

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

**SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRIPS**

Report by the Chairman, Ambassador Eui-yong Chung,  
to the Trade Negotiations Committee

**I. STATUS OF WORK**

1. The Special Session of the Council for TRIPS held its seventh meeting on 2 and 3 July 2003 on the basis of the agenda set out in WTO/AIR/2123. The agenda items were: negotiation of the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits; observer status for intergovernmental organizations; and other business.

2. With regard to the first item of the agenda, there were the following new documents: TN/IP/W/7/Rev.1 and Corr.1 (revised version of the Secretariat compilation of issues and points); TN/IP/M/6 (minutes of the April meeting); and JOB(03)/123 (non-paper from the European Communities on legal effects).

3. The Chairman first recalled the hope he had expressed in April that by the seventh Session Members would be able to consider a text with a single set of ideas rather than a text with widely divergent proposals. However, as he had already informed delegations, based on the consultations he had held since the April meeting, it was his appreciation that, in the light of the current state of the negotiations in the Special Session and of the Doha Development Agenda as a whole, delegations did not as yet feel in a position to be sufficiently flexible in their positions on the key issues of legal effects and participation to warrant him tabling a new draft text at this stage. At this Session, a number of general comments were offered, in particular on what was required to fulfil the mandate, such as in regard to the legal effects of a registration and participation, and on the way forward. In addition, some comments additional to those at the April meeting were made on the Chairman's Draft Text of Multilateral System of Notification and Registration of Geographical Indications for Wines and Spirits (JOB(03)/75). The International Bureau of WIPO was invited to be represented in an expert capacity for the discussion under the first agenda item.

4. Under "Other business", the Special Session examined the draft report to be submitted by the Chair on his own responsibility to the TNC meeting of 14-15 July 2003.

5. With regard to observer status for intergovernmental organizations, there were no developments.

**II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

6. Positions continue to be quite divided. Issues where differences are still profound are: the legal effect of registrations; international mechanisms for settling differences regarding geographical indications; and participation.

### **III. FUTURE WORK**

7. Recalling the Doha mandate to complete the negotiation of the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits by the Cancun Ministerial Conference, the Chairman expressed the view that, given the current status of the negotiations, it would be necessary to provide for the continuation of the negotiating process in the remaining period before Cancun. In this regard, he referred to the coming meetings of the TNC and the General Council in July, which would deal with the further work required in the run-up to Cancun.

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