

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

EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRIPS

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

I. STATUS OF WORK

1. The Special Session of the Council for TRIPS held its eighth meeting on 7 April 2004 on the basis of the agenda set out in WTO/AIR/2272. The agenda items were: election of the Chairperson; negotiation of the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits; organization of work; and other business. The Special Session met in formal and informal mode.

2. The Special Session confirmed Ambassador Manzoor Ahmad (Pakistan) as Chairman.

3. One new communication, co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, New Zealand and the United States, was presented (TN/IP/W/9, entitled "Joint Proposal for a Multilateral System of Notification and Registration of Geographical Indications for Wines and Spirits – Questions and Answers").

4. Various issues regarding the establishment of the multilateral system were discussed, including the legal effects of registrations, participation in the system, and the administrative and other burdens of such a system, especially on developing and least-developed countries.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

5. Positions remain essentially unchanged, including in regard to the two key issues of the legal effects of registrations and participation in the multilateral system.

III. FUTURE WORK

6. With regard to the organization of work, it was agreed that a formal meeting would be held back to back with the regular session of the TRIPS Council, scheduled on 15-17 June 2004. The Special Session is also scheduled to meet in mid-May, it being left open and for further consultations as to whether this would be in formal or informal mode, or a combination of the two.
