

**Council for Trade-Related Aspects  
of Intellectual Property Rights  
Special Session**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRIPS**

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Manzoor Ahmad,  
to the Trade Negotiations Committee

1. This report is submitted on the Chairman's own responsibility.

**I. STATUS OF WORK**

2. The Special Session held its twelfth meeting on 11 March 2005. Under agenda item A (negotiation on the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits), a new submission, entitled "Proposed Draft Decision on the Establishment of a Multilateral System of Notification and Registration of Geographical Indications for Wines and Spirits", was tabled by the Delegations of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei and the United States (document TN/IP/W/10). There was a useful discussion regarding document TN/IP/W/10 and different sets of issues, in particular the legal effects of a registration and participation in the system, the notification phase, and administrative burdens and others. The International Bureau of WIPO was invited to be represented in an expert capacity for these discussions.

3. At the request of delegations, two presentations were made in the afternoon: one by the WTO Secretariat on the WTO Central Registry of Notifications (CRN), and the other by the International Bureau of WIPO on the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and Their International Registration. They were followed by questions from delegations and answers by the two presenters.

**II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

4. Although the new submission led to a discussion that was rich and useful, there was no sign of any narrowing of differences, notably on the two key issues of participation and legal effects.

**III. FUTURE WORK**

5. There was an inconclusive discussion about what should be the basis for the further work in the Special Session. The Chairman said that he would hold consultations on how to proceed prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled to be held on 16-17 June 2005.