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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

STANDINGCOMMITTEEO NTHELAWOFTRADEMA RKS, INDUSTRIALDESIGNSA NDGEOGRAPHICALINDI CATIONS

SeventhSession Geneva,December5to7,2001

REPORT*

adopted by the Standing Committee

INTRODUCTION

 $1. \quad The Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (herein after referred to as "the Standing Committee" or "the held its sevenths ession, in Geneva, from December 5 to 7,2001.$

SCT")

2. ThefollowingStatesmembersofWIPOand/ortheParisUnionfortheProtectionof IndustrialPropertywererepresentedatthemeeting:Albania,Algeria,Argentina,Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia,Canada,Chad,Chile,China, Colombia,CostaRica, Côted'Ivoire, CzechRepublic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana,Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary,India,Indonesia, Ireland,Japan,

^{*} AdoptedattheeighthsessionoftheSCT.Fol lowingcommentsreceivedontheDraftReport (documentSCT/7/4Prov.2),paragraph34asmodified.

Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Zimbabwe (66). The European Communities were also represented in their capacity of member of the SCT.

- 3. The following intergovernmental organizations took part in themee ting in an observer capacity: Benelux Trademark Office (BBM), World Trade Organization (WTO)(2).
- 4. Representativesofthefollowinginternationalnon -governmentalorganizationstook part inthemeetinginanobservercapacity:Association of EuropeanTrademarkOwners (MARQUES),CenterforInternationalIndustrialPropertyStudies(CEIPI), European CommunitiesTradeMarkAssociation(ECTA), InternationalFederationofWinesandSpirits (FIVS), InternationalFederationofIndustrialPropertyAtt orneys(FICPI), International TrademarkAssociation (INTA),InternationalWineLawAssociation(AIDV), Internet Society(ISOC)(8).
- 5. ThelistofparticipantsiscontainedintheAnnexofthisReport.
- 6. Discussionswerebasedonthef ollowingdocumentspreparedbytheInternational BureauofWIPO: "Agenda" (document SCT/7/1), "TextoftheJointRecommendation ConcerningProvisionsontheProtectionofMarks, andOtherIndustrialPropertyRightsin Signs, ontheInternet(withexplanat orynotes)" (document SCT/7/2) and "Geographical Indications: HistoricalBackground, NatureofRights, ExistingSystemsforProtectionand ObtainingEffectiveProtectioninOtherCountries" (documents SCT/6/3 and SCT/6/3 Corr.).
- 7. The Secretari at noted the interventions made and recorded the montape. This report summarizes the discussions on the basis of all the observations made.

AgendaItem1:OpeningoftheSession

- 8. Ms.DebbieRønning(Norway), Chairofthe Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), opened the meeting.
- 9. Mr.ShozoUemura,DeputyDirectorGeneral,welcomedalltheparticipantsonbehalf oftheDirectorGeneralofWIPO.Mr.MarcusHöpperger(W IPO)actedasSecretarytothe StandingCommittee.

AgendaItem2:AdoptionoftheAgenda

10. The SCT adopted the Draft Agenda (document SCT /7/1) without modifications.

AgendaItem3:AdoptionoftheDraftReportoftheSixthSession

- 11. The Delegation of the Republic of Koreasuggested to delete in paragraph 131 the reference to the reservation which it had made at the sixths ession of the SCT according to which it could not join the consensus on Article 15(2) of the Joint Recommen dation. The reservation was with drawn before the WIPO Assemblies.
- 12. The SCT adopted the Draft Report of the sixths ession (document without modifications. SCT/6/6 Prov.)

 $\frac{AgendaItem 4: Textof the Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection}{of Marks, and Other Industrial Property Rights in Signs, on the Internet (with explanatory notes)}$

- 13. TheSecretariatinformedtheStandingCommitteethattheproposedJoint Recommendation ConcerningtheProtectionofMarks,and OtherIndustrialPropertyRights inSigns,ontheInternet,wasadopted bytheAssemblyoftheParisUnionfortheProtection ofIndustrialPropertyandtheGeneralAssemblyoftheWorldIntellectualProperty Organization(WIPO),attheThirty -sixthSerie sofMeetingsoftheAssembliesoftheMember StatesofWIPO(September24toOctober3,2001).TheDocumentSCT/7/2which contains initsAnnex thetextoftheJointRecommendation,theprovisionsandtheexplanatorynotes preparedbytheInternationalB ureauwascirculatedtotheSCTforinformationpurposes, sinceSCTMembershadnotyetreceivedadocumentincorporatingtheprovisionsandthe notes.
- 14. TheDelegationofMexicoreferredtotherequestwhichithadmadebyitsdelegationat thesixthsessionoftheSCT,reflectedinparagraph99oftheReport(Document SCT/6/6 Prov.),aimingatclarifyingintheExplanatoryNotesontheJointRecommendation thatnothingpreventsaMemberStatefromgoingbeyondtherequiredminimumandapplying the"noticeandavoidanceofconflictprocedure"toactsofunfaircompetition.
- 15. The Secretariat stated that this point was addressed in Note use of a sign on the Internet, in fringement and acts of unfair competition.
- 16. The Delegation of Sudanasked for clarifications on Article 1 (vi) relating to the description given of the abbreviated expression "Internet", and on Article 1 (vii).
- 17. Inresponsetotheabove,theSecretariatexplainedthatA rticle1(vi)wasdiscussedat lengthattheSCTanddidnotintendtogiveadefinitionoftheexpression"Internet"butrather adescriptiontobeused"forthepurposeoftheseprovisions". Asmentionedinthe explanatorynote1.05,thisisemphasizedb ytheuseofthewords"refersto"insteadofthe word"means"usedintheotheritems. Moreover, itfollows the wording of Article8 of the WIPOCopyrightTreaty(WCT) and Article14 of the WIPOPerformances and Phonograms Treaty(WPPT). With regard to Article1(vii), the Secretariat stated that, following a generally accepted practice, as for example in Article1(xv) of the Patent Law Treaty, this item has been added to facilitate the drafting of the provisions.

AgendaItem5:IssuestoBeConsidere dbytheStandingCommittee

GeographicalIndications

18. The discussion was based on documents SCT/6/3 and SCT/6/3 Corr.

Terminology

- 19. TheDelegationoftheUnitedStatesofAmericastatedthattheterm"geographical indications"wa sdefinedinArticle 22.1oftheTRIPSAgreementand,thus,hadaspecific meaning.It,therefore,suggestedusingtheterminthatparticularmeaningandnot,aswas statedinparagraph 8ofdocumentSCT/6/3,initswidestsense.Inordertosimplifyth e debate,theDelegationsuggestedtheuseofthefollowingterms,andtodistinguishthemfrom eachother:"indicationofsource,""designationoforigin,""appellationoforigin"and "geographicalindication."
- 20. TheDelegationoftheEuropea nCommunitiessaidthatitbelievedthatthequestionof definitionwasimportantinitself,andthatitwasequallyimportantthattheelementsofthe definitionweremet.Whateverterminologywasused,theDelegationfeltthatitwasvitalthat thesubstanceofthedefinitionwascompliedwith.TheDelegationsaidthatitdidnotappear tobewisetoaddnewdefinitions.Itexpressedagreementwiththesuggestionofthe DelegationoftheUnitedStatesofAmericatousetheterm"geographicalindication "as definedbyArticle 22.1oftheTRIPSAgreement.

Existing Approaches for the Protection of Geographical Indications

- 21. TheDelegationoftheUnitedStatesofAmericaexplainedthat,initscountry, geographicalindicationswereprotectedu nderunfaircompetitionlaworascertification marks. TheDelegationexpressedinterestinhearingfromotherdelegationshowgeographical indicationswereprotectedintheirrespectivecountriesand,inparticular,howgeographical indicationswerecrea tedandchallenged,andwhatpolicyreasonswereunderlyingthe adoptionofspecificsystemsofprotection.
- 22. TheDelegationoftheEuropeanCommunitiessuggestedclarifyingparagraph 28of documentSCT/6/3inordertoavoidthepotentialconfu sionbetweengeographicaltermsin generalandgeographicalindications as such. Ageographical term could be comea protected geographicalindicationifallconditionsestablishedinlawweremet.Ageographicalterm couldalsobeprotectedasacollecti veorcertificationmark.Moreover,itwaspossibleto protectageographicalnamecumulativelyasageographicalindicationandasacollectiveor certificationmark, if protection was sought in different countries applying different protection regimes. The latter case did not present problems where the owner of the rights was one and thesameperson. However, subject matterprotected by geographical indications was different from that protected by trade marks. In order to reflect the differences betweenthetwosystems ofprotection,theDelegationsuggestedtheinsertion,afterparagraph 28ofdocument SCT/6/3, of an ewparagraph to that effect.

