

**Von:** newsletter.jurinfo@ipi.ch  
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**Betreff:** Newsletter no. 6/2004 "Legal Information"

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of sending you herewith no. 6/2004 of our Newsletter "Legal Information". We hope you will enjoy reading it.

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## 1. WTO/ Geographical indications

- WTO, Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC, <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j1101.shtm#4>), 30th June, 2004. The Ambassador Luzius Wasescha, Delegate of the Swiss Federal Council to Trade Agreements, indicated in his declaration made on behalf of the Group of the Friends of Geographical Indications that the improvement of the protection of geographical indications is to be appropriately reflected in the decision that WTO Members are supposed to adopt by the end of July. For the Group – that counts more than 50 Members of the WTO, among which many developing countries – it is essential that the extension of the protection of Article 23 TRIPS Agreement to all products is part of the outcome of the Doha Round. Switzerland shares this preoccupation. For years, the Institute has been actively engaged in the promotion of geographical indications. For more information, see WTO document, TN/C/4 from 13th July 2004: <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/documents/j10406e.pdf>
- Parliamentary interventions requesting the Federal Council to take all possible steps to obtain a better protection for geographical indications at the WTO: interpellation Germanier (National Council) and interpellation Epiney (Council of States), supported by 75 other parliamentarians: <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j104.shtm#1>
- WTO public symposium: "Multilateralism at a crossroads" (Geneva, 25 to 27 May 2004, programme): Workshop organized by the association oriGIn on "Localisation within Globalisation: Better Protecting Geographical Indications to favour Sustainable Development": <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j104.shtm#1>

## 2. European Patent Organisation: Will Malta and Croatia soon be a Member?

Having regard to the request of the Republic of Malta, the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation decided at its 97th meeting, June 15 – 17, 2004 to invite that country to

accede to the European Patent Convention (EPC) (in German <http://www.ige.ch/D/jurinfo/documents/j110201d.pdf> or French <http://www.ige.ch/F/jurinfo/documents/j110201f.pdf>).

### **3. Second public consultation procedure on the revised patent law: Public Debate**

The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, together with the Swiss Science Agency, mandated the Science et Cité Foundation (<http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/de.aspx>) to contribute to the public debate on the issue of patents (see calendar of events in German: <http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/patente/veranstaltungen/de.aspx> and French: <http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/patente/veranstaltungen/fr.aspx>). This is to be carried out in parallel with the second public consultation procedure on the revised patent law. In this context, Science et Cité published an information brochure on the controversy over biotech patents (in German: <http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/patente/dossier/de.aspx>, French: <http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/patente/dossier/fr.aspx> and Italian: <http://www.science-et-cite.ch/projekte/patente/dossier/it.aspx>).

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Yours sincerely,

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

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