

State Committee on Science and Technologies  
of the Republic of Belarus

Государственный комитет по науке  
и технологиям Республики Беларусь

**NATIONAL CENTER OF  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY**

**НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ЦЕНТР  
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Mr. Wang Binying,  
Deputy Director General  
W I P O

Dear Mr. Binying,

The Republic of Belarus recognizes the need for protection of country names from registration as trademarks. Paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Trademarks and Service Marks" contains a provision prohibiting the registration of trademarks consisting exclusively of official names of states (in this case it is defined as complete, abbreviated official name of the state, its translation into other languages, the official two-letter code). Such designations may be included in the trademark only with permission of the competent authority as unprotected elements.

The Republic of Belarus supports the idea of developing the Draft Joint Recommendation on the protection of country names. This recommendation will facilitate a harmonized approach to the protection of country names in the trademark system at the international level.

However, we would like to draw attention to the following provisions of the Draft Joint Recommendation.

In paragraph 5 of Article 1 "Definitions", the term "Country Name" is defined, inter alia, through ambiguous, imprecise term "historical name or pronunciation". In order to ensure user's uniform understanding of definitions of the general recommendation it is better to avoid using such wordings.

In connection with the above it is confusing to use the word “imitation” in relation” to “the name of the country” as used in paragraph 1b of Article 3 of the Draft Joint Recommendation.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Piotr Broukin', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Piotr Broukin,  
Director General