- 23. TheDelegationofAustraliasaidthat,asfarasthelawofitscountrywasconcerned, paragraph 28ofdocumentSCT/6/3appearedtobecorrect.Geographicalindicationsas definedunderTRIPSArticle 22.1couldbeperfectlyprotectedascertificationmarks.
- 24. The Delegation of the United States of Americas aid that, from its point of view,there could be no doubt that geographical indications as defined by TRIPS Article22.1couldbe protected ascertification marks, and cited the examples of certification marks registered in the UnitedStatesofAmericafor"Roquefort,""Stilton"and "ParmaHam." Wherethe registrationofacertificationmarkwassoughtfortheprotectionofageographicalindication, theapplicanthadtoprovidetheapplicablecertificationstandards, which, in the examples cited, were understood to comply with the legislationinthecountriesoforigin. However, casesinwhichgeographicalindicationswereprotectedinacountrywithoutrequiringa specificlegalbasisofprotectionraisedcertainissuesrelatingtothecreationofgeographical indications and the assertion and ownership of rights. In that respect, the Delegation referred to a case decided by the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trial and TriaTrademarkOffice, which recently held that "Cognac" was protected as a common -law (unregistered)certificationmarkintheUnitedStates.Accordingtothatdecision, "Cognac"is avalidcommonlawcertificationmark,ratherthanagenericterm,sincepurchasersinthe UnitedStatesprimarilyunderstoodthe"Cognac"designationtorefertobra ndyoriginatingin theCognacregionofFrance,andnottobrandyproducedelsewhere.Furthermore,itwasheld thatthepartywhowasopposingtheregistrationofatrademarkcomprisingtheword "Cognac" controlled and limited the use of that designation, ensuringthatitwasonlyusedin compliancewithcertainstandardsofregionalorigin. This was atypical example for the protection and enforcement of a geographical indication based on private initiative. A differentapproachwasillustratedbytheN orthAmericanFreeTradeAgreement(NAFTA), underwhichthegeographicalindications"Tequila,""CanadianWhiskey,"and "Kentucky Bourbon"wereprotectedviamarketaccesspractices.
- 25. TheDelegationofChilestatedthatspecificlegislation ortheprotectionof geographicalindicationsexistedinitscountryonlyforgeographicalindicationsforwinesand spirits. However, there existed plans for extending that system to geographical indications for other products. This specific legislation would take into consideration the requirement of a link between the product for which a given geographical indication was protected and the specific quality or characteristic of that product which was due to its place of origin. It was hoped that this new legislation could be in place in one year's time. In that respect, active contribution from producers was expected. The new legislation was keenly a waited, as Chile had many geographic indications of national and regional recognition.
- 26. The Delegation of Australia pointed out that it was important for a country to keep its freedom to choose the system for protection of geographical indications which suited be stits legal practice and tradition. This choice was determined by policy consider at ions that were common to all types of intellectual property protection, such as finding abalance of the interests of consumers, producers, and the government.
- 27. TheDelegationofSenegalreferredtotheprotectionofgeographicalindicationsw ithin theframeworkoftheAfricanIntellectualPropertyOrganization(OAPI). Thereexisted an important question concerning the application of that regional framework to the protection of geographical indications and, in this respect, the Delegation look edforward to be nefiting from the experience of other delegations.

- 28. The Delegation of Côted' Ivoire declared that the protection of geographical indications was handled within OAP I under the revised Bangui Agreement, whose entry into force was awaited for the near future. As far as its own country was concerned, preparations were underway to establish the protection of the geographical indications for 18 original products.
- TheDelegationoftheEuropeanCommunitiesfeltthatitw asnecessarytocomplement Part CofdocumentSCT/6/3byaddingthattheprotectionofgeographicalnamesbymeansof collectiveorcertificationmarksdidnotnecessarilyrequiretheshowingofalinkbetweenthe productsforwhichthegeographicalnamew asused and their place of origin, as was the case with suigeneris systemsfortheprotectionofgeographicalindications. However, those elementsformedanintegralpartofthesubjectmatterprotectedbygeographicalindications andwerethereforecruc ialfortheproperfunctioningofthesystem. Whileageographical namecouldbeprotectedasacollectiveorcertificationmarkincasesinwhichstandardsof protectionthatwerefreelyestablishedbytheproducerswereindicated, the same geographical nameshouldnotbeprotectedasgeographicalindication,unlessitwasshownthatall elementsofthedefinitionofTRIPSArticle 22.1werepresentandtheconditionsofthe protectionweremet. This requirement appeared to be necessary in order to demonst ratean existinglinkbetweenaproduct, expressed by a given quality, reputation or other characteristic, and its place of origin.
- 30. TheDelegationsofSwitzerlandandChilesupportedthedeclarationmadebythe DelegationoftheEuropeanComm unities.Inparticular,theDelegationofSwitzerlandsaid thatitshouldbepointedoutindocumentSCT/6/3thatthedelimitationofaproductionarea hadnotnecessarilytobeincludedinanapplicationfortheregistrationofacertificationmark.
- 31. TheDelegationofAustraliaagreedwiththeDelegationoftheEuropeanCommunities inthatthelinkbetweenthequality,reputationorothercharacteristicofagoodandits geographicaloriginwasthedefiningelementofageographicalindicatio n.However,there existedvariouspossibilitiesforestablishingthatlinkanddifferentcountrieshadadopted differentapproachestothatissue.SincedocumentSCT/6/3describedcertificationmarksnot inageneralmanner,butonlyasapossiblemechan ismfortheprotectionofgeographical indications,therelevantportionofthedocumentappearedtobecorrect.Inthecaseof registeredcertificationmarksinAustralia,complianceofgoodsonwhichacertificationmark wasusedwiththeapplicablecer tificationstandardswascontrolledandenforcedbytheholder ofthecertificationmarkregistration,andnotbythegovernment.
- 32. TheDelegationoftheEuropeanCommunitiesstatedthatundera *suigeneris* systemof protectedgeographicalindi cations,thespecificationthatdefinedtheproductwasoverseenby theproducersthemselvesbutalsobyindependentthirdparties.Consequently,suchasystem wentbeyondmereself -discipline.ItshouldbemadeclearindocumentSCT/6/3thatdifferent systemshaddifferentcontrolelements,andthosedifferencesshouldbeindicated.
- 33. TheDelegationoftheUnitedStatesofAmericaexplainedthatthechoicetousea commonlawsystemfortheprotectionofgeographicalindicationswasdetermin edbycertain policyconsiderations.Inparticular,adecisionwasmadetoputtheburdenofestablishingand enforcingtheprotectionofgeographicalindicationsonindividualnaturalandlegalpersons. Inordertoensureliabilityofmanufacturersfor makingmisleadingstatementsandtoestablish consumerprotection,thesystemwasrelyingoncompetitorsandconsumerstocarryout control.Itwastruethatindividualscouldapplyfortheregistrationofcertificationmarksand that,attheexamination stage,theveracityofcertainelementsoftheapplication,suchasthe

boundaries of the production area was not assessed. However, that process permitted competitors and consumers to carry out control through appealing the registration of a certification mark or by requesting its cancellation. One of the specific features of such a system was that its cost was borne by competitors and consumers and not by the tax payers. This was one of the policy considerations that led the United States of America to choose that particular system of protection of geographical indications. However, the Delegation was aware that this system was not the only one and that there existed systems where geographical indications were asserted by governments.

34. The DelegationofMexicoexpresseditsagreementwiththestatementsmadebythe DelegationsoftheUnitedStatesofAmerica,AustraliaandChile.Itsaidthattherelevant paragraphsofdocumentSCT/6/3shouldnotbechanged.Asfarasitsowncountrywas concerned,asystemofprotectedappellationsoforigincoexistedwiththepossibilityto registercollectivemarks.

