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Betreff: Newsletter no. 9/2003 "Legal Information"

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of sending you herewith no. 9/2003 of our Newsletter "Legal Information". We hope you will enjoy reading it.

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1. International conventions for intellectual property

A link to a list of international conventions in the field of intellectual property (in German or French) is now available at "Legal information / Legislation / International". The monthly updated list shows the status of signatory states:

<http://www.ige.ch/D/jurinfo/pdf/j15101.pdf>

2. "Geographical Indications - Where now after Cancún?"

"Geographical Indications - Where now after Cancún?" - Speech on the current situation regarding the international protection of geographical indications, given at the second meeting of oriGIn (Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network) on "Assessing Cancún and Beyond", in Alicante (Spain), November 27 and 28, 2003.

<http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/pdf/j10401e.pdf>

3. Status Report of the 5th Meeting of the Working Party on Litigation

The working party does not feel in the position to organize a ministerial conference for signing the litigation agreement.

Status Report: <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j10003.htm>

4. "Research and Patenting in Biotechnology – A survey in Switzerland"

The following report presents the results of a survey of the Swiss biotechnology industry, conducted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property in 2003. The survey was a consequence of the Swiss Federal Council's decision, on December 7, 2001, to hold a public consultation regarding the preliminary draft of the partial revision of the Swiss patent law. This consultation marked the beginning of a public discussion about patenting biotechnological inventions in Switzerland. The consultation revealed, among other things, that there is a general lack of empirical evidence on this topic. The Federal Council therefore requested the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police to analyze certain issues which came up in the opinion-gathering in more detail. Two areas which were investigated in detail are presented in this report, namely:

- the impact of patents (in particular gene patents) on biotechnological inventions in basic and applied research;

- the economic implications of patents (in particular gene patents) for biotechnological inventions.

Report "Research and Patenting in Biotechnology": <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/pdf/j10005e.pdf>

Season's greetings and wishing you health, happiness, and prosperity for the year 2004.

Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
Felix Addor
Deputy Director General
Chief Legal Officer

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