



Standing Committee on **Geographical Indications**

2017



Date: 14th October 2017

REPORT Standing Committee on Geographical Indications

Chair: Giulio Enrico SIRONI
Responsible Reporter: Anne Marie Verschuur

- 1) Report on the activities of your Standing Committee during the reporting period

Please provide a general overview of the activities of your Standing Committee over the last 12 months, including at least:

- a) Internal meetings of the Standing Committee during the reporting period (whether by telephone, video conference or in person);
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In the period covered by this Report the Members of the Standing Committee on geographical indications (GIs) met face to face during the Congress of Milan in September 2016 and then regularly kept in touch through exchange by e-mail of reports, documents and opinions. In particular, during the Milan meeting the discussion between the attendees focused on the project to prepare a SC Resolution on various aspects of the law on GIs. The steps of the project were outlined and then discussed with the RGT.

- b) any external representation on behalf of AIPPI by any member of your Standing Committee;
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The 37th session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) was held at WIPO in Geneva between 27 and 30 March 2017. At this Session AIPPI was represented by Elena Molina of the Standing Committee on Trademarks and by Elio De Tullio of the Standing Committee on GIs, who then drafted and submitted a written report to AIPPI. For what concerns GIs, an Information Session was held, during which several papers were presented concerning the different protection systems and practices in the GI field. The goal of this Information Session was to lay the groundwork for the future activity of the SCT on the protection of GIs.

- c) any contribution by your Standing Committee to any external consultations; and
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Nothing to report.

- d) any studies or analyses undertaken or position papers prepared by your Standing Committee, with a brief summary of the outcome(s).
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In the period covered by this Report, following the meeting at the Milan Congress the GI Standing Committee prepared a questionnaire for the purposes of obtaining useful information for the envisaged GI Resolution (see above under 1.a). The RGT reviewed the text of the questionnaire and circulated it among National and Regional Groups and Independent Members. 28 reports were received in response to the questionnaire and then distilled in a summary report. On the basis of the

reports, the RGT and the Standing Committee prepared a first draft of the Resolution, which was circulated, together with the summary report, among Groups and Independent Members. Following comments by some Groups an amended draft of the Resolution was prepared. This draft will be discussed in a dedicated Plenary Session at the Congress of Sydney in October 2017.

In view of the Milan Congress, the Standing Committee was involved in the preparation of a Panel Session, which was devoted to "An indication of developments in GIs" and moderated by the Chair of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee also made proposals regarding the programme of the 2017 Sydney Congress.

2) Key issues/developments during the reporting period

Please include any significant case law, legislative or regulatory developments, or policy initiatives, including their relevance and/or any implications for the work of your Standing Committee or for AIPPI more generally.

The main tasks of the Standing Committee on GIs are to monitor developments in the field of GIs at international and domestic levels; to prepare position statements on GIs on behalf of AIPPI; to represent AIPPI at international fora and to present AIPPI's standpoints on relevant issues during meetings and sessions at these fora. Other activities of the Committee include preparing, whenever opportune, questionnaires and resolutions and drafting papers for AIPPI publications on matters of interest.

In the field of GIs, the most interesting issues and developments that the Committee is monitoring and discussing are:

- the new provisions of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement and their common Regulations;
- the work within the EU to set up a system of protection for GIs of non-agricultural products;
- GI provisions in multilateral trade agreements, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA);
- any possible development at TRIPs level (in coordination with the TRIPs Standing Committee);
- any relevant news at the level of individual countries.

All members of the Committee are committed, in coordination with the rest of the leadership of the Committee, to following these developments and reporting on them, pinpointing any relevant issue for AIPPI.

3) Any recommendations for AIPPI involvement/action for the next 12 months

This need not be limited to recommendations for your Standing Committee but can be recommendations for AIPPI more broadly. For example, please include:

In each case, please explain why such involvement/action is recommended, by whom it should be undertaken and any relevant time frames.

- a) any recommendations for involvement/action in relation to any upcoming or foreshadowed case law, legislative or regulatory developments, or policy initiatives;
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It would be advisable for AIPPI to continue to be represented at WIPO and WTO works, initiatives and symposiums in GI matters. One suggestion could be that AIPPI get involved, by means of its own representatives, in any work at EU level concerning GI legislation on non-agricultural products.

- b) any other recommendations for AIPPI involvement/action;
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Nothing else to recommend at present.

- c) any recommendations for the work programme of your Study Committee.
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Nothing else to recommend at present.

- 4) Outline of the work programme of your Standing Committee for the next 12 months

Please set out specific activities and priorities having regard to the matters in 1) - 3) above, including any relevant time frames.

The main activities and projects of the Standing Committee on GIs have been indicated in points 1-3.

In particular, in the coming year the Committee will continue to follow local and international developments in the GI sector, preparing Reports on the most significant aspects.

The Committee will continue to follow - reporting on any points of interest - developments relating to the TTIP between the EU and the US, the TPP between the Pacific Area States and the CETA between the EU and Canada, as well as any other significant trade agreement.

The Committee will also monitor developments relating to the protection of non-agricultural GIs in the EU, assessing in particular whether it would be advisable for AIPPI to take up a position on some of the points under discussion.

Based on the results of the questionnaire on GIs (see above 1.a and 1.d), the Committee will explore other issues on which a further Resolution or a position paper might be desirable.

Names and Functions of Committee Members

Chair(s)	Giulio Enrico SIRONI	Italy
Co Chair(s)	Laura COLLADA SALCIDO	Mexico
Secretary	Tom REID	Australia
Members	Dovev APEL	Israel
	Frédéric BRAND	Switzerland
	Elio DE TULLIO	Italy
	Ricardo GORDÓ LLOBELL	Argentina
	Paul HARRIS	United Kingdom
	Rudolph HOFMANN	United States
	Keri JOHNSTON	Canada
	Ekin KARAKUS	Turkey
	Patrick J. KOLE	United States
	GyooHo LEE	Republic of Korea
	Sandra LEIS	Brazil
	Yuncheng LI	China
	Gonçalo M. RATO	Portugal
	Robert SACOFF	United States
	Volker SCHOENE	Germany
	Jürg SIMON	Switzerland
	Kurt STÖPETIE	Netherlands
Jean-Pierre STOULS	France	
Nami TOGAWA	Japan	
Alexey VAKHNIN	Russia	
Emmanuelle VARLOUD-PERAZIO	France	