ObtainingProtectioninOtherCountries

- 35. TheDelegationofAustraliareferredtoparagraphs 85onwardsofdocumentSCT/6/3 and stated that it did not consider the list of items dealt with as being exhaustive. The Delegation was concerned over the term "effective protection" used in that portion of the paper, since it constituted a quality statement. The same applied to languag eappearing paragraphs 91 and 94. Regarding generic terms, the Delegation stated that it did not necessarily see that as a problem, since geographical indications were subject to the principle of territoriality. Besides, the generic character of a certai nterm was not the only exemption from international obligations to protect geographical indications. Those exemptions as well as the policy consideration sthat were underlying those exemptions could be examined.
- 36. TheDelegationoftheEurope anCommunitiesemphasizedthattheworkoftheSCT shouldbededicatedtoatechnicaldiscussionofthevariousexistingsystemsofprotection. Theexistingalternativesshouldbeshownandtheirfeaturesshouldbedescribedobjectively. Asfarastheco mmentsoftheDelegationofAustraliaongenerictermswasconcerned,the DelegationexpresseditsagreementwiththerelevantportionsofdocumentSCT/6/3. Geographicalindicationswereterritorialrights,andfeaturessuchasthegenericcharacterof thereputationofagivengeographicalindicationhadtobedeterminedonaterritorialbasis.
- 37. The Delegation of the United Kingdom supported the statement made by the Delegation of the European Communities, adding that the document should avoid use idvalue judgements.
- 38. TheDelegationofGuatemaladeclaredthatitconsideredtheinformationcontainedin documentSCT/6/3particularlyusefulfordevelopingcountrieswhichhadoftendifficultiesto collectinformationonthatsubject. This typeofdocumentwasofgreathelptodeveloping countries, whichwereintheprocessofrealizingthecostsandbenefitsresultingfrom the various systems of protection. The most important feature was the variety of existing possibilities for protecting geographical indications. As a developing country, the Delegation expressed its wish that the SCT work on the development of a common understanding of all questions concerning geographical indications and that it examine agree deprinciples relating to the international protection of geographical indications. In order to enable the continuation of the work of the Standing Committee and to facilitate agree a terunder standing of all legal questions relating to the protection of geographical indications, the Delegation suggested that

theInternationalBureaushouldprepareasupplementtodocumentSCT/6/3,dealingwiththe followingquestions:formandscopeofprotectionofgeographicalindications,astudyon hownationalsystemsofprotectiondealwithgen erallyacceptedprinciplesofindustrial propertylaw,suchasnationaltreatment,safeguardofthirdpartyrights,prohibitionofunfair commercialpracticesandthenon -existenceofexclusiverightsingenericterms.

- 39. The Delegation of Chile stated that it would be interested to hear from other delegations how for eignge ographical indications were protected in their countries. As far as Chile was concerned, the draft law on the protection of geographical indications which was currently in the process of adoption by Parliament did not distinguish between the protection of national and for eignge ographical indications.
- 40. The Delegation of the European Communities declared that, as far as conflicts between the property of the prgeographicalindications an dtrademarks were concerned, the application of the principle of prioritywasnottheonlyruleexistingintheinternationalarena. Consideringthatitwasthe aimofdocumentSCT/6/3toillustratealternativesolutions, the Delegation suggested includingattheendofparagraph 106ofdocumentSCT/6/3, areference to Article 15(2)of the First Directive 89/104/EEC of December 21,1988, to Approximate the Lawsofthe Member States of the European Communities Relating to Trade Marks. According to that the property of the Communities of the European Communities and the Communities of the European Communities and the Communities of the European Communities and tprovision, a collective or certification mark consisting of a sign which may serve, intrade, to designatethegeographicaloriginofgoods, didnotentitleits proprietor to prohibitathird partyfromusinginthecourseoftradesuchsignsorindications, providedsuchusewasmade inaccordancewithhonestpractices in industrial or commercial matters. In particular, such mark may not be invoked against a third party who was entitled to use a geographical name.IntheviewoftheDelegation,thisruleco ntrastedwiththatconcerningtheprotectionofa geographicalnameasageographicalindication, in which case the use of the geographical namewasreserved exclusively for the authorized users of the geographical indication.
- 41. Concerningthe continuationoftheworkoftheSCT, theDelegationoftheEuropean CommunitiessaidthatdocumentSCT/6/3shouldbeabroadreferencedocument, and that the documentshould reflect the supplementary information given during these venths ession of the SCT. This could take the form of a revision of that document, working out indepth and with more precision the differences in the existing systems of protection. To that effect, elements including the basic principles of protection, various systems of protection and the definition of the subject matter should be addressed. It was important that document SCT/6/3 keptits technical character and that any interference with the TRIPS Agreement, in particular any evaluation of TRIPS conformity, was avoided. The latter as pectwas be staken care of by the World Trade Organization.
- 42. TheDelegationofPanamastatedthatgeographicalindicationswereprotectedinits countryinaccordancewiththeprovisionsoftheParisConventionandtheTRIPSAgreemen t. Sincetheparametersofprotectionvariedfromcountrytocountry,itwasimportanttohavea technicaldocumentwhichwouldallowanassessmentofeachsystem. Thisworkhadtobe donebytheSCT. TheDelegationconsideredparagraphs 122and 123of documentSCT/6/3 tobefullyappropriateandurgedtheCommitteetocontinueworkonthatbasis.
- 43. The Delegation of Australia declared that it agreed with the statement of the Delegation of the European Communities, in that the issue at handne eeded more in -depthwork. The comments that were made on the substance of document SCT/6/3 should be incorporated, but that document could not be revised in definitely. In addition, the Delegation supported the

preparation of a new document dealing withs pecific intellectual property is sues relating to the protection of geographical indications. It recalled that the SCT was the generic for unwithin the UN system for debating all intellectual property is sues, and that it was in appropriate to link the work of the SCT to the work that was undertaken in other organizations.

- 44. The Delegation of Switzerlands aid that it considered document SCT/6/3 to constitute a reference document, and that the comments made in the course of the debate should be add to it.
- 45. The Delegation of Sri Lanka declared that there was an eed for further studies and that it was important for countries to have the opportunity to comment on those studies. Document SCT/6/3 should be revised and expanded in order to coverne wareas.
- TheDelegationofArgentinastatedthatitcouldseeproblemsinrevisingdocument SCT/6/3. This document was after all adocument by the Secretariat, and did not constitute theresultofacollectivedraftingexercise.Th eDelegationdidnotnecessarilyopposeany revision of the document, but though it was in appropriate to consider the document as a negotiationpaper.Ifitwasenvisagedtodraftanewdocument,dueconsiderationshouldbe giventothepositionofdevelo pingcountries. In particular, it was important that the impact thatanysystemofprotectionofgeographicalindicationswouldhaveondevelopingcountries was evaluated in terms of advantages and disadvantages for those countries. As far as the multilateral system of protection currently discussed in the World Trade Organization was a support of the protection of the protectionconcerned, the Delegations aid that questions relating to the administration of that system and itsphysicallocationwereexclusivelywithinthenegotiationcompetenceoft heWTO. However, issues relating to the economic impact as a whole of the system of protected geographicalindications could well be studied within the framework of the SCT.
- 47. TheDelegationofSingaporesaidthatdocumentSCT/6/3shouldbesenasatoolfor discussion,andthatitdidnoteffectthepositionofanycountry.Onewayofreflectingthe pointsmadeinthecourseofthedebatecouldbetorevisecertainparagraphsofthedocument, ortosupplementitwithanaddendum.Inadditio n,considerationshouldbegiventothestudy thathadbeenrequestedbytheDelegationofGuatemala.
- $48. \quad The Delegation of the Russian Federation felt that document SCT/6/3 had fulfilled its function. It constituted a good foundation for future work, but the next step in the work should be a document having a different format.$
- 49. The Delegation of Canadas aid that it would be useful to revise document SCT/6/3 in order to reflect the discussion that had taken place in the Standing Comittee.
- 50. TheDelegationofUkraineexpressedsupportforthepositionoftheDelegationofthe EuropeanCommunities.Moreover,theDelegationsaidthattheinfluence,whichaparticular systemofprotectionhadontheeconomyofagivencountry,shouldbestudied.
- $51. \label{thm:continuous} The Delegation of Sudansaid that the rewas an urgent need for the preparation of a substantial document which would reflect the impact on developing countries of the various systems for protection of geographical indications. Byway of example, the Delegation referred to its own country and the production of Arabic gum, an ingredient widely used in pharmaceutical and food products. Three quarters of the overall production of this material came from Sudan, and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and the quality of the gum was determined by local natural and human and human$

factors. The production are awas referred to as the "Arabic gumbelt." This product obviously needed protection within the framework of a multilateral system. On a more general line, the Delegation expressed regret that the working documents for the SCT were not made available in Arabic. This constituted a considerable disadvantage for Arabic-speaking delegations, and the Delegation urgently requested that documentation for future meetings of the SCT would be made available in Arabic in paper form and on the Internet.

