



Date: 17th September 2018

REPORT

Standing Committee on

Free Trade Agreements

Chair: Sharon A. ISRAEL
Responsible Reporter: Yusuke Inui

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);

The SC on Free Trade Agreements met in person at the AIPPI Congress in Sydney in 2017. Following the Congress, leadership of the Committee had calls and communications, and the Committee had approximately 4 meetings by videoconference/teleconference, in addition to committee correspondence. The SC plans to meet at the Cancun Congress and also will schedule a call for SC members who are unable to attend.

b)
were proposals for panel sessions and study questions submitted and/or did your Standing Committee further contribute in this respect (e.g. by providing input to the draft Study Guidelines)?

Our SC is involved in organizing and participating in a Free Trade Agreements panel at the Cancun Congress.

c)
any external representation and participation in working groups on behalf of AIPPI by any member of your Standing Committee (e.g. at WIPO, EUIPO);

None during the reporting period.

d)
any contribution by your Standing Committee to any external consultations; and

None during the reporting period.

e)
any studies or analyses undertaken or position papers prepared by your Standing Committee, with a brief summary of the outcome(s).

The SC has prepared a survey on Free Trade Agreements, which it plans to distribute following the Cancun 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 Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) was a multi-lateral FTA among Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam, and included a comprehensive intellectual property rights chapter, which would have been the most significant FTA from an IP perspective since TRIPS. The US withdrew from the TPP in early 2017, and the remaining 11 signatories to the TPP are renegotiating the TPP as the TPP-11, but with fewer significant IP-related provisions. The SC on Free Trade Agreements is monitoring multi-lateral and bilateral FTAs impacting IP rights and will have more to report following the completion of its survey.

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;

No specific recommendations for policy initiatives, but the SC will monitor FTAs as they may impact IP rights.

b)

any other recommendations for AIPPI involvement/action;

No specific recommendations, but the SC will monitor FTAs as they may impact IP rights.

c)

any recommendations for the work programme of your Standing Committee.

The SC has prepared a survey with questions country by country on treaty/agreement identification having an impact on IP rights. The SC intends to use the survey results to conduct a deeper study into specific areas of interest.

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 SC has prepared a survey on free trade agreements that it plans to have distributed to national groups for completion. Based on the survey results, the SC will work on establishing a bank of FTAs, identifying major multi-lateral and bilateral Free Trade Agreements in place and under negotiation having an impact in IP rights. After obtaining survey results, the SC plans to work on further study of specific issues of interest based on the survey results,

including a possible comparison of specific issues on a country-by-country basis. To the extent appropriate, the SC will try to work with the SC on TRIPS for collaborative programming and studies. In addition, we will be looking into potential webinars that may be of interest to our membership.

AIPPI

Names and Functions of Committee Members

Chair	Sharon A. ISRAEL	United States of America
Vice Chair(s)	Grant FISHER	Australia
	Justin WATTS	United Kingdom
Members	Ahmed M.G. ABOU ALI	Egypt
	Nitzan ARAD	Israel
	Maria del Carmen ARANA	Peru
	Raffaella ARISTA	Italy
	Tal BAND	Israel
	Jose COCHINGYAN III	Philippines
	Clare CUNLIFFE	Australia
	Rico V. DOMINGO	Philippines
	Ricardo FONSECA DE PINHO	Brazil
	Luca GIOVE	Italy
	Gastón RICHELET	Argentina
Benny SPIEWAK	Brazil	