

**Von:** newsletter.jurinfo@ipi.ch  
**Gesendet:** Dienstag, 23. Oktober 2007 10:17  
**Betreff:** Newsletter no. 8/2007 "Legal Information"

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of sending you herewith no. 8/2007 of our Newsletter "Legal Information". We hope you will enjoy reading it.

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#### **1. First Meeting of the Chinese-Swiss Working Group on Intellectual Property**

On September 14, 2007, members of the Chinese-Swiss working group on intellectual property met for the first time in Peking. The working group is jointly presided over by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property:

<http://www.ige.ch/E/jurinfo/j131.shtm>.

#### **2. The partial revision adapting the copyright act to the digital environment has ended**

On September 27, 2007, the Council of States followed the recommendations of its Committee for Legal Affairs and approved the amendments accepted by the National Council. This resolves the few differences of opinion which arose in the parliamentary debate. Parliament supplemented the copyright law amendment (Bill 1), which benefits today's information society with new exemptions to protection, with additional restrictions. In contrast, the federal decision to approve two World Intellectual Property Organization treaties and the second amendment of the copyright law (bill 2) remained practically unchanged although it contained the most volatile content: namely protection for technological measures such as access or copy barriers. All together, the Federal Assemblies voted on 24 bills for the final session of the Fall Session and legislative period Friday, October 5, 2007. Among these were the first bill which passed with 191 votes to 5 with no abstentions in the National Council and 43 to 0 with no abstentions in Council of States and the second bill which received 194 votes to 2 with no abstentions in the National Council and 43 to 0 with no abstentions in the Council of States.

Bills put up for final vote for downloading:

- Federal decision on the approval of two treaties of the World Intellectual Property Organization and on the revision of the copyright act in German (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2007/7201.pdf>), French (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2007/6805.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/ff/2007/6547.pdf>)
- Revision of the Federal Law on Copyright and Neighboring Rights in German (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2007/7149.pdf>), French (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2007/6753.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/ff/2007/6495.pdf>)

#### **3. The revised European Patent Convention enters into force on 13 December 2007**

On 13 December 2007 a revised version replaces the current European Patent Convention. It modernizes the European patent system while maintaining the proven principles. The Federal Council simultaneously puts into force the corresponding amendments, adapting the patent law to the EPC 2000. S. documents in German (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2005/7489.pdf>), French (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2005/7009.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/ff/2005/6669.pdf>). See the press release in German (<http://www.ige.ch/D/jurinfo/documents/j10061d.pdf>), French (<http://www.ige.ch/f/jurinfo/documents/j10061f.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.ige.ch/i/jurinfo/documents/j10061i.pdf>).

#### **4. Switzerland to participate in talks on a plurilateral treaty for fighting counterfeiting and piracy**

The proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods in international trade is constantly increasing. Against this background, Japan and the USA have launched the idea of a plurilateral treaty for the fight against counterfeiting and piracy - the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). Switzerland has been participating with other countries in preliminary talks with the USA and Japan since the middle of 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Federal Institute of Intellectual Property  
Felix Addor  
Deputy Director General

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