- 52. TheDelegationofMoroccodeclaredthatitfounddocumentSCT/6/3toconstitutea usefulsourceofinformation,andthatthedocumentcouldbemodifiedtotakeintoaccou nt thecommentsthatweremadebytheCommittee.Asfarasfutureworkwasconcerned,the Delegationsaidthatareviewofthatdocumentshouldkeepatechnicalcharacter.In particular,duplicationofworkwiththeworkcurrentlyunderwayintheWorld Trade Organizationshouldbeavoided.WhiletheworkoftheSCTconstitutedanindispensable contributiontoanydiscussionongeographicalindications,itappearedtobeprematureas longastheMinisterialDeclarationofthefourthWTOMinisterialConfe rencewasnot implemented.
- 53. TheDelegationofLatvia,speakingonbehalfoftheCentralEuropeanandBalticStates, statedthatitsharedtheviewsoftheDelegationoftheEuropeanCommunities.An amendmentofdocumentSCT/6/3appearedneces sary.Moreover,thetimingofanyworkof theSCTongeographicalindicationswasimportant,andtheworkoftheWTOrelatingto geographicalindicationshadtobetakenintoaccountinordertoavoidduplicationofwork.
- 54. The Delegation of Belarus declared that, although geographical indications were protected under the laws of its country, an ewlaw on that subject was currently being examined by Parliament. Given the multitude of existing systems of protection, further work in that are as emed to be very useful.
- $55. \quad The Delegation of India stated that the views expressed by the Committee should be included indocument SCT/6/3 in the form of a revision or an addendum. Moreover, the outcome of the work of the WTO on that subjectsh ould be a waited before taking further steps in any direction.$
- 56. TheDelegationoftheUnitedStatesofAmericastatedthatitdidnotseeadangerof duplicationofworkbetweentheSCTandtheWorldTradeOrganization.Theworkofthe WTOwas trade -basedandconsistedofadiscussionoftradebalancesandtradeinfluences. TheSCT,ontheotherhand,constitutedaforumfortheexchangeofviewsonintellectual propertyprinciples.Forexample,theDelegationreferredtotheworkoftheSCT concerning theprotectionofwell -knownmarks,whichhadresultedinaWIPOjointrecommendation concerningthatissue.Inkeepingwiththatanalysis,theDelegationexpressedsupportforthe preparationofadocumentalongthelinesofthesuggestionof theDelegationofGuatemala. Asfarasthepreparationofastudyontheeconomicalimpactoftheprotectionof geographicalindicationswasconcerned,theDelegationexpressedsympathyforthatidea,but recalledthatitmightbebeyondtheresourcestha tcouldbeallocatedtotheworkoftheSCT.
- 57. The Delegation of the European Communities referred to the work that was carried out by the Council for TRIPS under TRIPS Article 24.2, and the documentation that had resulted from that work. This material constituted an excellent source of information and the Delegation encouraged all members of the SCT to consultit widely. Concerning the

continuation of the work of the SCT, the Delegation felt that it would be most useful to limit work to asma llnumber of issues which could be further discussed in a comparative manner. As regards a study of the economic impact of the protection of geographical indications, the Delegation felt that such a study appeared to be beyond the scope of work of the SCT , since it would not be confined to me requestions of intellectual property protection. However, to the extent that such a study was under taken, it should be a so bjective as possible and avoid trying to evaluate the effectiveness of a given system. In that context, the Delegation emphasized that a system of protected geographical indications responded to producers' expectations and allowed a better positioning of their products on the market. As pecial system of protection for geographical indications was created in the European Union following are quest to that effect. The Delegation also remarked that it perceived an authentic need of certain countries for such a system.

- 58. TheDelegationofMalaysiastatedthatWIPOhadtheappropriatereso urcesand expertiseforundertakingfurtherworkintheareaofgeographicalindications.Many countrieshadlittleornoexperienceregardingtheimplementationoftheirinternational obligationsfortheprotectionofgeographicalindications.Inadditi on,thediscussionseemed tobefocussedontheprotectionofgeographicalindicationsforwinesandspirits.The Delegationsaidthatitwasinterestedinpossibledifferentapproachesforcompliancewith obligationsflowingfromtheTRIPSAgreement.In particular,itwishedtostudythedifferent approaches,thereasonsfortheadoptionofagivenapproachandthelegalandadministrative requirementsthatwentalongwitheachofthoseapproaches.
- 59. TheDelegationofMexicoexpresseditssup portforthepreparationofastudyonthe economicimpactsofasystemofprotectedgeographicalindications. TheDelegationfeltthat itwasextremelyimportanttogainafullunderstandingofthoseimplications. TheDelegation saidthatastudyofthe economicimplicationswascrucialand, in this context, referred to the VisionofWIPOasapproved by WIPOMember States, according to which all aspects of intellectual property should be used as at ool for development.
- 60. Insummarizingthe discussionthathadtakenplacesofar,theChairstatedthat,in additiontotherevisionofdocumentSCT/6/3inthelightofthecommentsmadebyanumber ofdelegationsoncertainpoints,thereappearedtobeanumberofissueswhichcouldbe coveredby anextensionofthesamedocument.Amongthemwerequestionsrelatingtothe definitionofthesubjectmatter,meansofobtainingprotectionforgeographicalindicationsin theircountryoforigin,meansforobtainingprotectionforgeographicalindicati onsabroad, genericterms,conflictsbetweengeographicalindicationsandtrademarks,andhomonymous geographicalindications.
- 61. The Delegation of the European Communities endorsed the above summary by the Chair.
- 62. TheDelegationo fAustraliasuggestedthatthecontinuationoftheworkoftheSCT couldbebasedonarevisionofdocument SCT/6/3, supplemented by an addendum to that document. The draftrevised document and the addendum should be made available on the SCT electronic for umfor comments. The Delegation pointed out that its awits proposal as a compromise that would allow the work of the SCT ongeographical indication stocontinue. However, it said that it would be firmly opposed to any further revision of document SCT/in the future.

- 63. The Delegation of New Zealand supported the earlier interventions made by the Delegation of Australia with respect to the fact that more work needed to be done in relation to geographical indications before any decisions could be made. The Delegation also stated that the ordinary session of the Standing Committee was the appropriate place to discuss these issues as opposed to the special sessions.
- 64. The Chair concluded that the rewas an agreement that the Intern at ional Bureau should, in preparation for discussion at the eighthsession of the Standing Committee, revise document SCT/6/3 according to the comments made by delegations on that paper during the seventhsession, and to supplement the revised document SCT /6/3 with an addendum dealing with the following non -exhaustive list of issues: definition of geographical indications, protection of geographical indications in their country of origin, protection of geographical indications and trademarks, and homony mouse ographical indications.

<u>Agendaitem5:IssuestobeconsideredbytheStandingCommittee:Trademarks</u>

- 65. The Secretariatre ferred to the suggestion made at the second session, first part of the SCT (March 1999), when opting for the progressive development of international intellectual property law, to monitor the implementation of the Joint Recommendations adopted by the WIPO Assemblies. Such an update could be broadened to include an overview on recent national developments in the field of trademarks. Strictly on a voluntary basis and for information purposes, this could be useful to the Members of the SCT, intergovernemtal and non-governmental organizations who wished to hare experiences or information on trademark practices.
- 66. The Delegation of the United States of America expressed its support for the proposal, which fits perfectly with the purpose of the work of the SCT, and welcomed the opportunity to share information on its national developments with other delegations.
- 67. TheDelegationofSpaininformedtheCommitteeonthenewtrademarklaw,already debatedintheParliamentandawaitingformalapproval.Thenewtrademarklawwillenter intoforceonAugust1,2002,thedateonwhichthereservationsexpressedbySpainonthe TrademarkLawTreaty(TLT)willhaveexpired.Thenewlawwillintroduceamulticlass system,asimplifiedexaminationprocedure(absoluteandrelativegroundswithop position procedure)andthedivisionofapplicationsandregistrations.InspiredbytherelevantWIPO JointRecommendation,thenewlawalsocontainedprovisionsonwell knownmarks,which providedforprotectionofwell -knownmarks,offamousmarks,and marksagainstabusive useasInternetdomainnames.
- 68. The Delegation of Swedensaid that a committee had been set up in its country to revise the Trademark Act and the Business Names Act. The Committee would coordinate with Finland and Norway, which were also revising their trademark legislation, in order to come up with harmonized laws in the field of trademarks within the Nordic countries. The draft proposal, currently with the Swedish Ministry of Justice would be, in principle, presented to the Parliament at the end of 2002.
- 69. The Delegation of the Russian Federations aid that the discussions, which took place within the SCT, and the texts of the WIPO Joint Recommendations were of great assistance to

