

C. NCL 164

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As was communicated through a note verbale (C.N 3976), it is confirmed that the thirtieth session of the *Committee of Experts of the Nice Union*, originally scheduled to be held in Geneva, from Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1, 2020, will not be convened as planned.

In order to continue updating the Nice Classification in a manner reflecting the evolution of business markets, the International Bureau is committed to maintaining the revision cycle of the Nice Classification as much as possible during this unprecedented period. However, there are challenges and limitations imposed by the annual cycle, specifically regarding the timeframe for publication, that means it is not possible to hold the Committee of Experts meeting later in the year. We would therefore like to make the following suggestion for dealing with proposals that have been submitted for CE30 (Annexes 1-5 in Project CE302 of the [Nice E-Forum](#)) through electronic means:

It is envisaged to allow Member States the possibility to “vote” through the E-Forum. However, it should be noted that further changes to the submitted proposals (i.e. changes to wording, changes of class, etc.) cannot be made at this time. Using the prepared working documents, Offices would indicate only those proposals that they cannot approve or have any doubts about approving. The International Bureau would then compile those proposals that do not receive any opposition nor doubts, namely those that receive unanimous support. Those proposals would be regarded as adopted for inclusion into the next version of the Nice Classification (NCL11-2021), which would enter into force as foreseen on January 1, 2021. All non-adopted proposals would be carried forward to the next session for further discussion.

We would appreciate receiving comments only from Member States of the Nice Union explicitly indicating whether they support this suggestion or not by email to [nivilo@wipo.int](mailto:nivilo@wipo.int) at the latest by **Friday, March 27, 2020**. Should their responses show a simple majority (of received responses) of support for our plan, then we will prepare further guidelines outlining the process for “voting”. Please note that any proposals for amendments (i.e. transfers) will only be taken into consideration if the responses indicate a majority of four-fifths support for our plan.

In any case, we will keep you informed about events as they progress. 

March 12, 2020