

Von: Newsletter Jurinfo
Gesendet: Freitag, 14. März 2008 14:45
An: Newsletter Jurinfo
Betreff: Newsletter no. 2/2008 "Legal Information"

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure of sending you herewith no. 2/2008 of our Newsletter "Legal Information". We hope you will enjoy reading it.

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1. The adaptation of the Ordinance on Copyright and Neighboring Rights

The entry into force of the Federal decision on the approval of two treaties of the World Intellectual Property Organization and of the revised Copyright act is scheduled for the 1st of July 2008. This partial revision requires an adaptation of the Copyright Ordinance. The Swiss Federal Institute for Intellectual Property organised a hearing with a deadline which ended on the 31 of January 2008. Result of the hearing and documentation for downloading in German and French: <http://www.ige.ch/e/jurinfo/j103.shtm#a08>.

2. WTO proposal regarding the extension of the current protection of geographical indications

On February 19, 2008, Switzerland and other WTO Member Countries, including the EU and several developing countries, presented the WTO with a proposal regarding the protection of geographical indications (<http://www.ige.ch/e/jurinfo/documents/j11011007e.pdf>). The goal of the proposal is to make the so-called GI extension (i.e., extending the current protection of geographical indications beyond wine and spirits) an integrated part of the WTO Doha Round of negotiations. This means that the GI-extension and the key dossiers of the market access negotiations for agriculture as well as for trade of goods and services must be negotiated together.

3. Language agreement - Entry into force of the amendments to the Swiss patent law

The language agreement (see Official Journal EPO 12/2001, p. 549: [http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/595FE5E1FC71DD4EC12572BC0058E29D/\\$File/Agreement_17102000.pdf](http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/eponet.nsf/0/595FE5E1FC71DD4EC12572BC0058E29D/$File/Agreement_17102000.pdf)) enters into force on 1 May 2008. Simultaneously, the Federal Council puts into force the corresponding amendments to the Swiss patent law: See documents in German (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2005/7495.pdf>), French (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2005/7015.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/ff/2005/6673.pdf>). See press release in German (<http://www.ige.ch/d/jurinfo/documents/j10072d.pdf>), French (<http://www.ige.ch/f/jurinfo/documents/j10072f.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.ige.ch/i/jurinfo/documents/j10072i.pdf>).

The national transitional provisions foresee that for European Patents it is no longer necessary to file a translation of the patent specification, if their publication took place less than three months prior to the entry into force of the patent law amendments. See Art. 148 Patent Law of 16 December, 2005; documents in German (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/ff/2005/7495.pdf>), French (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/ff/2005/7015.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/ff/2005/6673.pdf>). Accordingly, the requirement for translation will be inapplicable for all European Patents whose grant has been published in the European Patent Bulletin after 31 January 2008.

4. Lower fees for trademark and patent protection

The Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IGE) in Bern has once again reduced its fees. Starting July 1, 2008, protecting trademarks and patents will be cheaper. The Federal Council approved the needed amendment of the IGE Fee Ordinance today. See the press release in German

(<http://www.ige.ch/d/news/documents/n113d.pdf>), French (<http://www.ige.ch/f/news/documents/n113f.pdf>) or Italian (<http://www.ige.ch/i/news/documents/n113i.pdf>).

Yours sincerely,

Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
Felix Addor
Deputy Director General