itsIndustrialPropertyOffic einthepreparationofthenewdraftlaw.TheSCTworkwasalso veryusefultohelpthejudicialauthoritiesintheirdeterminations, suchasforexample, what constituted infringement of trademark rights on the Internet. After being discussed by its different political groups, the Parliament will start in principle its first reading of the draft law in December. The draft law will, in the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the accession of the Russian Federation to the accession of the Russian Federation to the context of the Accession of the Russian Federation to the Accession of the Accessionthe World Trade Organization (WTO), bring the Russian legislationinlinewiththeTRIPS Agreementintwofields:protectionofwell -knownmarksandgeographicalindications. Withregardstotheprotectionofwell -knownmarks,thedraftprovisionsstatedthatinspecific circumstances, the legal protection of well -knownmarkswouldbeextendedtocover non-similar goods and sometimes went further than the TRIPS Agreement. Since protection of well-knownmarks was quite recent in the Russian Federation, only 20 marks have been giventhisstatus.Inthisrespect,th eDelegationstatedthattheexchangeofopinionsand informationwasalwaysausefulexerciseandwelcomedtheopportunitygivenattheSCTto shareits experience with others delegations, particularly with regard to the extension of protection of well -known marks to other sgoods. This had been particularly true of the discussionsontheJointRecommendationConcerningProvisionsontheProtectionof Well-KnownMarkswhichhasbeenofgreatassistanceinthepreparationofthespecialrules andregulation sontherecognitionofwell -knownmarks.TheDelegationaddedthatthenew trademarklawwasencompassing provisions, in linewith the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT), suchasthedivisionofapplicationandregistration, the indications and elements required for establishingthefilingdate. The new trademark law also contained provisions dealing with preliminaryrejections, and harmonizing the legislation with the Madrid Agreement and Protocol.TheDelegationsaidthatitwouldwelcomesharingpracticalex periencesrelatingto non-traditionaltrademarks withother delegations.

- 70. The Delegation of the United States of America gave an update on the status of the Madrid legislation in the United States Congress. The House of Representatives and the property of the Congress of the Congre Senate had introduced the legislation implementing the Madrid Protocol in March 2001.AlthoughtheresolutionofadviceandconsentwasreportedfavorablybytheSenateForeign RelationsCommitteeonNovember15,2001,bothresolutionandthedraftimple legislationwerestillpendingintheSenate.Moreover,inordertobeadequatelyfulfillingits obligations under the Madrid Protocol, it was expected that the USPTO would be ginto processinternational applications a year after the implementing legislationhadbeenpassed. AsfarastheTrademarkLawTreaty(TLT)wasconcerned,sinceitsimplementationon October 30,2001, notonlythe Office experienced no problems, but also customershad noticedagreatsimplificationoftheproceduretheyhad tofollow.Consideringthe advantagesbroughtinbytheTLT,theDelegationadvocatedthecountrieswhichhadnot implementedthisTreatytodoso.
- 71. The Delegation of Senegal presented the experience of its country as a member of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) which, under the Bangui Agreement, bound 16 countries and provided, through a single procedure, protection for the IP rights in these 16 countries. The Bangui Agreement was revised in 1999 to bring the legislation of OAPI Member States, all Members of the WTO, inconformity with the TRIPS Agreement. It is to be noted that, although some of the OAPI Member States could have, as least -developed countries, applied the extended period of implementation provided for by Article 66 of the TRIPS Agreement, all the OAPI Member shave revised their legislation and 10 of them have already ratified the revised Bangui Agreement. Eighty percent of the trade mark applications came from outside of the OAPI, mainly from the Europea n Communities and the United States of America. The revised Bangui Agreement takes into account the Madrid Protocol,

the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT) and the protection of well -known marks. The Delegation stressed a problem, rather specific to the OAP Isys tem, relating to the filing of one application in an ational language, and not in one of the two official languages, English or French. In such a case, it was up to the State where the right was protected to take the necessary administrative measures to verify whether the application was in conformity with the rules of OAP I.

- 72. TheDelegationofChinainformedtheCommitteethatanewtrademarklawhadbeen promulgatedonDecember1,2001,tocomplywiththeTRIPSAgreement.Thisnewlaw allowednaturalpersonstofileanapplication,andintroducedthreedimensionalmarks,color trademarks,provisionsonwell -knownmarks,includingbadfaith,prolongationofthe applicationprocessandofthelimitationperiod.Thislegislationwillbesoonav ailablein electronicformontheInternet.TheDelegationsaidthatitlookedforwardtogetupdated informationontrademarkmattersfromotherdelegations,whichcouldcontributetothe sharingofexperiences.
- 73. The Delegation of the United Kingdomindicated that the decision staken by the European Court of Justice constitute a good interpretation of European trademark law, particularly with regards to non-traditional marks. Opinions and decisions of the Court could be consulted on the European Court of Justice website.
- The Delegation of Australias aid that the experience of its country with the TLT was a constraint of the property of the proidentical to the United States of America. Australian businesses greatly appreciated the simplificationsbroughtbytheproce dures and considered that the implementation of the TLT had given them considerable benefits. With regards to the Madrid Protocol, implemented in the protocol of thSeptember 2001, Australia expected an increase of applications, which would balance the decreaseofnational applicationswhichmostoftheIPofficesexperienced. This decrease trendwould also contribute to the reduction of the backlog, from three months to two weeksinJune2002. Areview of the legislation had also been initiated on the basis of judicial decisions, with regard to the principle of presumption of registrability, calculation of dates, thepossibilityfortheRegistrartocancelaregistrationundercertaincircumstances, suchasa manifesterroroftheOffice,measurestoimproveefficiencyin theprocessing of applications, furtherstreamlining the electronic filing. The implementation of the provisions of the WIPO JointRecommendations would also be considered. An intensive process of consultation with theprivatesectorwouldbehandleddur ingthenextsixmonthsandmightbeconcludedby mid-2003 with the adoption of a revised trademark law.
- 75. TheDelegationofSingaporecongratulatedtheCommitteeforsharinginformationon therecentdevelopmentsinthefieldoftrademarksin differentpartsoftheworld. This constituted an educational exercise for those countries, which were in the process of changing legislation. The Delegation gave an update on the recentachievements of the ASEAN Working Group on intellectual property, which had worked out a common trademark application form for the 10 countries of the ASEAN region. 90% of the present filing requirements in the ASEAN countries were similar. The APEC Group on intellectual property was for its part preparing a sort of reference to olrelating to trademark applications in the 21 APEC countries, a iming at the identification of all the areas harmonized and those which need to be harmonized in the field of trademarks. This to oltook into account the differences of approaches regarding electronic filing and tried to conciliate, at least for some time, paper based filing systems and electronic filing systems.

