

**Von:** newsletter.jurinfo@ipi.ch  
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**Betreff:** Newsletter no. 1/2006 "Legal Information"

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of sending you herewith no. 1/2006 of our Newsletter "Legal Information". We hope you will enjoy reading it.

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### **1. Change of procedure regarding further processing for priority certificates submitted after the deadline**

The Institute is changing its procedure regarding further processing for union and exhibition priority claims when a deadline has been missed (Art. 41, para. 4, lit. b, Trademark Law). Under the new regulation, the applicant has the possibility for further processing even when the priority certificate is submitted late. More information on this change can be found in the 21.12.2005 Newsletter Trademarks in German and French: <http://www.ige.ch/pool4s/nl1.shtm>.

### **2. European Patent Organisation: Re-election of the president of the Administrative Council**

The Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation once again elected Roland Grossenbacher, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, as president for a third term of three years on December 13, 2005. For more extensive information see the press release in German <http://www.ige.ch/D/news/documents/n109d.pdf> or French <http://www.ige.ch/F/news/documents/n109f.pdf>.

### **3. First section of the patent law revision approved by parliament**

The National Council accepted the federal decree for the approval of the two national treaties on the reform of the European patent system (the revised European Patent Convention - EPC – and the optional language agreement) at its December 15, 2005 session ([http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/n/4710/213576/d\\_n\\_4710\\_213576\\_213683.htm](http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/n/4710/213576/d_n_4710_213576_213683.htm)). After the final vote on December 16, 2005 in the Council of States ([http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/s/4710/214276/d\\_s\\_4710\\_214276\\_214340.htm?DisplayTextOid=214341](http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/s/4710/214276/d_s_4710_214276_214340.htm?DisplayTextOid=214341)) and the National Council ([http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/n/4710/214284/d\\_n\\_4710\\_214284\\_214509.htm](http://www.parlament.ch/ab/frameset/d/n/4710/214284/d_n_4710_214284_214509.htm)), the referendum period began.

#### **4. Guidelines for the examination for patent applications**

The Institute has completely revised the guidelines for the substantive examination for national patent applications. The revised guidelines (in German and French: <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j100.shtm#a02>) will go into effect January 1, 2006. As of that date, all pending patent applications will be examined according to the new guidelines.

#### **5. Free Trade Agreement signed between EFTA and Korea**

Federal Counsellor Joseph Deiss and EFTA colleagues from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway signed a conclusive free trade agreement (<http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/documents/j110703e.pdf>) between EFTA and the Republic of Korea on December 15, 2005 while in Hong Kong. The agreement is scheduled to come into force after the required ratification on July 1, 2006.

#### **6. Doha World Trade Round: 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, December 2005**

Report on the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, December 13 – 18, 2005, including a short assessment of the conference proceedings and the agreed upon Ministerial Declaration in terms of intellectual property and the TRIPS Agreement:

<http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j110113.shtm>.

On geographical indications, the situation is as follows:

<http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j110110.shtm#a01>.

#### **7. Information on geographical Indications: What and where?**

The Institute website has been newly restructured and expanded to include all aspects of geographical indications and their protection:

- On website page <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j104.shtm>, basic information regarding the protection of geographical indications at the national and international level as well as related aspects of counterfeiting and piracy are presented.
- Developments directly related to the WTO are presented in detail under <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j110110.shtm>.

#### **8. The Protection of Swiss Indications of Source: A guide for Swiss diplomatic missions abroad**

Guide of September 22, 2005 in German and French: <http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j10701.shtm>.

Yours sincerely,

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

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