). The Association is registered in France as a non-profit association under French legislation. AFIGIA is funded by its members. A Board of Directors, elected from among members every three years, manages the Association. The members also elect a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer every three years as the officers of the Association.

The purpose of the Association is obviously to represent as broadly as possible all French geographical indications for industrial or artisanal products (GI IAP) and thus form an exchange and consultation network that will improve the visibility and amplify the voice of these GI IAP sectors. Other purposes are to ensure recognition, promotion and defense of the GI IAP concept and to organize and develop dialogue and consultation with French, European and international institutions.

AFIGIA is the umbrella association for traditional French products that are deeply rooted economically in essentially rural areas, and wishes to maintain and boost employment and the economy in those specific catchment areas. Protection for the products is claimed under the law of geographical indications. Those products include in particular *couteau de Laguiole* [Laguiole knife], *savon de Marseille* [Marseilles soap], *linge Basque* [Basque linen], *dentelle du Puy* [Puy lace], *pierre de Bourgogne* [Burgundy stone], *granit de Bretagne* [Brittany granite], *grenat de Perpignan* [Perpignan garnet], *poteries d'Alsace* [Alsatian pottery] (potteries of Soufflenheim and Betschdorf), *siège de Liffol* [Liffol chair], *porcelaine de Limoges* [Limoges porcelain], *pierre d'Arudy* [Arudy stone], *pierre du Midi* [stone from southern France], *vase d'Anduze* [Anduze vase], *horlogerie Franc-Comtoise* [watch/clock from Franche Comté], *pierre du Périgord* [Perigord stone], *tapis* and *tapisseries d'Aubusson* [Aubusson carpets and tapestries], *santons de Provence* [santon of Provence] and *couteaux de Nontron* [Nontron knives].

All of these sectors have striven for several years to institute the geographical indications system in France in order to defend and protect their products that epitomize their unique and typically local know-how. As members of the association they become acquainted with each other and work together because they all share the same goal.

In accordance with its statutes, the aims of the Association are to:

- organize and lead a network of firms that have been granted or wish to be granted a geographical indication (GI);
- support those firms in representations to decision makers and various economic partners in order to improve recognition and national, European and international forms of protection of GI IAP;
- ensure recognition, promotion and defense of the concept of geographical indication for industrial and artisanal products;
- organize and develop dialogue, consultation, studies and joint activities by firms on the legal, technical, economic and cultural issues;
- represent and defend members' financial and moral interests in all national, European and international bodies;
- combat usurpation, counterfeiting and all types of GI IAP infringement;
- defend the members' financial and moral interests by all means, in particular legal proceedings.

The Association's contact details are:

Address: 39, rue Charles Martin - 33 300 Bordeaux (France)

Telephone: +33 9 54 99 67 36

Mobile: +33 6 82 93 64 18

E-mail: afigia.asso@gmail.com

Website: afigia.fr

Contact person: Audrey AUBARD, Secretary General

We thank you in advance for the attention that you will give to our request and we remain at your disposal for any further information.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The President

Fabrice DESCOMBES

[End of Annex and of document]