- 76. TheDelegationofTheNetherlandssaidthatarevisedlegislationontrademarks, introducinganopposition procedurewasexpectedtoenterintoforceonJanuary1,2004. Suchadelaywasjustifiedbythefactthatthelegislationontrademarksandonindustrial designswasorganizedattheBeneluxlevel,whichimpliesthreeparliamentaryprocedures. TheBenel uxcountrieswerealsoworkingonmergingtheBeneluxlawonmarksandthe BeneluxlawonindustrialdesignsinonesingleBeneluxlegislation.
- 77. TheDelegationofRomaniainformedtheCommitteeaboutitstrademarklaw,which compliedwiththe TRIPSAgreementandtheECDirective.Thelawdesignatedas trademarksallsignslikelytobegraphicallyrepresented,addressedcollectivemarksand certificationmarks,andprovidedforprotectionofgeographicalindications.Thelawalso gaveaprotect iontowell -knownmarksinaccordancewiththeprovisionsoftheTRIPS AgreementandalsorespectedthecriteriaestablishedbytheWIPOJointRecommendation. TheexaminationproceduresweresimilartotheprovisionswhichwereincludedinEC Regulations,(i.e.,relativemotivesinadditiontoabsoluteones)andthetimetakenforthe examinationwasnormallyoneyear.Thelawdidprovideforpenaltiesiftherewasfailureto usethetrademarkforaperiodoffiveyearsofregistration.Asfarasfuture workwas concerned,Romaniaisconsideringtheissueofelectronicfilingandotherissuessuchas,for example,conflictsbetweentrademarksanddomainnames.
- 78. TheDelegationofNewZealandsaidthatanewTrademarksBillwasintherelevant CommitteeintheParliamentandhadreceivedsubstantialpubliccomments.ThenewBill wasbasedontheSingaporeAct,theUKActandtheNewZealandoldlegislation.Thenew Billwillintroducefullexaminationonabsoluteandrelativegroundsforrefus al,amechanism toallowformulti -classfilingofapplications,merginganddividingoftrademarkapplications, anda10 -yearrenewalperiod.Theseamendmentswillpavethewaytotheaccessiontothe MadridProtocol.TheBillwouldalsointroduceasig nificantchangeintheappointmentby theCommissionerofanAdvisoryCommitteetoprovideadviceinrelationtotrademarks incorporatingMaoriwordsorimages.ThenewBillmightbepassedduringnextyear.Onan administrativelevel,anelectronicrene walprocessandanonlinetrademarkfilingsystemwas beingdeveloped,asprovidedforinthenewBill.
- 79. The Delegation of Norway stated that the timeschedule relating to the implementation of the proposed new Swedish Trademark Act, as expres sed by the Delegation of Sweden, also applied to the Norwegian implementation process.
- 80. TheDelegationofAustralia,inreplytoaquestionfromthedelegationofUkraine,said thattheIPOfficeofAustraliareceivedabout70000multi -class applicationsperyear.One hundredexaminersexaminedbothabsoluteandrelativegroundsinanaverageof45minutes foreachapplication.FiftypercentoftheapplicantswereSMEsandwererarelyrepresented byagents.TheaimoftheIPOfficewasto respondasquicklyaspossible,overthecounterif possible,tothetrademarkapplicantsinordertoavoiddelaysintheirbusinessdecision making.Theexaminationprocedureincludedbothabsoluteandrelativegroundsofrefusal, theraisingofobjectio nsiftherewerepriorrights,athree -monthoppositionperiod,anda mechanismaccordingtowhichregistrationwouldnottakeeffectuntilsixmonthsafterfiling. Applicantswerethereforegivenadviceaboutbasicregistrabilityissuesaswellasabout the likelihoodoftheirapplicationbeingasubsequentapplicationwithanearlierprioritydate.
- 81. The Delegation of Kenyabriefed the Committee on the industrial property law recently passed which will give a semiauton omytothe IP office. The new law was not yet inforce

and awaited its publication in the Gazette. New draft Billsonge og raphical indications and appellations of origin, on industrial designs and on tradesecrets had also been adopted.

- 82. The Delegation of Malaysi as aid that the Trademark Law, revised in June 2000, had a mongothers abolished the division of the register into Part A and B, and introduced a protection of well-known marks.
- 83. The Delegation of Brazilstated that the trademark law provided for the registration of collective marks, certification marks, three dimensional marks, and also geographical indications. Brazilwas currently considering electronic filing and acceding to the Madrid Protocol.
- 84. The Delegation of Japanin forme dthe Committee that its country started operations under the Madrid Protocolon March 2000, and that on line filing had been possible since the year 2000.
- 85. TheDelegationoftheRepublicofKoreasaidthat,intheperspectiveofaccedingtoth MadridProtocolandtheTLT,thelawwasamendedinFebruary2001.Itwasexpectedthat accessiontotheTLTwouldbedoneinthefirstsemesterof2002andtotheMadridProtocol duringthesecondpartof2002.ConsideringtheneedtoupdatetheTLTw ithregardsto electronicfiling,theDelegationencouragedtheSCTtodiscussthisissueinthefuture.

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Agendaitem6:FutureWork

- 86. The Delegation of the United States of America declared that by order of priority, the following issues should be dealt with by the SCT: harmonization of trademark laws relating to non-traditional marks, revision of the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT), review of the relevant trademark provisions of the Paris Convention and relationship between traded ressand figurative marks.
- 87. TheDelegationofSwitzerlandsaidthattherevisionoftheTLTshouldhavepriority, particularlywithregardtotheintroductionofprovisionsrelatingtoelectronicfiling. Technologydevelopmentsaswellastheimplementationofelectronicfilingproceduresby variouscountries,includingSwitzerland,madetheconditionsfavorableforsuchan introduction.Inaddition,provisionsdealingwiththelimitationofmandatoryrepresentation andreliefinrespectoftimelimitsshou ldalsobeenvisaged.Asasecondpriority,the Delegationsuggestedtodealwithnewtypesofmarksandtoenvisageaharmonizationof legislationsinthatrespect.Harmonizationoflawsrelatingtoindustrialdesignswasalsoan ideathatcouldbeinve stigated.
- $88. \quad The Delegation of the European Communities suggested that furthering the harmonization of formalities was required as well as substantive harmonization of trademark law.\\$
- 89. The Delegation of Australia declared that there vision of the TLT should be given priority before considering a broader harmonization of substantive trademark law. The Delegation stressed the importance for the SCT to monitor the national implementation of the WIPO Joint Recommendations and to continue in the future the informative round table on recent national developments in the field of trademarks. The relationship between trademarks

andotherintellectualpropertyrights, for example, the link between three dimensional marks and industrial designs or between trademarks and copyright, should also be addressed, possibly within the discussions on substantive harmonization of trademark law.

- 90. The Delegation of Turkeys aid that its country was in the process of introducing electronic filing and therefore considered the revision of the TLT as a priority.
- TheSecretariatsummarizedthecommentsmadebythedelegationsandproposedthata documentbepreparedforthenextsession, giving a preliminary indication of the formal and substantivematterswhichcouldbediscussedinthefieldoftrademarks.Suchadocument couldincludethefollowingissues:f urtherharmonizationofformalities in the field of marks, whichwillincludearevisionoftheTLTand,inparticular,thecreati onofanAssembly,the introduction of electronic filing provisions, the adding of provisions on trademark licences, theextensionofthescopeofapplicationtothree -dimensionalmarks, the limitation of mandatoryrepresentation, reliefing spectofform almistakesandreliefinrespectoftime limits. The initiation of work on harmonization of substantive trademark law could deal with thefollowing issues: definition of registrable signs, in particularly with regards to non-traditionalsignssuchasso undmarks, smellmarks, three -dimensional marks and slogans; trademarkadministrationissues, suchas expeditious processing of applications, maintenance of a system of opposition to registration, harmonization of examination procedures; grounds forrefu salorinvalidityofatrademarkandthecreationofanexhaustivelistofabsolute groundsforrefusingregistration, such as absence of distinctive character, descriptive or genericsigns, signs contrary to morality or public order, signs contrary to Art icle 6terand disparagingsigns; conflicts with earlier rights, such as other marks, well -knownmarks.trade names, industrial designs, copyright, geographical indications, rules of unfair competition, domainnamesorpersonalname; compromises procedure s, or circumstances for compromise, relatingtoearlierrights;rightsconferredbyregistration;enforcement.
- 92. The SCT agreed that future workshould be dedicated to harmonization of laws for the protection of marks, along the lines of the presentation of topics made above by the Secretariat, and the continuation of the work on geographical indications.
- 93. The SCT agreed that it seighths ession would tentatively beheld from May 27 to 31, 2002, in Geneva, and would last for five full working days.

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94. The SCT adopted the draft Summary by the Chair (document SCT/7/3 Prov.) incorporating one modification.

Α	gend	laitem	8:	Clos	singo	fth	eSe	ession	

95. The Chair closed the sevenths ession of the Standing Committee.

[Annexfollows]

ANNEXE/ANNEX

LISTEDESPARTICIPA**TN**S/LISTOFPARTICIPA NTS

I. MEMBRES/MEMBERS

(dansl'ordrealphabétiquedesnomsfrançaisdesÉtats) (inthealphabeticalorderofthenamesinFrenchoftheStates)

ALBANIE/ALBANIA

Spartak BOZO, Director General, Albanian Patent and Trademark Office, Tirana

ALGÉRIE/ALGERIA

Nor-EddineBENFREHA, conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY

HelgaKOBER -DEHM(Mrs.),SeniorTrademarkExaminer,GermanP atentandTrademark Office,Munich

StefanGÖHRE, Judge, Federal Ministry of Justice, Berlin

ARGENTINE/ARGENTINA

MartaGABRIELONI(Sra.), Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

AUSTRALIE/AUSTRALIA

MichaelARBLASTER, DeputyRegistrarofTrademarks, IP Australia, WodenACT

KimREICHELT (Ms.), Assistant Director, Business Development, Trade Marks Office, IP Australia, Woden ACT

Dara WILLIAMS (Ms.), Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Australia to the World Trade Organization, Geneva

