

# WIPO



H/A/26/4

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DEPOSIT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS  
(HAGUE UNION)**

## **ASSEMBLY**

**Twenty-Sixth (10<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) Session  
Geneva, September 22 to 30, 2008**

### REPORT

*adopted by the Assembly*

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/45/1): 1, 2, 3, 17, 22, 25 and 26.
2. The report on the said items, with the exception of item 17, is contained in the General Report (document A/45/5).
3. The report on item 17 is contained in the present document.
4. Mrs. Maria Ludovica Agró (Italy), Chair of the Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA:

MATTERS CONCERNING THE HAGUE UNION

5. Discussions were based on documents H/A/26/1, 1 Add., 2 and 3.

Proposal for a New Rule 18bis and Certain Consequential Amendments to Other Rules

6. The Assembly considered document H/A/26/1.

7. The Assembly adopted new Rule 18bis, and the consequential amendments of Rules 22, 26, 30 and 31 of the Common Regulations, as set out in Annex I of document H/A/26/1, with a date of entry into force of January 1, 2009.

Proposal for the Extension of the Fee Reduction Scheme to Certain Intergovernmental Organizations

8. The Assembly considered documents H/A/26/1 and H/A/26/1 Add.

9. The Assembly adopted the amendment to the Schedule of Fees, as set out in Annex I of document H/A/26/1 Add., along with the recommendation set out in paragraph 5 of the same document, with a date of entry into force of January 1, 2009.

Study on the Implications of the Possible Inclusion of Spanish in the Language Regime of the Hague System

10. The Assembly considered document H/A/26/2.

11. The Delegation of Spain stated that the document responded fully to the request posed in earlier Assemblies by the Delegation of Spain, along with other Spanish-speaking countries, concerning the possible introduction of Spanish as a working language in the Hague system. The document set out the implications of such a step, as well as the advantages that would follow the introduction of Spanish as a working language. The Delegation expressed the view that the absence of Spanish as a working language in the Hague system was a lacuna that should be corrected, such situation not reflecting the real weight that the Spanish language occupied in the world today. Use of the Spanish language was further consolidated in modern communication networks and in global search instruments. The Delegation of Spain also wished to draw attention to the advantages which had followed the introduction of Spanish as a working language in the Madrid system, as well as to the extent of use of Spanish in the context of the European Community's Registered Design system, in which Spanish was an official language. Moreover, as the Delegation noted that, with the exception of Spain, there was not currently any other Spanish-speaking member in the Hague system, the introduction of Spanish might help in attracting other potential Member States. In conclusion, the Delegation stated that, in effect, as noted in the document, the advantages would be considerable, while the overall implications would be minimal. For these reasons, the Delegation of Spain proposed that Spanish be added as a working language of the Hague system.

12. The Delegation of Iceland, noting that the issue of languages was always a difficult matter, said that the addition of Spanish would have some implications with respect to workload and, to a limited extent, cost. However, because the introduction of Spanish would act as an incentive for more Spanish-speaking countries to accede to the Hague system and use it, such introduction would ultimately strengthen the system. For this reason, the Delegation said that it supported the proposal from Spain to add Spanish as a working language of the Hague system.

13. The Delegation of Greece stated that it also supported the proposal and that the potential benefits would far outweigh the costs. The introduction of Spanish would facilitate the Hague system becoming a truly global system.

14. The Delegation of Hungary concurred with the views expressed by the previous delegations. The document prepared by the Secretariat clearly showed that the introduction of Spanish would not imply any serious drawbacks. In addition, it would encourage the accession to the Hague Agreement by new Member States.

15. The Delegations of Morocco, Romania and Turkey expressed their support for the proposal.

16. The Delegation of Italy noted that, whilst the cost implications of the introduction of Spanish would be limited, the operational costs related to the increasing complexity of the whole system, not only for WIPO, should also be taken into account. For that reason, the introduction of Spanish in the Hague system should follow the approach taken under the Madrid system, with the necessary amendments to the Common Regulations allowing Offices to choose the language in which they want to operate. The Delegation of Italy said that, under these conditions, it could support the proposal.

17. Support for the proposal was also expressed by the Delegations of a number of countries not party to the Hague system, in particular, by the Delegations of Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, Panama and Portugal.

18. The Assembly requested the Secretariat to prepare proposals for amendment of the Common Regulations with a view to including Spanish in the language regime of the Hague system.

#### Information Technology Modernization Program – Status Report

19. The Assembly considered document H/A/26/3.

20. The Assembly took note of the status report contained in that document.

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