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ORIGINAL : English

DATE : June 25, 1993

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION (LISBON UNION)

ASSEMBLY

Tenth Session (10th Ordinary)
Geneva, September 20 to 29, 1993

MATTERS CONCERNING THE LISBON UNION

Memorandum of the Director General

1. In the Draft Program and Budget for the 1994-95 Biennium (document AB/XXIV/2, paragraph 2.8) it is stated: "As in the past, the very small income of the Lisbon Union (Union for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration) will be used to cover its very small expenses, whereas any excess expenditure will be carried forward to future budgetary periods." A similar phrase has been included in the draft program and budget documents for previous bienniums.
2. As of December 31, 1991, the Lisbon Union had an accumulated deficit of 24,675 francs. That deficit resulted from the fact that the very small income of the Union has not been sufficient over the last several bienniums to cover the expenses of the Union. The expenses of the Union mainly involve printing costs for the registered appellations of origin, forms and copies of the treaty.
3. The income of the Union comprises the fee income from the registration of appellations of origin, and from services related to the International Register of Appellations of Origin, as well as income from the sales of publications.

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4. The deficit of the Lisbon Union was 12,316 francs at the end of 1985, and increased to 15,372 francs at the end of 1987, to 20,129 francs at the end of 1989, and to 24,675 francs as of the end of 1991. Very small though those deficits are, it would appear appropriate that measures be taken in order to return the finances of the Lisbon Union to an equilibrium situation.
5. The main reason for the deficit of the Lisbon Union is that the fees have not been increased since January 1977, i.e., for over 16 years, during which period the consumer price index in Geneva has increased by over 75 percent.
6. It is recalled that, according to Articles 11(3)(v) and 11(4)(b) of the Lisbon Agreement, the amount of the fee for the registration of an appellation of origin should be so fixed that the revenue of the Lisbon Union should, under normal circumstances, be sufficient to cover the expenses of the International Bureau for maintaining the international registration service, without requiring that contributions be paid by States members of the Union, such contributions being needed if and to the extent that fees and other income would not suffice to cover the expenses of the Union.
7. To avoid the possibility of having to have recourse to such contributions, it would seem appropriate to increase the fee for the registration of an appellation of origin and the fees for other services concerning the Union. Such increases should be of the order of the said increase in the consumer price index in Geneva, and should also be such as to bring the fees for furnishing information from the International Register in line with the fees applicable for similar services in respect of the international registers of marks and industrial designs.
8. It is therefore proposed that the Lisbon fees be increased, effective January 1, 1994, to the levels shown in the Annex.
9. The Assembly of the Lisbon Union is invited to approve the proposal contained in the previous paragraph.

[The Annex follows]

ANNEX

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF LISBON FEES APPLICABLE FROM JANUARY 1, 1994

	Current Amounts (Swiss francs)	Proposed Amounts (Swiss francs)	Percentage Increase <hr/>
(i) Fee for the registration of an appellation of origin	300	500	66.7%
(ii) Fee for recording a modification affecting the registration	100	200	100.0%
(iii) Fee for the provision of an extract from the International Register	60	90	50.0%
(iv) Fee for the provision of an attestation or any other information in writing on the contents of the International Register	50	80	60.0%
(v) Fee for information given orally on the contents of the International Register	10	25	150.0%
(vi) Fee for the provision of photocopies: up to and including five pages for each additional page after the fifth	10 2	25 2	150.0% unchanged

[End of Annex and of document]