AUTRICHE/AUSTRIA

RobertULLRICH, Headof Department, Austrian Patent Office, Vienna

BÉLARUS/BELARUS

EugenyZINKEVICH, chefdela Division des marques, Comité d'État des brevets, Minsk

IrinaEGOROVA(Mrs.),FirstSecretary,PermanentMission,Geneva

BELGIQUE/BELGIUM

MoniquePETIT(Mme), conseillère -adjointe, Office de la propriété industrielle, Ministère des affaires économiques, Bruxelles

SimonLEGRAND, premiersecrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

BRÉSIL/BRAZIL

MariaElizabethBROXADO(Mrs.),DirectorofTra demarks,NationalInstituteofIndustrial Property,RiodeJaneiro

Francisco Pessanha CANNABRAVA, Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

BULGARIE/BULGARIA

DimiterGANTCHEV,MinisterPlenipotentiary,DeputyPermanentRepresentative, PermanentMission,Gen eva

CAMBODGE/CAMBODIA

LyPHANNA, Director, Intellectual Property Division, Ministry of Commerce, Phnom Penh

CANADA

AlbertCLOUTIER, SeniorProjectLeader, DepartementofIndustry, Ottawa

EdithST -HILAIRE(Ms.),SeniorPolicyAnalyst,DepartmentofF oreignAffairsand InternationalTrade,Ottawa

CameronMACKAY, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

CHILI/CHILE

JoséPabloMONSALVEMANRIQUEZ,Jefe,DepartamentodePropiedadIndustrial, Santiago

CHINE/CHINA

YanZOU(Mrs.),DeputyDirector,Ge neralAffairsDivision,TrademarkOffice,State AdministrationforIndustryandCommerce,Beijing

COLOMBIE/COLOMBIA

Luis Gerardo GUZMANVALENCIA, Ministro Consejero, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

COSTARICA

AlejandroSOLANOORTIZ, Ministro Consejero, Mi sión Permanente, Ginebra

<u>CÔTED'IVOIRE</u>

AssoumKINDJA, sous -directeur, responsable du Département de la protection et du contentieux à l'Officeivoirien de la propriété in dustrielle, Abidjan

DANEMARK/DENMARK

MikaelFranckeRAVN,SpecialLegalAdvisor, DanishPatentandTrademarkOffice, Taastrup

HenrietteRASCH(Mrs.), Headof Division, Danish Patentand Trademark Office, Taastrup

ÉGYPTE/EGYPT

Ahmed ABDELL ATIF, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

ESPAGNE/SPAIN

MariaTeresaYESTELÓPEZ(Sra.),JefedelaUnidaddeRecursos,OficinaEspañolade PatentesyMarcas,Madrid

AnaPAREDESPRIETO(Sra), Consejera, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

ESTONIE/ESTONIA

Ingrid MATSINA (Ms.), Deputy Head, Trademark Department, The Estonian Patent Office, Tallinn

ÉTATS-UNISD'AMÉRIQUE/UNITEDSTATESOFAMERICA

 $\label{lem:commerce} Eleanor MELTZER (Ms.), Attorney \quad -Advisor, Patentand Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, Arlington, Virginia$

Sharon MARSH (Ms.), Administrator for Trademark Policy and Procedure, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, Department of Commerce, Arlington, Virginia

SaraJ.SCHWARTZ(Mrs.),InternationalEconomist,ForeignAgriculturalService,United StatesDepartmentofAgriculture,Arlington,Virginia

DominicKEATING, Intellectual Property At taché, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Michael A. MEIGS, Counsellor (Economic Affairs), Permanent Mission, Geneva

Jean-PaulEBE, SecondSecretary, PermanentMission, Geneva

FÉDÉRATIONDERUSSIE/RUSSIANFEDERATION

 $Valentina ORLOVA (Ms.), Deputy Director of I \\ nternational Cooperation Department, \\ Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks, \\ Moscow$

Liubov KIRIY (Mrs.), Acting Head of Division, Federal Institute of Industrial Property, Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks, Moscow

 $An astassia MOLTCHANOVA (Ms.), \ Senior Expert, International Cooperation Department, Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks, Moscow$

FINLANDE/FINLAND

Hilkka Teller vu NIEMIVUO (Mrs.), Deputy Head, Trademarks Division, National Board of Patents and Registration, Helsinki

FRANCE

 $Agn\`es MARCAD\'E (Mme), chef du Service du droit international et communautaire, Institut national de la propriété in du strielle, Paris$

MarianneCANTET(Mme), chargée de mission au près du Service du droit international et communautaire, Paris

GHANA

JosephTA MAKLOE, Principal State Attorney, Registrar - General's Department, Accra

GUATEMALA

JavierEnriqueGUZMANULLOA,DirectorGeneral,RegistrodelaPropiedadIntelectual, CiudaddeGuatemala

AndrésWYLD, Primer Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

HONDURAS

CamiloZaglulBENDECKPEREZ,DirectorGeneraldePropiedadIntelectual,Secretaríade IndustriayComercio,Tegucigalpa

KarenP.CISROSALES(Sra.), Segunda Secretaria, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

HONGRIE/HUNGARY

PéterCSIKY, Head, Legal Section, Hungarian Patent Office, Budapest

GyulaSOROSI, Head, National Trademark Section, Hungarian Patent Office, Budapest

INDE/INDIA

HomaiSAHA(Mrs.), Minister (Economic), Permanent Mission, Geneva

INDONÉSIE/INDONESIA

DewiKUSUMAASTUT(Miss),FirstSecr etary,PermanentMission,Geneva

IRLANDE/IRELAND

ColmTREANOR, Assistant Principal, Intellectual Property Unit, Department of Enterprises, Trade and Employment, Dublin

JAPON/JAPAN

MasamiMORIYOSHI,DirectorofTrademarkExamination,TrademarkDivisio n,Trademark, DesignandAdministrativeAffairsDepartment,PatentOffice,Tokyo

KojiTAKAHASHI, Senior Unit Chief, Trademark Division, Trademark, Design and Administrative Affairs Department, Patent Office, Tokyo

TakahiroMOCHIZUKI,SeniorUnitChief,M ultilateralTradeSystemDepartment,Trade PolicyBureau,MinistryofEconomy,TradeandIndustry,PatentOffice,Tokyo

TakashiYAMASHITA,FirstSecretary,PermanentMission,Geneva

JORDANIE/JORDAN

SamerAL -TARAWNEH, Director, Industrial Property Prote ction Directorate, Amman

KENYA

GeoffreyMuchaiRAMBA,TrademarksExaminer,IndustrialPropertyOffice,Nairobi

KIRGHIZISTAN/KYRGYZSTAN

AskarbeckBEDELBAEV, Vice - Director, State Agency of Science and Intellectual Property and Director of Examination C enter (Kyrgyzpatent), Bishkek

LETTONIE/LATVIA

 $\label{lem:paceliber} Dace LIBERTE (Miss), Head of Trademarks and Industrial Designs Department, Patent Office, Riga$

MartinPAVELSONS, ThirdSecretary, PermanentMission, Geneva

LIBAN/LEBANON

 $Hanaa JOUMAA (Ms.), Administrator \quad , Intellectual Property Protection Office, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Beirut$

LITUANIE/LITHUANIA

 $\label{lem:condition} Juozas Algirdas STULPINAS, Head, Division of Trademarks and Industrial Design, State Patent Bureau, Vilnius$

MADAGASCAR

OlgatteABDOU(Mme), premiers ecrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

MALAISIE/MALAYSIA

SitiEais ah MOHAMAD (Mrs.), Senior Assistant Registrar of Trademarks, Intellectual Property Division, Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Kuala Lumpur

RajaRezaRAJAZAIBSHAH,Second Secretary,PermanentMission,Geneva

LaiPengYAP(Ms.), Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

MAROC/MOROCCO

KhalidSEBTI, premiersecrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

MEXIQUE/MEXICO

JoséAlbertoMONJARASOSORIO, JefedeDepartamentodeConservac ióndeDerechos, DirecciónDivisionaldeMarcas, InstitutodelaPropiedadIndustrial, MéxicoD.F.

