



Date: 21st September 2018

REPORT

Standing Committee on

Geographical Indications

Chair: Giulio 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);

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 Sydney in October 2017 and then regularly kept in touch through exchange by e-mail of reports, documents and opinions. In particular, during the Sydney meeting the discussion between the attendees focused on the outcome of the Plenary Session devoted to the discussion on the draft of the SC Resolution on various aspects of the law on GIs and on the final amendments to the draft before the vote in ExCo II.

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)?

The Standing Committee on GIs collected and submitted several proposals for panel sessions in Cancun and in future Congresses.

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);

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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

After an intense preparatory work before the Sydney Congress, the RGT and the Standing Committee prepared the text of a Resolution on “Requirements for protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin”.

The text was discussed and approved, with some amendments, in a dedicated Plenary Session and then finally adopted, by a very large majority, at ExCo II in Sydney.

The Resolution covers many aspects of GI legislation on which AIPPI did not have a position yet and will hopefully be useful in any external representation of AIPPI. Further, the Resolution could be a sound starting point to work on other resolutions and/or position papers in matters of GIs.

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);

- the EUIPO Study on "Protection and control of geographical indications for agricultural products in the EU Member States";

- any relevant news at the level of individual countries.

All members of the Committee are committed, in coordination with the Chair and the Vice Chairs, 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;

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, including the EUIPO, concerning GI legislation.

b)

any other recommendations for AIPPI involvement/action;

Nothing else to recommend at present.

c)

any recommendations for the work programme of your Standing Committee.

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 GI Resolution adopted in Sydney, the Committee will explore other issues on which further Resolutions and/or position papers might be desirable.

AIPPI

Names and Functions of Committee Members

Chair	Giulio SIRONI	Italy
Vice Chair(s)	Laura COLLADA Patrick KOLE	Mexico United States of America
Members	Dovev APEL Frédéric BRAND Luke DALE Marie-Elvire DE MORO GIAFFERRI Michele Elio DE TULLIO Ricardo GORDÓ LLOBELL Ralf HACKBARTH Paul HARRIS Keri JOHNSTON Ekin KARAKUS GyooHo LEE Sandra LEIS Yuncheng LI Gonçalo Moreira RATO Robert W. SACOFF Volker SCHOENE Jürg SIMON Kurt STÖPETIE Nami TOGAWA Alexey M. VAKHNIN	Israel Switzerland Australia France Italy Argentina Germany United Kingdom Canada Turkey Republic of Korea Brazil China Portugal United States of America Germany Switzerland Netherlands Japan Russian Federation