

Introduction

Following WIPO's letter of November 14, 2016, AIPPI is grateful for this opportunity to provide comments and observations on the topic of graphical user interface (GUI), icon and typeface/type font designs. The comments and observations that follow have been prepared by the AIPPI Standing Committee on Designs, and have been approved by the AIPPI Bureau.

About AIPPI

The International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property, generally known under the abbreviated name AIPPI, is the world's leading international organization dedicated to the development and improvement of legal regimes for the protection of intellectual property (IP).

It is a politically neutral, non-profit organization, domiciled in Switzerland, which currently has over 9000 Members representing more than 100 countries. The objective of AIPPI is to improve and promote the protection of intellectual property on both international and national bases. It pursues this objective by working for the development, expansion and improvement of international and regional treaties and agreements and national laws relating to intellectual property. It operates by conducting studies of existing national laws and proposes measures to achieve harmonization of these laws on an international basis. Where appropriate, AIPPI intervenes with submissions before major courts and legislative bodies to advocate for strengthened IP protection.

Comments and observations

The attached spreadsheet contains responses to the Questionnaire on graphical user interface (GUI), icon and typeface/type font designs of June 2016 mentioned in the aforementioned letter.

AIPPI furthermore wishes to draw your attention to the detailed study it is currently conducting in respect of Graphical User Interfaces. As you may know, each year AIPPI selects four topics in the area of intellectual property law for study, and this year one of those "Study Questions" concerns "Protection of graphical user interfaces". Currently, the Study Guidelines for this topic (attached),

which contain an explanation of the topic as well as detailed questions on both current law and potential harmonisation in the area, are with AIPPI's National and Regional Groups and Independent Members. Responses are due early May 2017, following which those reports (of which generally about 35-45 are received and which provide detailed information and analysis regarding national and regional laws) are distilled into a Summary Report. Next, at the AIPPI World Congress in Sydney in October 2017, a draft Resolution on the topic will be discussed within a Study Committee and again in a full Plenary Session, following which the adoption of a Resolution by the Executive Committee of AIPPI is envisaged. Updated information on the Study Question (including, in due course, the Summary Report and the Resolution) will be available at AIPPI's website www.aippi.org.

Annexes:

- *Spreadsheet with responses to WIPO's Questionnaire on graphical user interface (GUI), icon and typeface/type font designs*
- *AIPPI Study Guidelines: Protection of graphical user interfaces*

AIPPI, January 15, 2017