Eduardo ESCOSEDO, Secretaría de Economía, Misión Permanente de México antela Organización Mundial del Comercio, Ginebra

KarlaTatianaORNELASLOERA(Srta.), TerceraSecretaria, MisiónPermanente, Ginebra

NORVÈGE/NORWAY

DebbieRØNNING(Miss),Head,IndustrialPropertyLawSection,NorwegianPatentOffice, Oslo

Solrun DOLVA (Mrs.), Head of Section, National Trademarks, Norwegian Patent Office, Oslo

 $Oluf\ GRYTTINGWIE, Senior Executive Officer, Norwegian Patent Office, Oslo$

NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE/NEWZEALAND

 $Simon Patrick GALLAGHER, Team Leader, Trade Marks, Intellectual Property Office, \\Lower Hutt$

PAKISTAN

MuieebKHAN, Commercial Secretary, Permanent Missi on, Geneva

PANAMA

LiliaCARRERA(Mrs.), Analistade Comercia Exterior, Representante Permanente ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), Ginebra

PARAGUAY

JuanDamiánAYALARUIZDIAZ, Examinador de Marcasy Asistente del Jefedela Sección de Marcas, Dirección de la Propieda d'Industrial, Ministerio de Industria y Comercio, Asunción

PAYS-BAS/NETHERLANDS

 $Nicole HAGEMANS (Ms.), Advisor on Industrial Property, Ministry of Economic Affairs, \\The Hague$

AdrianaPieternellaVANROODEN(Mrs.),Legal Advisor,IndustrialPropertyOffice,The Hague

PORTUGAL

JoséSérgioDECALHEIROSDAGAMA, conseiller juridique, Mission permanente, Genève

RÉPUBLIQUEDECORÉE/REPUBLICOFKOREA

 $\label{lem:control} Joo-YunPARK, Trademark Examiner, \quad Korean Industrial Property Office (KIPO \), Taejon \\ Metropolitan City$

JaeHongKO,DeputyDirector, KoreanIndustrialPropertyOffice(KIPO),Taejon MetropolitanCity

Ki BeomKIM,DeputyDirector,TrademarkandDesignPolicyPlanningDivision,Korean IndustrialPropertyOffice,Taejon

Jae-Hyun AHN, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

RÉPUBLIQUETCHÈQUE/CZECHREPUBLIC

EvaTESA ŘOVÁ(Mrs.), Head, TradeMarkSectionII, Industrial Property Office, Prague

PetraŠIMOVÁ(Mrs.), Trademarks Examiner, Industrial Property Office, Prague

ROUMANIE/ROMANIA

Constanta CorneliaMORARU(Mme), chefduservice juridique, Coopérationi nternationale, Officed'Étatpourles inventions et les marques, Bucarest

Alice-MihaelaPOST ĂVARU(Ms.), chefduBureaudes affaires juridiques, Officed'État pour les inventions et les marques, Bucarest

ROYAUME-UNI/UNITEDKINGDOM

Jeff David WATSON, Se niorPolicyAdvisor, ThePatentOffice, Newport

DavidMORGAN, The PatentOffice, Newport

SÉNÉGAL/SENEGAL

DoudouSAGNA, chefduService de la propriéte industrielle et de la technologie, Ministère de l'artisana tet de l'industrie, Dakar

SINGAPOUR/SINGAPORE

 $Sivak ant TIWARI, Senior State Counseland Head of International Affairs Division, \\ Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore$

SOUDAN/SUDAN

Ahmed ALFAKIALI, Commercial Registrar General of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Justice, Khartoum

SRILAN KA

GothamiINDIKADAHENA(Mrs.), Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva

SUÈDE/SWEDEN

PerCARLSON, Judge, Court of Patent Appeals, Ministry of Justice, Stockholm

Magnus AHLGREN, Deputy Head, Trademark Department, Swedish Patent and Registration Office, Ministry of Justice, Stockholm

LenaGÖRANSSONNORRSJÖ(Mrs.),LegalOfficer,SwedishPatentandRegistration Office,MinistryofJustice,Stockholm

SUISSE/SWITZERLAND

AlexandraGRAZIOLI(Mme), conseillère juridique, Division droite taffaire sinternationales, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

MichèleBURNIER(Ms.), conseillère juridique, Institutfé déral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

TUNISIE/TUNISIA

MounirBENREJIBA, premiersecrétaire, Mission permanente, Genève

TURQUIE/TURKEY

MustafaDALKIRAN, Trademark Examiner, Turkish Patent Institute, Ankara

<u>UKRAINE</u>

 $Lyudmyla MENYAYLO (Ms.), Head, Registration and Intellectual Property Economics \\ Divison, State Department of Intellectual Property, Kyiv$

Iryna SEVRYUK (Ms.), Deputy Head, Industrial Property Division, State Department of Intellectual Property, Kyiv

<u>URUGUAY</u>

AbjandraDEBELLIS(Srta.), Segundo Secretario, Misión Permanente, Ginebra

ZIMBABWE

DavidMANGOTA,PermanentSecretary,MinistryofJustice,LegalandParliamentary Affairs,Harare

COMMUNAUTÉSEUROPÉENNES(CE) */EUROPEANCOMMUNITIES(EC) *

 $Det lef SCHENN\ EN, Head, Legislation and International Legal Affairs Service, Office for\ Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs), Alicante$

AntonioBERENGUERREGUANT, Administrator, Brussels

SusanaPÉREZ -FERRERAS(Mme), fonctionnaire, Bruxelles

RogerKAMPF, premiersecrétaire, Délégation permanente, Genève

^{*} SurunedécisionduComitépermanent,lesCommunautéseuropéennesontobtenulestatutde membresansdroitdevote.

^{*} BasedonadecisionoftheStanding Committee,theEuropeanCommunitieswereaccorded memberstatuswithoutarighttovote.

II. ORGANISATIONSINTERGOUVERNEMENTALES/ INTERGOVERNMENTALORGANIZATIONS

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MatthijsGEUZE,Counsellor,SecretaryTRIP SCouncil,IntellectualPropertyDivision, Geneva

BUREAUBENELUXDESMARQUES(BBM)/BENELUXTRADEMARKOFFICE (BBM)

EdmondLéonSIMON, directeuradjoint, La Haye

III. ORGANISATIONSNONGOUVERNEMENTALES/ NON-GOVERNMENTALORGANIZATIONS

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Associationinternationaledesjuristesdudroitdelavigneetduvin(AIDV)/International
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DouglasD.REICHERT(Geneva)

Associationinternationalepourlesmarques(INTA)/InternationalTrademarkAssociation (INTA)

BruceJ.MACPHERSON(Director –ExternalRelations, New York)

Associationinternationalepourlaprotectiondelaprop riétéindustrielle(AIPPI)/International
AssociationfortheProtectionofIndustrialProperty(AIPPI)

DariuszSZLEPER(assistantdurapporteurgénéral,Paris)

Associationdespropriétaireseuropéensdemarquesdecommerce(MARQUES)/Association ofEuropea nTrademarkOwners(MARQUES)

KnudWALLBERG(ChairmanWIPOCommittee,Sandel,Løje&Wallberg,Copenhagen)

<u>Centred'étudesinternationalesdelapropriétéindustrielle(CEIPI)/CentreforInternational</u>
<u>IndustrialPropertyStudies(CEIPI)</u>

FrançoisCURCHOD(p rofesseurassocié,UniversitéRobertSchuman,Strasbourg)

<u>Fédérationinternationaledesconseilsenpropriétéindustrielle(FICPI)/International</u> <u>FederationofIndustrialPropertyAttorneys(FICPI)</u>

Jean-MarieBOURGOGNON(MemberofGroup1,Trademarks,Stud yandWork Commission/Commissiond'étudeetdetravail,Paris)

<u>Fédérationinternationaledesvinsetspiritueux(FIVS)/InternationalFederationofWinesand</u>
<u>Spirits(FIVS)</u>

RobertKALIK(SpecialCounseltothePresident,Washington,D.C.)

InternetSociety (ISOC)

RosaDELGADO(Mrs.)(TrusteeofISOCInternational)

IV. BUREAU/OFFICERS

Présidente/Chair: DebbieRØNNING(Ms.)(Norvège/Norway)

Vice-présidents/Vice-Chairs: MaríaTeresaYESTELÓPEZ(Sra.)(Espagne/Spain)

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V. <u>BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE</u> <u>DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (OMPI)/</u> <u>INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE</u> WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Shozo UEMURA, vice -directeurgénéral/DeputyDirectorGeneral

JoëlleROGÉ(Mme/Mrs.), directrice -conseillère/Director-Counsellor, Secteur dessystèmes mondiaux de protection et du développement progressif du droit des marques, des des sinset modèles industriels et des indications géographiques/ Sector of Global Protecti on Systems and Progressive Development of Lawinthe Field of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications

Divisiondudroitdelapropriétéindustrielle/IndustrialPropertyLawDivision:
DenisCROZE(chef, Sectiondudroitdesmarques/Head ,TrademarkLawSection);
Marcus HÖPPERGER(chef,Sectiondesindicationsgéographiquesetdesprojets
spéciaux/Head,GeographicalIndicationsandSpecialProjectsSection)

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