

**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. Since the General Council's Decision of 1 August 2004, the Special Session has held two meetings, on 23 September and on 30 November 2004. (For the Chair's report on the 23 September meeting to the TNC, see paragraph 22 of TN/C/M/14.)

3. At the meeting of 30 November and as suggested by the Chair at the 23 September 2004 meeting of the Special Session, delegations addressed various issues regarding the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits, in particular questions relating to the notification phase of the system, and the three sets of issues that were discussed at the September meeting: legal effects and participation; administrative and other burdens; and a number of issues of technical or procedural nature relating to the operation of a notification and registration system. Delegations had a useful discussion of certain technical aspects, in particular the content and nature of notifications and the role of the administering body. It was agreed that the Secretariat will update a background note on the WTO Central Registry of Notifications (CRN) and that a Secretariat CRN administrator would be invited to attend the next session to respond to questions.

II. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

4. A range of issues require further work, including, but not limited to, resolving the key issues of the legal effects of registrations and participation in the system.

III. FUTURE WORK

5. With regard to meetings in 2005, it was agreed that the Special Session would hold meetings back to back with the meetings of the regular session of the TRIPS Council, that is on 11 March, in the weeks starting 13 June and 24 October, and that an additional meeting would be held on 16 September 2005.
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